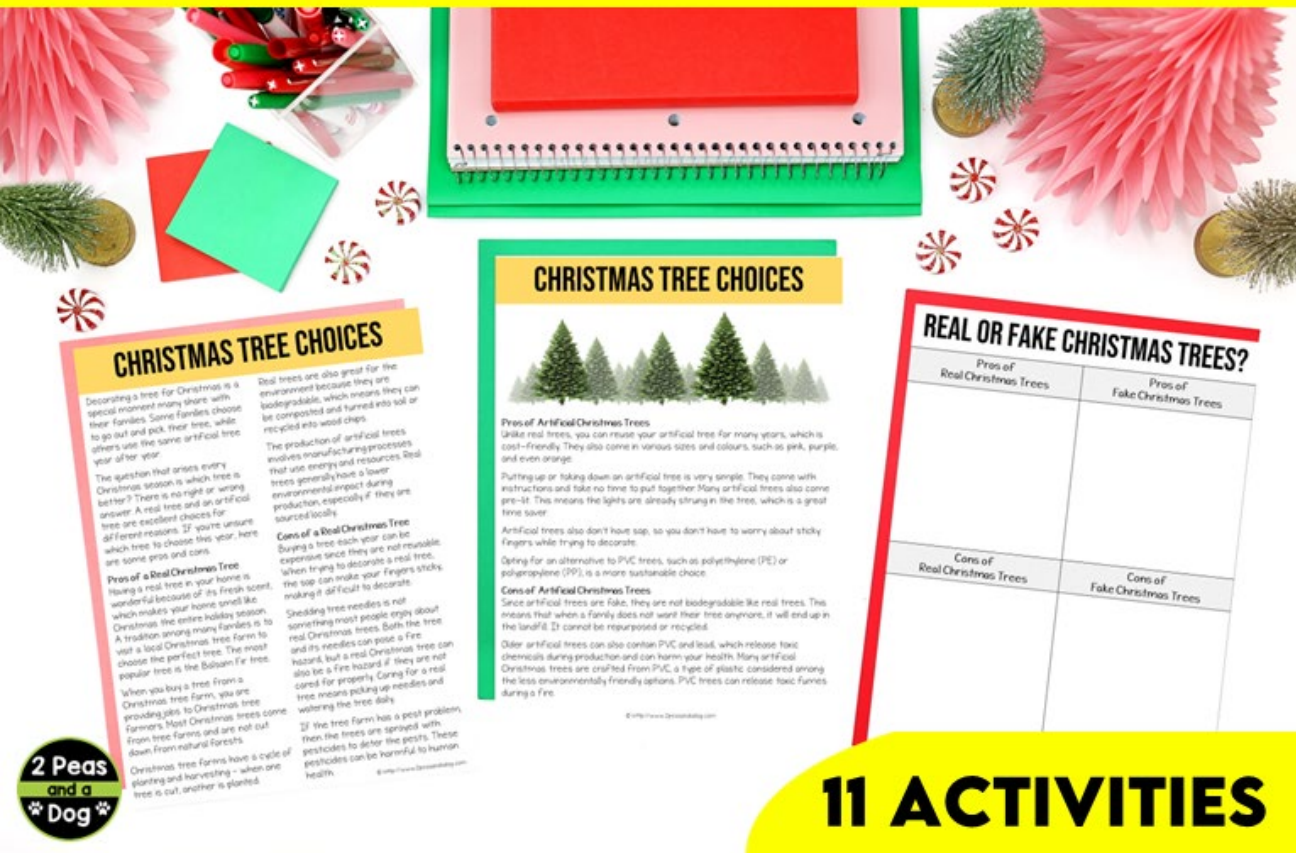


CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

PDF & DIGITAL FORMATS



2 Peas and a Dog

Middle School Teaching Resources

RESOURCE INCLUDES

- ✓ 11 Literacy Activities
- ✓ Teacher Instructions
- ✓ Reading, Writing, Listening & Speaking Activities
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ Answer Keys
- ✓ Assessment Options
- ✓ Print & Digital Formats

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Lesson Overview

1. Christmas Article
2. Christmas Tree Choices
3. Christmas Opinion Questions
4. Fishbowl Class Discussion & Opinion Writing Assignment
5. Christmas Foods Around the World
6. Christmas Creative Writing Assignment
7. Winter Word Detective, Word Search & Crossword Puzzle
8. Winter Word Call Game

WHAT'S INSIDE?



LESSON 1



Christmas Non-Fiction Article

Lesson Overview: Students will read a non-religious article about Christmas.

Materials Needed:

- Data projector, computer, internet
- Video:
 - [Bet You Didn't Know: Christmas | History](#) (Preview this video as it may

LESSON PLANS

- Tea
- 1.
 - 2.
 3. Have students work independently or in pairs to answer the questions.
 4. Discuss the answers as a class or collect the questions as an assessment.

ANSWER KEY

Note: Students may also come up with other pros and cons for each tree.

Pros of Real Christmas Trees	Pros of Fake Christmas Trees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The smell makes your home smell like Christmas the entire holiday season.• When you buy a tree from a Christmas tree farm, you are providing jobs to Christmas tree farmers.• Most trees come from tree farms and are not cut down from natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artificial trees can be reused each year, which makes them cost-friendly.• They also come in various sizes and colours.• Putting up or taking down an artificial tree is very simple.• Many artificial trees also come pre-lit,
Real Christmas Trees	Fake Christmas Trees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not reusable, so you must buy a new one each year.• The sap can make your fingers sticky, making it difficult to decorate.• Shedding tree needles and an improperly cared for tree can pose a fire risk.• Lots of maintenance – picking up needles and watering the tree daily.• If the tree farm has a pest problem, then the trees are sprayed with pesticides to deter the pests. These pesticides can be harmful to human health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are not biodegradable like real trees. Trees end up in landfills because they cannot be repurposed or recycled.• Older artificial trees can also contain PVC and lead, which release toxic chemicals during production and can harm your health.• Many artificial Christmas trees are crafted from PVC, a type of plastic considered among the less environmentally friendly options.• PVC trees can release toxic fumes during a fire.

WHAT'S INSIDE?



THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

When people think of Christmas, two images might come to mind: the religious Christmas symbolized by the nativity scene or the commercial Christmas symbolized by the beautifully decorated Christmas trees in shopping malls.

Christmas is celebrated in North America and other parts of the world. This holiday has two meanings:

1. For some people, Christmas is a deeply religious holiday marking the birthday of Jesus.
2. For others, Christmas is a time to spend with family, eating, and exchanging gifts.

The Cost of Christmas

In 2010, a survey found that Canadians planned to spend \$600 on Christmas gifts.¹ In 2023, a survey found that Canadians planned to spend \$1,347 - that's an increase of more than 116 percent!² With Thanksgiving and Halloween just having passed and Valentine's Day on the way, that is a lot of money to spend on one holiday!

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news2/pointofview/2010/12/christmas-shopping-how>
² <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/canadians-are-planning-to-spend-less-this-holiday>
³ <https://vancouver.citynews.ca/2023/02/15/canadian-holiday-overspending/>
⁴ <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas>



CHRISTMAS TREE CHOICES

Decorating a tree for Christmas is a special moment many share with their families. Some families choose to go out and pick their tree, while others use the same artificial tree year after year.

The question that arises every Christmas season is which tree is better? There is no right or wrong answer. A real tree and an artificial

Real trees are also great for the environment because they are biodegradable, which means they can be composted and turned into soil or recycled into wood chips.

The production of artificial trees involves manufacturing processes that use energy and resources. Real trees generally have a lower environmental impact during production, especially if they are sourced locally.

Pros of a Real Christmas Tree

Buying a tree each year can be expensive since they are not reusable. When trying to decorate a real tree, the sap can make your fingers sticky, making it difficult to decorate.

Shedding tree needles is not something most people enjoy about real Christmas trees. Both the tree and its needles can pose a fire hazard, but a real Christmas tree can also be a fire hazard if they are not cared for properly. Caring for a real tree means picking up needles and watering the tree daily.

If the tree farm has a pest problem, then the trees are sprayed with pesticides to deter the pests. These pesticides can be harmful to human health.

Christmas tree farms have a cycle of planting and harvesting - when one tree is cut, another is planted.

CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS

After reading the article "The History of Christmas," answer the following questions in complete sentences.

What two images most symbolize Christmas in people's minds?

How much money do you spend on Christmas?

What do you think is the most expensive thing you've spent on?

Which ancient civilizations did modern Christmas traditions come from?

REAL OR FAKE CHRISTMAS TREES?

Pros of Real Christmas Trees

Pros of Fake Christmas Trees

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S INSIDE?



HOLIDAY OPINION QUESTIONS

Instructions: On a separate sheet of paper or the template provided, answer each question below in dot jot form or complete sentences. Be sure to include details in your responses, as these opinions will be shared during a class discussion.



1. What is the best type of snack to leave for Santa and his reindeer?
2. Is it ever acceptable to regift a present? Explain.

WRITING PROMPTS

7. Should it be mandatory to send holiday greeting cards to people during December? Explain.
8. Some stores start decorating for Christmas in October before Halloween and November 11th. Some people feel that stores should wait until November 12th to put up their Christmas decorations. Do you agree or disagree?
9. Do you think people should take a break from technology during the holidays, or is it okay to stay connected? Why?
10. What is your favourite Christmas carol? Why is this song your favourite?

PARAGRAPH WRITING ASSESSMENT

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Level 4

- Ideas are organized into a well-organized paragraph with detailed explanations and transitions.
- Spelling and grammar is correct.

Level 3

- Ideas are organized into paragraphs with three reasons, concluding sentences, and transitions.
- There are a few spelling and grammar mistakes that do not detract from the overall quality of the paragraph.

Level 2

- Ideas are organized into paragraphs with three reasons, concluding sentences, and transitions.
- Several spelling and grammar mistakes are present.

Level 1

- Ideas are not organized into paragraphs with three reasons, concluding sentences, and transitions.

Feedback:

CREATIVE WRITING ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Mark
Writing Criteria	Worth 25 Points
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing flows	/10
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing uses the correct voice for the chosen role.	/10
<input type="checkbox"/> Correct spelling and grammar	/5
	Worth 25 Points
	/10
	/10
	/5
Total Points	/50
Final Mark	%

ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

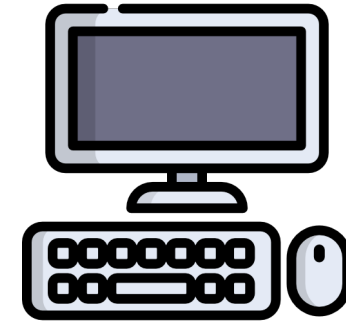
Feedback:

LESSON FORMATS



PDF

✓ Individual & Whole Unit



DIGITAL

✓ Google Slides

RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE