



A Christmas Letter

Hi Everybody, My name is Sam and I'm writing a letter to a new pen friend who doesn't know about Christmas. I need to be very specific. Can you help me to complete it? You'll need your cards to do it. There is more than one option, so you need to be careful and choose the correct card to fill in each gap.



Dear friend,

I hope you are well. I'm writing to tell you about a wonderful annual called This celebration lasts for days. The two most popular days are the, which is called and the, which is called Christians celebrate Christmas, because it is Jesus's So, it's like a birthday

Jesus was born in a surrounded by His mother's name was and his father's name was It is said that on that holy night, Jesus was visited by, who brought him gifts of....., frankincense, and myrrh.

Before Christmas, people put up Christmas in their homes. People usually have a Christmas They decorate it with and They usually put a or an on the top of the tree. Underneath the tree, they put, which they open on Christmas Day.

At Christmas time, children love to write Christmas letters to In the letter, they write about what they would like to get for Christmas. Children and some adults also like to send Christmas to each other.

On Christmas Day, people also have a special dinner. People in western countries usually eat At Christmas, people also eat sweet things like and

Well, that's all for now, what festivals do you celebrate? They must be wonderful. Write back soon and tell me about them.

Your friend,

Sam



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A Christmas Letter



birthday



Christmas



12



Easter



1st of April



New Year's Day



25th of December



wedding



Christmas Day



26th of December



party



New Year's Eve



holiday



April Fool's Day



festival



31st of December



Boxing Day



6



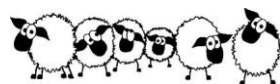
cake



1st of January



stable



sheep



house



farm animals

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A Christmas Letter



Mary



decorations



Joseph



candles



gold



Maggie



tree



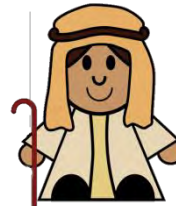
a king



three wise men



flower



Dave



silver



lights



party poppers



ornaments



balloons



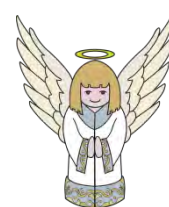
star



bell



bags



angel



Santa Claus



presents



rabbit



The Grinch

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A Christmas Letter



cards



syrup



doughnuts



candy



turkey



chocolate



emails



chicken



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A Christmas Letter

Here is an extensive Christmas activity that can be used to teach students Christmas vocabulary and Christmas traditions.

Before class, make one copy of the letter for each student. Also, make one copy of the cards for each group of four and cut as indicated.

Procedure

Divide the students into teams of four. Give each team a set of cards. Tell the students to shuffle the cards and then deal them out evenly. Each student should have 14 cards. The students spread out their cards face up on the desk in front of them.

Give each team a number and draw a scoreboard on the board.

Tell the class that you are going to read a Christmas letter to the students and that they must help you complete the letter by providing words.

Explain that the first student to hold up the corresponding word/picture card can answer. If their answer is correct, they win a point for their team. Don't write the correct answers on the board at this stage.

Start reading the letter (see below) aloud to the class. Use the word 'blank' as the missing word. You may wish to read the complete sentence to give it context or you may read up to the missing word to make it harder for the students.

Whenever there is a missing word, the students look at their cards and see if they have a suitable word to help you complete the sentence. There are decoy cards and some words are interchangeable when a sentence contains the word 'and'.

When the letter is complete, tally up the scores to see which team gave the most correct words. That team is the winner.

Next, give each student a copy of the letter.

In their teams, students put all their cards together face up on the table and complete the letter for themselves.

When everyone has finished, check the answers as a class.

Extension Activities

Have the students write a reply to Sam. Telling Sam about the festivals they celebrate. These letters can be read aloud or displayed around the classroom.

The teams race to categorize the cards, e.g. dates and days, people, objects, food, places, animals, etc. The first team to categorize all the cards correctly wins.

Students play a pelmanism game, where they take it in turns to match the cards by their category, e.g. dates, people, etc. When a student turns over two matching cards, they keep the cards as a trick. Alternatively, give each group two sets of cards. The students then play a game of 'Snap' using the cards.

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A Christmas Letter

Read the letter aloud to the class. Use the word 'blank' as the missing word (in red). You may wish to read the complete sentence to give it context or you may read up to the missing word to make it harder for the students.

Dear friend,

I hope you are well. I'm writing to tell you about a wonderful annual **festival** called **Christmas**. This celebration lasts for **12** days. The two most popular days are the **25th of December**, which is called **Christmas Day** and the **26th of December**, which is called **Boxing Day**. Christians celebrate Christmas, because it is Jesus's **birthday**. So, it's like a birthday **party**.

Jesus was born in a **stable** surrounded by **farm animals**. His mother's name was **Mary** and his father's name was **Joseph**. It is said that on that holy night, Jesus was visited by **three wise men**, who brought him gifts of **gold**, frankincense, and myrrh.

Before Christmas, people put up Christmas **decorations** in their homes. People usually have a Christmas **tree**. They decorate it with **lights** and **ornaments**. They usually put a **star** or an **angel** on the top of the tree. Underneath the tree, they put **presents**, which they open on Christmas Day.

At Christmas time, children love to write Christmas letters to **Santa Claus**. In the letter, they write about what they would like to get for Christmas. Children and some adults also like to send Christmas **cards** to each other.

On Christmas Day, people also have a special dinner. People in western countries usually eat **turkey**. At Christmas, people also eat sweet things like **chocolate** and **candy**.

Well, that's all for now, what festivals do you celebrate? They must be wonderful. Write back soon and tell me about them.

Your friend,

Sam