

**Teacher's Guide**  
**All About Holidays series**

**Introduction**

This teacher's guide helps educate young children about the holidays. Each book is an easily read story that introduces the holidays Christmas, The Fourth of July, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Valentine's Day. Many holidays celebrate the anniversaries of great events. The Fourth of July and Thanksgiving Day are American holidays. Other holidays, including Christmas, Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and Valentine's Day have come to us from the traditions of other countries.

**Guided Reading Level: B**

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The 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	978-0-7660-3806-6	978-1-59845-175-7
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**All About Holidays** Teacher's Guide  
for

**Christmas**

**Christmas**

In *Christmas*, children will read the story of a young person who wrote a Dear Santa letter. This Dear Santa letter may be a little different than ones your students may have written. Ask children to share if they have ever written or dictated a Dear Santa letter.

**Christmas** or **Christmas Day** is a Christian holiday celebrated on December 25, the anniversary of the day Jesus was born. The date is not known to be the actual birth date of Jesus. Christmas is central to the Christmas and holiday season, and in Christianity it marks the beginning of the larger season of Christmastide, which lasts twelve days.

People celebrate the holiday by decorating Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, playing holiday music, exchanging greeting cards, attending church celebrations, preparing and sharing a special meal, and displaying various decorations. Some of decorations include Christmas trees, lights, garland, mistletoe, nativity scenes, and holly. In addition, Santa Claus (or Father Christmas) is a popular figure in many countries, associated with the bringing of gifts for children.

## Activities for the Five Curriculum Areas

### **SAFETY WARNING:**

Before any activity, make sure your students do not have any allergies to items that you might use. Never use anything that is sharp or may cut a student. Do not use anything so hot or cold that it might injure a student. Always have an adult supervise all activities to ensure the safety of your students.

### **Reading/Language Arts activity: Sight words**

Beginning readers will find easy words and repetitive phrases throughout the book. Almost all the words used in this book can be found in the Dolch word list, which is appropriate for beginning readers through the third grade. To learn more, visit [www.dolch-words.com](http://www.dolch-words.com). Additional words that may be specific to this book can be found in the Words to Know section on page 3.

### **Math activity: Counting stars**

In the book *Christmas*, the penguins ask Santa for gold stars to decorate their Christmas tree. Cut out a supply of paper stars. Write the counting numbers on them. Ask the children to line up the numbers in counting order. Variation: Ask children to put the stars in descending numerical order.

### **Science activity: Penguin Pokey**

Penguins wrote the Dear Santa letter in the book *Christmas*. Help children learn the names of different animal body parts. Play the Hokey Pokey, but instead of using arms, legs, etc., use penguin body parts (yellow beak, left flipper, right flipper, tail, and anything else you can think of).

For example:

You put your left flipper in,  
you put your left flipper out,  
You put your left flipper, and you shake it all about,  
You do the Penguin Pokey and you turn yourself around,  
That's what it's all about. Hey!

Repeat with reindeer body parts (hooves, antlers, etc.).

### **Social Studies activity: Hats off!**

In the book *Christmas*, the penguins ask Santa to bring Santa hats for every penguin. Set up a table with construction paper, card stock, markers, crayons, crepe paper, cloth scraps, and other collage materials. Invite children to children to make a Santa hat or a hat of their own creation.

**Arts activity: Starry night**

The penguins ask for gold stars to decorate their Christmas tree. Ask children to think about the night sky. Cut out many different star shapes. Have the children glue the stars onto a piece of dark blue paper to represent the night sky. Share the painting of *Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh with the children. Discuss how the students' pictures are the same and/or different from the depiction of the night sky in the painting.

