



December 2004
Issue Nineteen

Christmas joy to you all!

Welcome to this December issue of our magazine. Inside you will not only find many interesting worksheets which can be photocopied and used in classes during the Christmas season, but also worksheets for some of the festivities between December and March when the next issue will be published.

On pages 2 and 3 the reader will find the Christmas story that many English children learn. The story is linked to a language activity and to assist the teacher we have put a recording of the story on **LANG's** web site. The audio can be downloaded from www.langedizioni.com/christmas.mp3 and played in class!



Another year is coming to a close and for English language teachers in the Primary school it has been a very tumultuous year, which has seen major changes in the English language programmes for children.

Whether the advantages of the changes outweigh the disadvantages for teachers and children only time will tell.

Although children are now exposed to the English language from their first year of school, the number of hours in later years has been reduced as have the number of pages that MIUR pay for, through the 'cedola libraria'. Taking into account that with the reform of the system children in the Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado study English for fewer hours than those in the Primary School, the concept of the reform has become that of change and not necessarily that of improvement of the quality and quantity of English language education.



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A Christmas Story

Where do Christmas presents come from? This is one of the first mysteries that children face during their early years.

The answer to this question depends on where a child lives as the traditions of Christmas vary from country to country and, indeed, very often are different in different areas of the same country. Whether the child learns that Baby Jesus or the witch or Father Christmas is the source of gifts, this initial magic of Christmas only lasts until the discovery of the truth.

It is a magical moment for both children and parents even though from a philosophical point of view we start our children off in life with a big lie!



The Christmas story that many English children are told

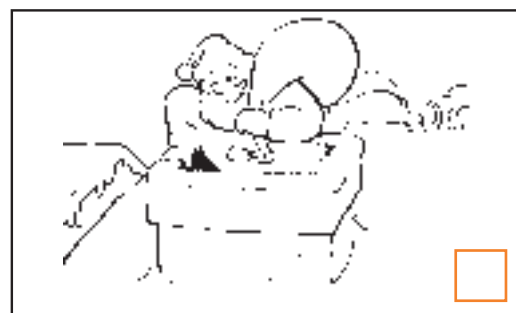
A recording of this story can be downloaded from:
www.langedizioni.com/christmas.mp3

1 Father Christmas lives in the North Pole and, with the help of his elves, spends his life making presents to deliver to the children. Of course, he only gives presents to children who have been good during the year.

2 Father Christmas has a long white beard and wears red trousers and a big red coat. He eats a lot so he is quite fat.

3 On Christmas Eve he puts all the presents in his sleigh and nine reindeers pull the sleigh through the air to visit and deliver presents in all the houses of the children who have been good.

- Divide the children into groups of four or eight.
 - Photocopy, cut out and distribute the pictures.
 - Read the story to the children and ask them to put the pictures in the correct sequence.
 - Read the story again and ask them to hold up the pictures after each paragraph.
 - Ask a child or group to look at a picture and tell the story.
- Then ask another group to continue.





- 4** The most famous reindeer is Rudolph. He pulls the sleigh from the front and his big red nose lights the way for all the other reindeers. The names of the other reindeers are: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donder, Blitzen, Cupid and Comet.



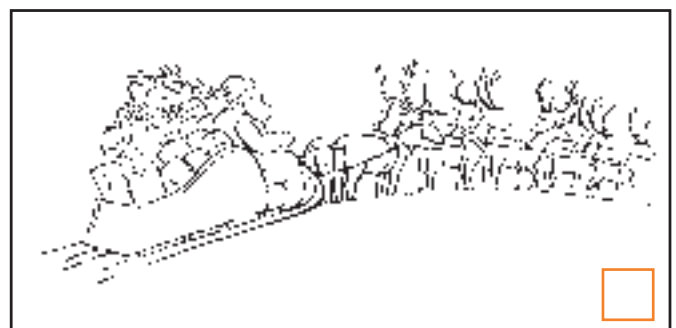
- 5** When Father Christmas finds a house where children who have been good live, he lands his sleigh on the roof. He puts some presents in his sack and enters the house by going down the chimney.

- 6** In some houses he will find a sock near the fireplace together with something for him to eat and drink. When he has filled the sock with presents he puts others around the Christmas tree in the sitting room.

- 7** Many children, especially those who do not have a chimney on the top of their houses, put a sock, sometimes called a Christmas stocking, on the end of their beds so that Father Christmas has to creep upstairs into the bedroom and fill the sock with small presents such as fruit and nuts.



- 8** Families open their presents that are around the Christmas tree after breakfast on Christmas morning. Children eat a very, very quick breakfast on Christmas Day and that is another of the mysteries of Christmas!!



Discovering Christmas on the Internet



There is a wealth of material for teachers and children on the internet.

Here are some sites the teacher may find useful. On the four sites listed below, specifically designed for children and teachers, we have included the specific link for materials related to Christmas.

Teachers can also explore these web sites and discover other pages which include materials for different festivities.



SOME OF THE MATERIALS WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN THE WEB SITES BELOW ARE:

- Christmas songs: words and music
- Ideas for making crackers and toys
- Christmas recipes
- Downloads for both PC and Mac computers
- Online games
- Holiday graphics
- Word searches, colouring, mazes, puzzles
- Party games and activities
- Christmas maths and science

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas/index.html>



<http://www.123child.com/winter/xmas.html>

<http://www.christmas-time.com>



<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk>

This last web site is organised by a very special Primary school in England. It contains links to a wonderful list of topics which will be of interest to Italian children including not only materials for the English language teacher and learner but also exercises in mathematics and science.



Extra teaching / learning materials for the first two years

Teachers in the first and second year of the Primary school may find that their course books do not contain enough teaching material for the whole school year.

MOVING ON 1 and 2 offer teachers and children extra practice and consolidation in all the language items in the new *Indicazioni Nazionali* and can be used to either supplement the course book or as a continuous cycle of lessons when the course book materials have been completed.

Here are two example pages which can be photocopied and distributed in class.



MOVING ON 1 PAGE 45

FIVE BIRDS

NINE BEES

THREE SNAILS

SEVEN ANTS

TWO CATERPILLARS

FOUR LADYBIRDS

Colora soltanto il numero indicato di animali.

45 forty-five

MOVING ON 2 PAGE 36

A DAY ON THE FARM

horse chicken sheep donkey

dog pig duck cow

Osserva gli animali e collegali ai loro nomi. Copia i nomi negli appositi spazi.

36 thirty-six















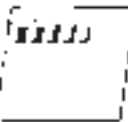














Christmas BINGO



Pre-teach all the vocabulary illustrated and make sure that the children understand their association with Christmas. Give a copy of the Bingo Board and the extra picture squares to each child. Ask the children to colour one aspect of each picture using a red pen. Get the children to cut out the ten extra squares and place them randomly on the Bingo Board.

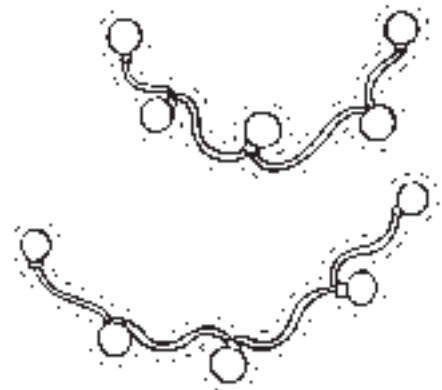
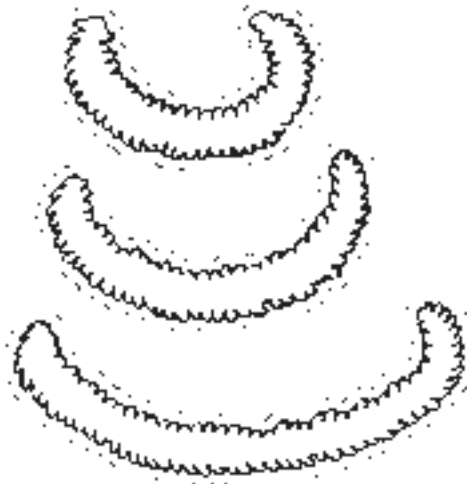
Call out ALL the words and get the children to cover the pictures with a small piece of paper. The first child to cover five squares either horizontally or vertically, shouts 'BINGO!'

 cracker	 snowman			 Christmas tree	 reindeer
 card		 star	 candle		 lights
 turkey	 stocking	 holly		 Santa Claus	
 Advent calendar			 mistletoe	 sleigh	 bells
 Christmas pudding		 angel	 present	 candy	
 fireplace	 balls	 poinsettia	 Rudolph	 Christmas bow	



Decorate the CHRISTMAS TREE!

Join the words and the pictures. Do not draw lines across the Christmas tree. Cut out and colour the tree and the decorations. Stick the decorations onto the tree.



ANGEL

BALLS

CRACKERS

PRESENTS

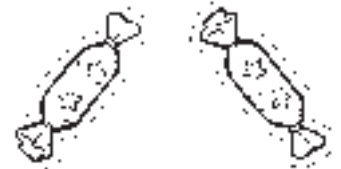
STAR

TINSEL

FATHER CHRISTMAS

CANDLES

LIGHTS





AMREF Italia and LANGPrimary

The two projects announced in previous issues of LANG Primary which link Italian Primary schools with schools in Kenya can still be activated in classes this school year. We hope that many schools will get the children involved in one of these projects.



The two projects we are proposing are the TALKING WATER PROJECT and the STOLEN SCHOOL PROJECT.

Full details of each project can be downloaded from www.langedizioni.com/varie/riviste/index.html (issue 11 and issue 15)

Both projects include a kit of teaching materials (prepared in collaboration with Paravia Bruno Mondadori Editori) which contains:

- a video documentary
- an incomplete story in English, which the children are asked to complete

- a Teacher's Guide, useful for developing various activities, research projects and games based on the important themes of water and of the right to education

Italian Primary schools participating in our projects will be symbolically twinned with one of the ten Kenyan Primary schools that AMREF supports in their educational and intercultural exchange paths thus encouraging children to compare their different cultures and realities.

The projects have received the patronage of USR Piemonte, USR Lombardia and Comune di Firenze.

TO SUBSCRIBE: For further information and subscriptions, call 02 5410 7566 or write to scuole@amref.it (Renata Torrente and Cristina Raho) or visit the dedicated pages at www.amref.it

CHRISTMAS Angel



Make this Christmas angel (or a whole choir of them!) to hang from the Christmas tree.

1. Photocopy and distribute to the children.

Ask them to:

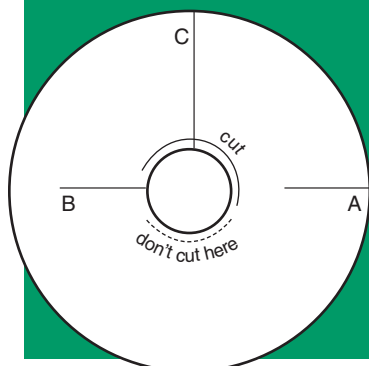
- Cut out the circle.
- Cut along the lines A, B and C.
- Cut along the line of the three-quarter inner circle.

2. Ask them to look at the photograph of the angel. Get

them to draw a face and decorate the body and wings of the angel using gold and silver pens and glitter.

3. Wrap the paper round and fit slot A into slot B to form the wings.

The body of the angel is now a cone and the circle in the middle the head. Bend the head and fix a thread to the back so that you can hang the angel on the tree or in the classroom.



Kids' Corner

John Batty

Songs and music in language learning



When I was a student at secondary school, I studied French for three years, but I cannot remember a word... well, actually, the only thing I can remember is a few verses of a song that I learnt in the first year. Now that I am a teacher I am often surprised at how quickly my students learn songs. There are a great number of reasons why, but here are just a few.

The "song stuck in my head" phenomenon, which I am sure we have all experienced, works on our short and long term memory.

Songs activate the repetition mechanism of Chomsky's language acquisition device while exposing the children to the natural rhythm (stress time) and pronunciation (weak and strong forms, connected speech, etc.) of the English language,

which children pick up on and produce effortlessly. Music without lyrics is also an excellent aid to "set the mood", helping concentration, calming and stirring the students when needed. According to the scientist John Jenkins, by playing Mozart as subtle background music while the students are working, or even playing, not only sets the mood, but also boosts the children's power of intelligence. But what is more important, songs and music provide a diversity of settings, moods and, above all, fun.

Here are some festive activities for children in their first year of English lessons.

They are not required to produce the written language but should be encouraged to use English expressions while they are constructing the items.

Activity 1: Christmas mobiles

What you need:

White paper
Felt-tip pens
Scissors
String
Metal coat hanger



What you do

- On the white paper, draw stars, Christmas trees, wreaths, balls, presents, socks, candles and whatever else you associate with Christmas.
- Colour the drawings.
- Cut them out and make a small hole in the upper part of each piece.
- Slip the string through the small hole and tie it with a knot on the back.
- Tie the ends of all the pieces of string to the metal coat hanger.
- All your drawings are now hanging from the coat hanger. Hang your Christmas mobile wherever you want!



Activity 2: A paper reindeer glove puppet

What you need:

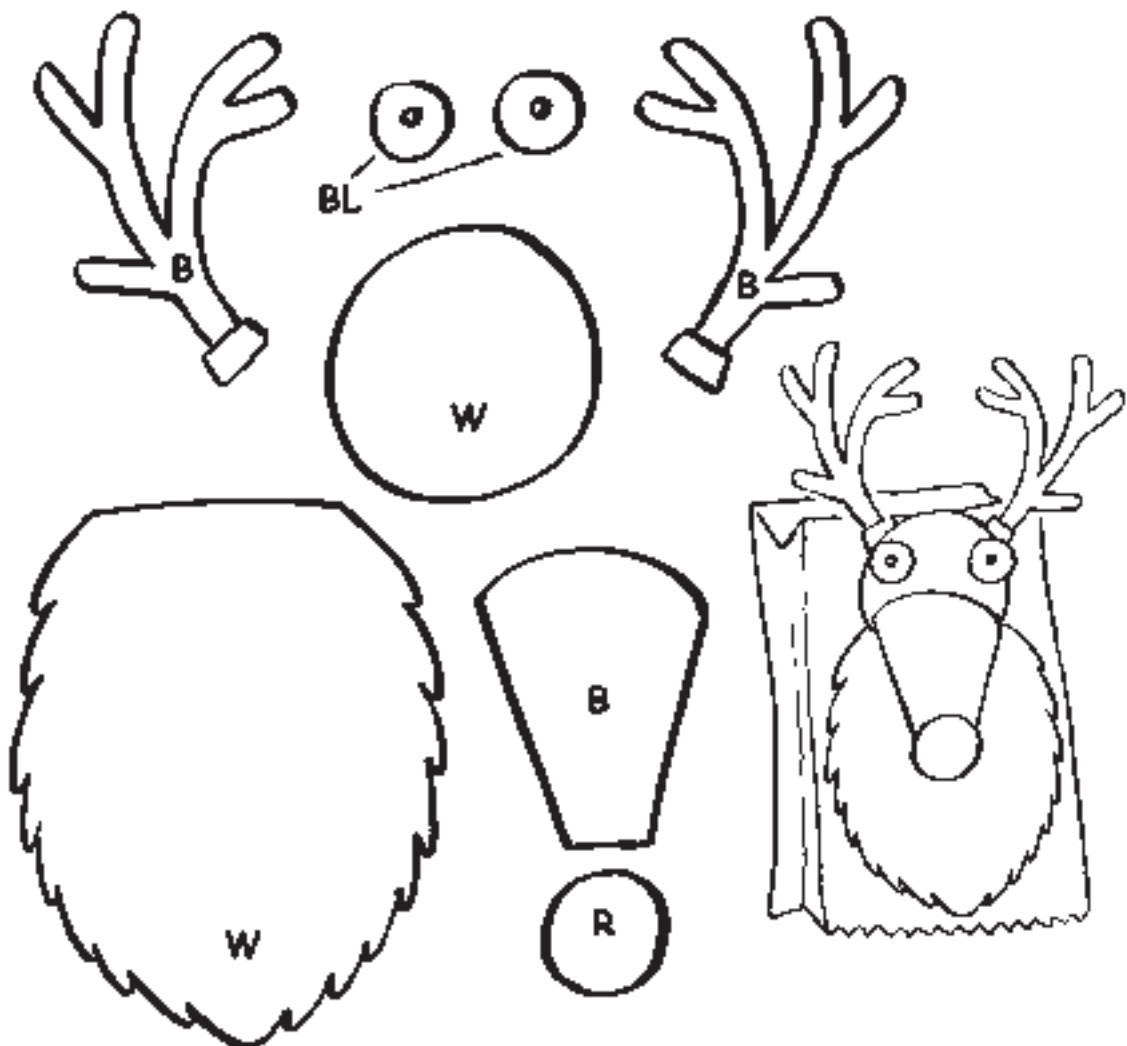
Enlarged photocopy of templates onto coloured card
(b=brown; bl=black; w=white; r=red)
A brown paper bag
Coloured card
(brown, black, white and red)
Glue
Scissors

What you do

- Enlarge the templates onto coloured card.
- Cut out the shapes.
- Turn the paper bag upside down and glue the pieces into position. The pieces of the template are lettered according to their colours.



Comments: This activity is ideal to use while teaching/singing Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer or even Jingle bells.



Activity 3: Hand print Angel



What you need:

Coloured paper or board
Pipe cleaner
Glitter glue or glitter and glue
Child's photo

What you do

- Trace each hand of child (for the wings).
- Trace each foot of child (for Angel's dress).
- Cut out each part.
- Glitter and glue the hand cut-outs to make the wings twinkle.
- Cut out the photo of the child focusing on the head and face.
- Glue hands (wings) to the feet (the body) and the photo (the head) together.
- Add a piece of pipe cleaner for a halo.

Comments: If you make a nativity scene you can pin the angel above the stable.



Activity 4: Father Christmas Calendar



What you need:

Enlarged photocopy of template
Cardboard (you can take it from cereal packets, old cardboard boxes, etc.)
Red and black felt-tip pens
Cotton wool
Glue
Cork from a bottle of wine
Brass fasteners
Scissors
Print/photocopy of December calendar

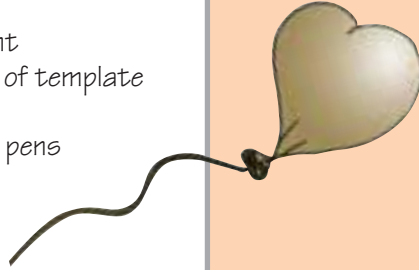
What you do

- Enlarge the template.
- Glue the photocopied template onto cardboard of the same size.
- Once dried, cut the pieces out.
- Colour in the pieces.
- Glue cotton wool to the rim of the hat, cuffs and bottom of the jacket.
- Fix the arms to the body with the brass fasteners.
- Place the calendar in the hands of Father Christmas.
- Don't forget to change the day every morning!

Activity 5: Valentine's day letterbox

What you need:

One shoe box per student
One enlarged photocopy of template for each student
Poster paints or felt-tip pens
Scissors
Glue
Coloured paper



What you do

- Photocopy and enlarge the template.
- Wrap the box with coloured paper or paint it.
- Cut a slit in the top of the box big enough to fit the Valentine's cards.
- Cut out the template pieces.
- Children write their names on the large heart.
- Glue head onto the back of the box.
- Glue eyes and ears onto the face.
- Glue paws and large heart with the child's name onto the front of the box with paws slightly overlapping the heart.

Comments: A great follow-up activity to making and writing Valentine's cards.



Christmas

Balls and Wreaths



You need:

- polystyrene supports of various sizes and shapes as balls and wreaths (you can find them in paint shops)
- pieces of cloth of different colours; the best are red, green and gold
- pinking shears
- a small screwdriver
- coloured ribbons; the best are red, green and gold
- some pins

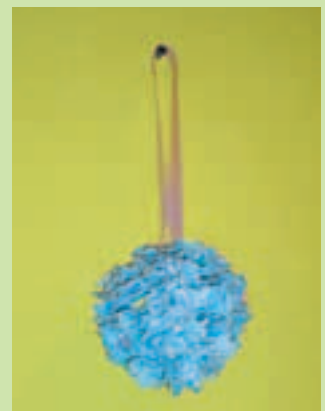


Cut a lot of small squares of cloth with your pinking shears. Place the head of the screwdriver in the middle of every small square of cloth and insert the piece of cloth in the polystyrene support, by lightly twisting your hand.

Insert many pieces of cloth of different colours very close to one another in your support, until you have completely covered its surface.

Fix a coloured ribbon with a pin in your Christmas balls or fix it with a knot to your Christmas wreath.

Now everything is ready to decorate your Christmas tree, the door of your house, your classroom or your bedroom door!



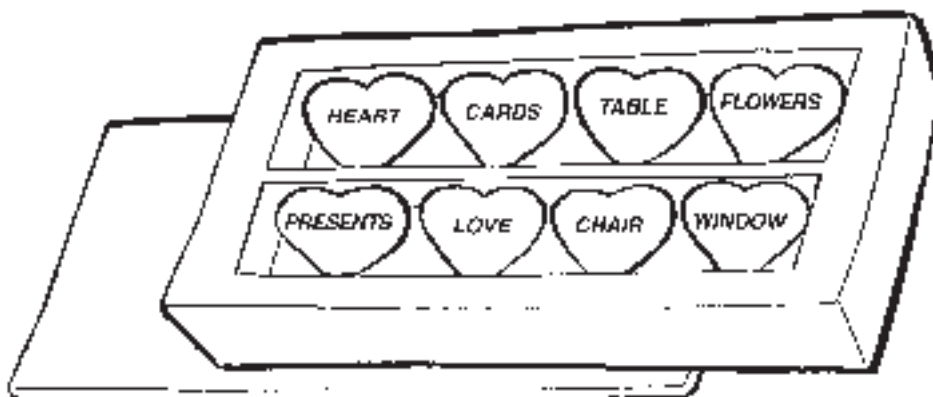
VALENTINE'S DAY

WORKSHEET

Did you know?

On valentine's Day, people often send cards and give presents to other people that they like.

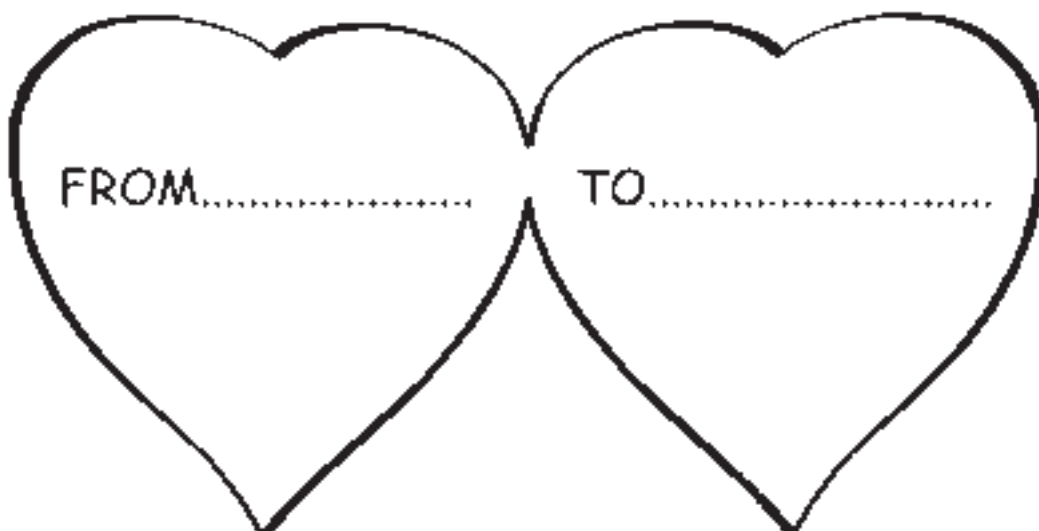
Look at this wonderful box of chocolates. Colour all the hearts with words associated with Valentine's Day.



Read these sentences and tick the ones you associate with Valentine's Day cards.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I like you. | <input type="checkbox"/> You are special. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am nine years old. | <input type="checkbox"/> My favourite colour is green. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I live in Milan. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Valentine's Day. | <input type="checkbox"/> Love, |

Make a Valentine's card and give it to somebody you like. Write appropriate sentences on the card.

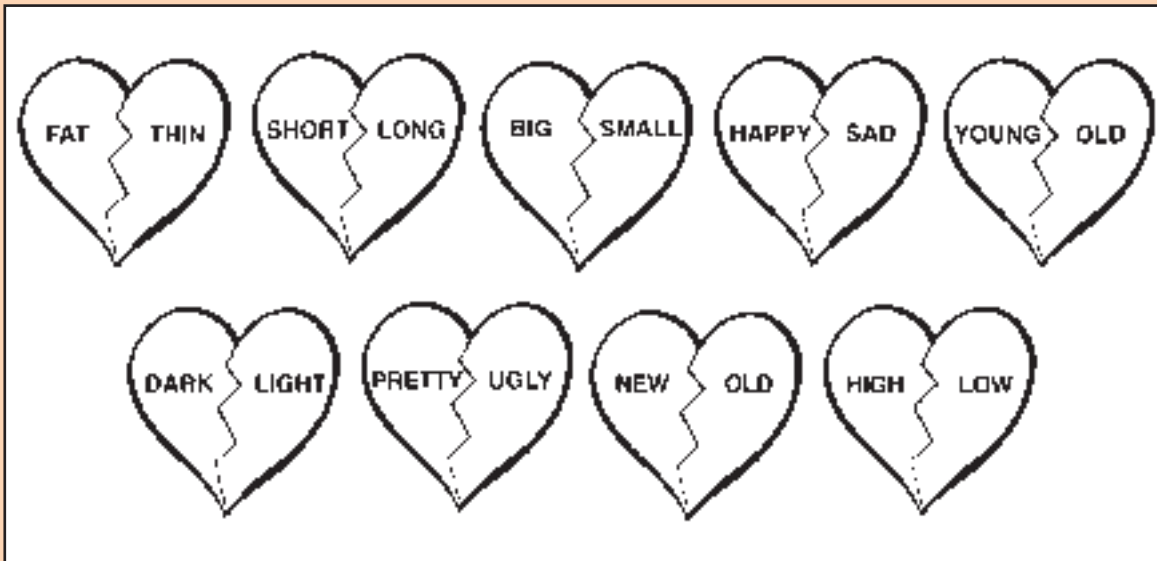


VALENTINE'S DAY

WORKSHEET

broken hearts

Instructions to the teacher: make copies of the worksheet for pairs of children. Cut out the hearts and cut them in half along the line (or alternatively ask the children to do this). Mix up the halves of the hearts and ask the children to find the opposite pairs of words and mend the broken hearts.



VALENTINE MATHS

Add up the sums in the boxes and then find the letter that corresponds to the answer to discover the hidden message.

A=9	B=7	C=11	D=13	E=8	F=22	G=19	H=25	I=4	J=12	K=18	L=1	M=10
N=5	O=20	P=15	Q=26	R=14	S=24	T=2	U=17	V=6	W=16	X=21	Y=3	Z=23

3+4	3+5		1+9	2+1		3+3	5+4	0+1	4+4	2+3	1+1	3+1	4+1	2+6
B														





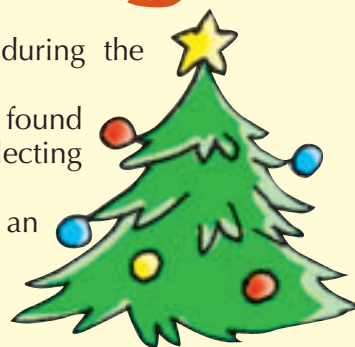
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

WORDS AND MUSIC

Carols are both religious and non-religious songs sung only during the Christmas season.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, groups of carol singers can be found in the High Streets of most towns in Britain, singing carols and collecting money for charity.

Printed below are the words of six popular Christmas songs with an internet link for each, where the music can be found and recorded.



www.christmas-time.com/mdrudo.htm

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
had a very shiny nose
and if you ever saw it
you would even say it glows.
All of the other reindeer
used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
play in any reindeer games.
Then one foggy Christmas eve
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
Then all the reindeer loved him
as they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
you'll go down in history!

www.christmas-time.com/ct-faith.htm

O come all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him;
Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above,
"Glory to God
... In the Highest".
O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him;
Christ the Lord.

www.christmas-time.com/ct-noel.htm

The first Noël

The first Noël the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay;
Keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night,
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,
Born is the King of Israel.

www.christmas-time.com/mdjing.htm

Jingle bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to ride,
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to ride,
In a one-horse open sleigh.

www.christmas-time.com/silent.htm

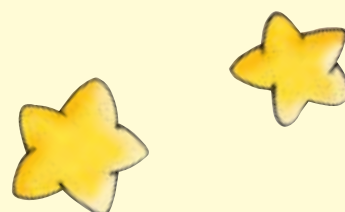
Silent Night

Silent night,
Holy night,
All is calm,
All is bright,
Round yon virgin,
Mother and child,
Holy infant so,
Tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

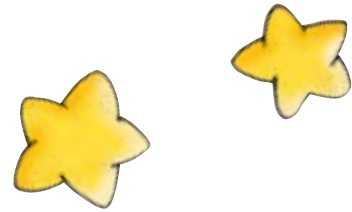
www.christmas-time.com/ct-mang.htm

Away in a manger

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little lord Jesus,
Lay down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky,
Looked down where He lay,
The little lord Jesus,
Asleep in the hay.



A Christmas Song WORKSHEET



The twelve days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me,

a partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me,

two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me,

three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me,

four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me,

five gold rings! Four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me, six geese a-laying, five...

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me, seven swans a-swimming, six...

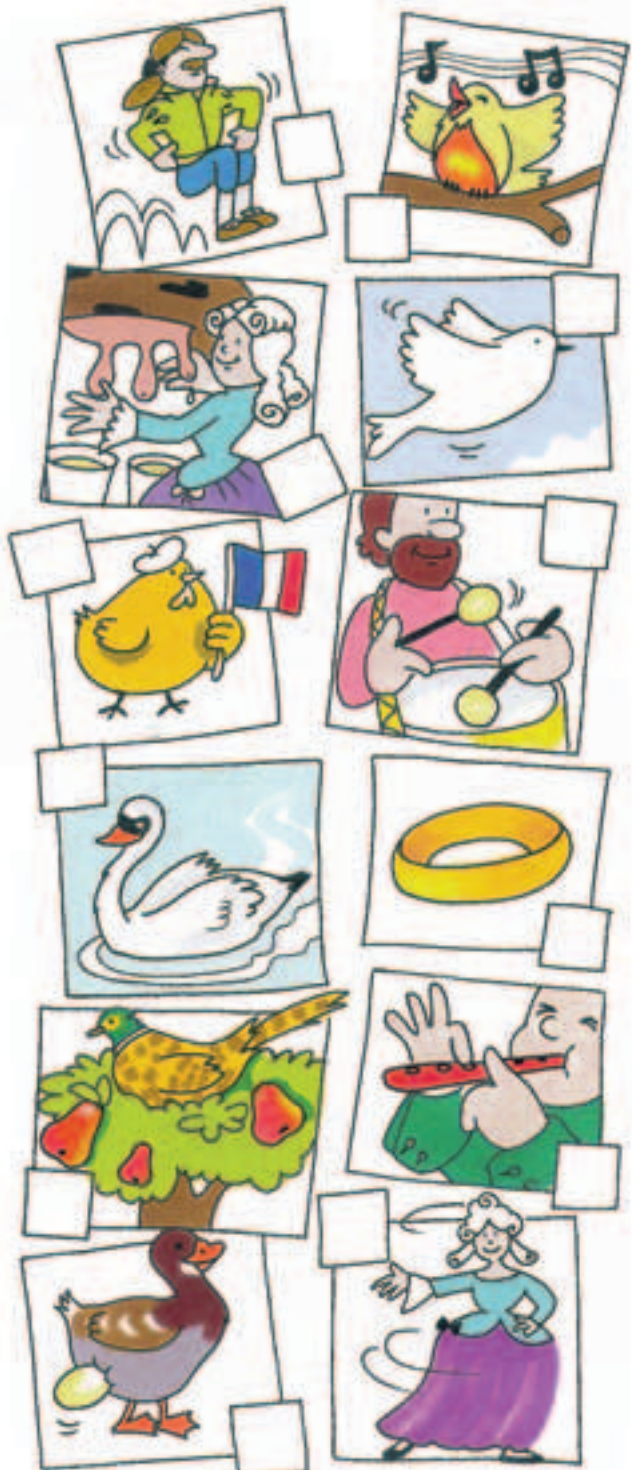
On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me, eight maids a-milking, seven...

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me, nine ladies dancing, eight...

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me, ten lords a-leaping, nine...

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me, eleven pipers piping, ten...

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me, twelve drummers drumming, eleven...



Ask your pupils
to sing the song
and number the pictures.

ST PATRICK'S DAY



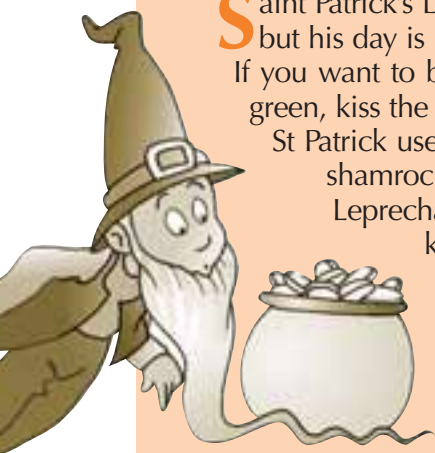
Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated every year on March 17th. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but his day is now celebrated in many other parts of the world, above all in the United States.

If you want to be lucky on St Patrick's Day, you should find a four-leaf clover or shamrock, wear green, kiss the Blarney Stone and try to catch a Leprechaun!

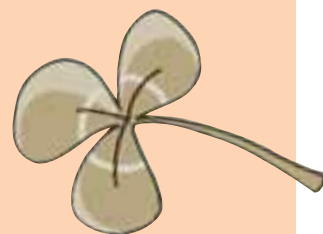
St Patrick used the shamrock leaf to symbolise the Holy Trinity, and today many people wear a shamrock to commemorate St Patrick's Day.

Leprechauns are Irish pixies. They are tiny little old men dressed in green. Some say that they know the way to a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. They are not very friendly and extremely difficult to catch.

The Blarney Stone can be found in Blarney Castle, County Cork, Ireland. It is said that it has magical properties. There is a legend that an old woman put a spell on it a long time ago. The king of that time was mute and when he kissed the Stone, he was suddenly able to speak both quickly and convincingly!



ST PATRICK'S DAY WORKSHEET



Find the hidden words about St Patrick's Day and Ireland. You can find them vertically, horizontally or diagonally.



IRISH



POT



RAINBOW



CLOVER



PATRICK

IRELAND

GOLD

GREEN

LUCK

SHAMROCK



Learn this Rhyme



*I'm a little Leprechaun
(to the tune of I'm a little teapot)
I'm a little Leprechaun
Dressed in green,
The tiniest man you've ever seen.
If you ever catch me so it's told,
I will give you my pot of gold!
(author unknown)*



Class project



December 2004



The Class Projects presented in **LANG Primary** give teachers the opportunity to encourage the children to prepare special materials, usually in the form of posters or mini-booklets. The children should write commentary or sentences in English to accompany their visual work.

LANG Edizioni will send a class set of *supplementary English language learning materials* to the teachers of classes that present the most interesting projects.

Once the Project is introduced to the class, dedicate a little time each week to the preparation of the materials.

THE FOUR SEASONS

Describe and illustrate how your town and the surrounding countryside change as one season moves to another.

Include descriptions and illustrations of:

- the same areas in different seasons
- the things that you can and can't do during the different seasons
- the different ways you dress when the weather and temperature change

Remember to fill in the Project Form which *must* accompany all Project Work.

The great majority of teachers ask that their projects are exchanged with another school's and we have sent on these projects so that they can be read and enjoyed by other children.

When the project is complete, complete the Project Form below and send to:

PBM spa
LANG Primary Class Project 19,
Corso Trapani 16,
10139 Torino

All projects should be received by 31.05.2005
We may publish extracts from some of the projects in future issues of **LANG Primary**.

All the materials submitted become the property of Paravia Bruno Mondadori Editori and reproduction rights are reserved.



THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ALL PROJECTS

Name of school _____

19

Address _____ City _____ CAP _____

Name of teacher _____

Number of **classes** actively involved in the project _____

I give permission for **LANG Edizioni** to send this class project to another school in exchange for their project. Write Yes or No. _____

Signed by the teacher _____ Date _____

What's New from LANG?

This issue includes some supplementary teaching materials for festivals between December and March when the next issue of **LANG Primary** will be distributed.

Extra materials for Valentine's Day can be found on the **LANG** Web site at <http://www.langedizioni.com/varie/festivities/> together with numerous worksheets dedicated to Easter, for those teachers who wish to introduce the topic before the arrival of the Easter issue.

LANG Edizioni will be present at even more meetings, seminars and conventions in 2005 than ever before. If you participate in one of the events, please visit our stand and introduce yourself. We want to meet and listen to as many teachers as possible as we consider that your views are an essential element in establishing criteria for the development of our editorial plans for the future.

The next edition of **LANG Primary** will be published in March 2005 and will be posted in time for teachers to use the special Easter materials which will be included.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Receiving future issues of **LANG Primary**.

LANG Primary is only distributed through a free subscription service and during seminars and conventions for teachers of English.

LANG Primary is published **three** times a year, in March, October and December. Teachers can register subscriptions either on-line at www.langedizioni.com or by using the coupon below. Future issues of **LANG Primary** are posted to home addresses.

If you wish to comment on the articles in **LANG Primary**, please do not hesitate to write to us.

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Yes ☐

No ☐

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