

December 1998

HAPPY CHANUKAH



Let's Celebrate

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Focus. This month the Packs focus on their own form of celebration, be it Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, or another holiday celebration. At the same time, we keep in mind that ours isn't the only holiday being celebrated. It gives us a chance to take note of all the different (yet in many ways similar) people there are in the world and how we each have our own special focus but that, when it's all said and done, they all are focused on celebrating our union and closeness with our God.

Pack Meeting Ideas

PreOpening Activities

Holiday Word Search

Figure 1. in this section is a Holiday Theme word search for Families to try before (and probably after) the Pack Meeting. The words are from three major celebrations during the December timeframe Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas.

Christmas Sayings & Songs Puzzle

Figure 2. in this section is a 22-clue puzzle with descriptions of Christmas-related songs and saying presented in not-so-familiar words. See how they do in figuring out the clues.

Christmas Song Quiz

My kids tell me that multiple choice tests are easiest and then fill-in-the-blank tests. Well here's a fill-in-the-blank test for everyone to enjoy. All song titles are from popular Holiday albums.

Opening Ceremonies

Holiday Candles

This Opening Ceremony is the beginning of a theme that runs through to the Advancement Ceremony described later in this section. You might use all or

some (or, of course, none) to support your Let's Celebrate theme.

In considering the theme of Let's Celebrate, we find that there are multiple holidays occurring in the December timeframe, including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Each of these holidays is different from the others in "who" celebrates but all of them focus on celebrating a heritage—cultural, religious, or both. This is a rather long ceremony so I would recommend that you review it carefully before the meeting. You may want to edit it to leave out some of the lesser points. [I have included all of the information here so that you at least have some background on the different holidays and what their focuses are. Feel free to drop some of it when using it for an Opening.]

Setting:

Have the Arrow of Light Candleholder set up in the front of the room. (See Staging Den and Pack



Kwanzaa Kinara



Hanukkah Menorah

Ceremonies for this 7-candle candleholder.)

Have prepared "overlays" from the three holidays. These are poster board pictures of the candleholders used during the holiday celebrations. Each one should be of the size that, when stood in front of the AOL candleholder, all that can be seen are the seven candles (and not the Arrow of Light holder). Here are pictures of them so you can draw them. (I don't have a picture of a Christmas 7-candle candelabra but it

should look like the ones you see in many windows at Christmas time.

For the Opening Ceremony, begin with the three "overlays" standing in front of the AOL candleholder. They should be in this order: Kwanzaa Kinara, Hanukkah Menorah, Christmas Candelabra. As the readers read the following text, remove the overlays when the text begins talking about another holiday.

Reader #1: Tonight we gather as a Pack to celebrate. But we aren't the only people who form a special group and recognize its importance and the importance of its members. In December, there are many other groups that have special celebrations to remember their heritage, their faith, and their mission.

Across America and across the world, these *different* groups—groups with different backgrounds than ours, different names than ours—are also gathering. And though we may think they are so much different from us, by taking the time to know them even a little, we find that they aren't really so different. So what are some of these *different* celebrations and who are the people who are celebrating?

Reader #2: One November/December celebration is Hanukkah. At the time of the first Hanukkah, Israel had been under foreign rule for many years since Alexander the Great and his Greek armies conquered much of the region in the fourth century BCE. In the year 167 BCE, the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes ruled over Israel. Antiochus decreed that all his subjects must adopt the customs of Greece. He outlawed the practice of Jewish rituals, even the observance of Sabbath and worshipping in the temple.

Many families hated the new rules, but one family in particular took action. An old priest named Mattathias and his five sons retreated to the hills and battled against the Syrians and their Greek allies. Before Mattathias died of old age he passed on his leadership to his son, Judah the Maccabee. Judah and his forces finally defeated the Syrian overlords and their Greek allies in 165 BCE.

The first goal of Judah and his followers, called the Maccabees, was to reclaim the temple. After cleaning the temple, they looked for oil to light the eternal flame that is always present in a Jewish house of worship. Unfortunately, they could only find enough oil to light the flame for one day. But when they lighted the flame, a miracle happened! The oil lasted for eight days. Since that time Jews around the world have celebrated Hanukkah to commemorate the reclaiming of Jerusalem and the temple, and

most importantly, the miracle of the oil that lasted for eight days.

To remember the Miracle, and the triumph of the few over the many, the weak over the strong, and the faithful over the non-believers, the holiday of Chanukah is celebrated for eight nights and days.

Reader #3: Kwanzaa is another holiday celebrated in December. It is a cultural festival during which African-Americans celebrate and reflect upon their rich heritage as the products of two worlds. It begins December 26 and lasts for seven days. Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga, a college professor and African American leader, who believed that a special holiday could help African Americans meet their goals of building strong families, learning about their history, and creating a sense of unity. After conducting extensive research in which he studied the festivals of many African groups of people, he decided that the new holiday should be a harvest or "first fruits" celebration, incorporating ideas from many different harvest traditions. Kwanzaa is a Kiswahili word meaning "the first fruits of the harvest."

Each day of Kwanzaa, usually before the evening meal, family and friends gather around the table and someone lights a candle, beginning with the black [in the center of the candle holder, the Kinara]. After that candles are lit alternately from left to right. While the candle is being lit, a principle is recited; then each person present takes a turn to speak about the importance that principle has to him- or herself.

Kwanzaa is based on seven principles which are Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. One principle is highlighted each day of the holiday.

Reader #4: Christmas is also celebrated in December. This holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus. "Christ," the name given to Jesus, means Messiah. For Christians, Advent and Christmas mark the beginning of each year. It is celebrated as a time for starting anew, committing themselves to live and spread Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All. The Advent period, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time of preparation and waiting. During this time people reflect on many things, but mostly on the coming of the Christ Child, the Savior.

Reader #5: And tonight the Pack celebrates in its own way. We celebrate the success of our Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts and we celebrate the freedoms we have as citizens of the United States of

America—especially the freedom to celebrate our individual heritages, our individual religious beliefs, and our individual dreams for the future. Please join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Activities

Good Turn Carnival

Here's an idea that could be used as an extra activity or it can be the focal point of the Pack Meeting. Given the season and the focus of the season, how about putting on a Good Turn Carnival. For each Good Turn that a Cub Scout records he earns so many carnival tickets. (When I was involved in the religious education program at our church, we would have a Carnival of this sort each year.) To earn tickets, the Cub Scouts (and their siblings) do "good turns." For each 15 minutes (as affirmed by their Akelas) the children earn a ticket that they can use at the carnival.

The tickets gain them access to the various carnival stands. And each stand can either award them with a small trinket or another ticket to go to another stand. (This latter idea gives them the thrill of getting to all the stands and doesn't reinforce a "gotta' win" attitude.)

Carnival stands don't have to be elaborate—just fun. (*Remember KISMIF?*) You can get some great ideas from the Cub Scout Big Book and then come up with some more ideas of your own. If the place where you hold the carnival allows, you can use ideas like a candle flame shooting range, a pie-throwing stand, and a ring toss. Let your imaginations go wild!

Round-Robin Party

We've used this idea in our pack with some real success. At the beginning of the activity period each den (or den group) is started at one activity table, game area, etc. The activities need to be planned that they can be completed in a short period of time (e.g., 5 minutes) and at the end of each time period a bell or whistle is sounded to move everyone to the next activity. When our pack did this, we had activity areas set up for the evening. These included:

- A paper chain making table
- A visit with Santa area
- A musical presents game (like musical chairs but everyone is sitting down and a wrapped present is passed among them until the

music [carols!] stops—the one holding the present gets to open it and keep it)

- "Name That Tune" game based on holiday songs
- Decorate a tree activity. Someone had donated lots of ornaments and some else had provided a big tree. (We meet in our local school's cafeteria.) This became a gift to the school. (The paper chain was also used on the tree.)

Gift Exchange Fun

Here is a fun activity that can be done as a real gift exchange or just a fun activity at the pack meeting where everyone is given little items, like pieces of candy or different colored candy canes. If it's a gift exchange, make sure that the gifts are not age and gender specific or that the group in the exchange is.

For this activity, everyone is sitting around in a circle with their gifts. A narrator reads the following story. Whenever the word "right" is read, each participant hands the gift to the person to the right; likewise, when the word "left" is read, the gifts are passed to the left. At the very end of the story, the participants get the gifts they are holding.

The Christmas Story

Christmas was almost here and Mother Right was finishing her Christmas baking. Father Right, Billy Right, and Suzy Right had just gotten back from finishing their last-minute errands.

"There's not much left to be done," said Father Right as he came into the kitchen.

"Did you leave the basket of food at the Church?" asked Mother Right?

"Yes, I left it right where you told me to put it," replied Father Right.

"I sure am glad the Christmas shopping is finished," said Billy Right. "I don't have any money left."

Just then the phone in the hallway rang and Suzy Right rushed out to answer it. She ran back into the kitchen announcing "That was Grandma Right! Aunt Millie Right left a Christmas package on Grandma Right's front porch for us."

"I'll go get it!" shouted Billy Right as he left to rush over to Grandma Right's house.

Father Right left the kitchen to bring in the Christmas tree. By the time Billy Right got back, Father Right, Mother Right, and Suzy Right were busy decorating the tree. There were still plenty of ornament left to put up, so Billy Right joined in. The whole family sang Christmas carols as they finished trimming the tree. Then they went to bed, hoping they had picked the right gifts to give to each other.

And now I hope you have the right gift, because there isn't anything left to our story. Isn't that right?!

A White Christmas

This is an audience participation activity. For those that haven't tried these, they're great. You divide the pack into the right number of groups (in this case, 3) and give each group its assignment. When the group here's its keyword, it shouts out its response. Our pack does these fairly often and we find them to be great group builders. Enjoy...

Santa: HO-HO-HO
Gardner: HOE, PLOW, HOE
White: (sung) I'm dreaming of a White Christmas

It's easy to fall into a routine and forget to change it. That's just what had happened to Santa's Christmas deliveries—every year was the same. That was good enough for him. But Mrs. Santa's gardener (who was very bored) got tired of it one year and decided he was going to make a few changes.

"This year we're going to have a Christmas theme—just like Cub Scout meetings!" he announced one morning in early October. "And I'm in charge. I'll plow right into this today!" he said.

Now Santa's a jolly old fella and he likes people to be happy. So he decided to let the gardener do his thing. After all, what harm could it do?

The gardener started planting his ideas right away. "Things are going to be different this year," said the gardener gleefully. "People are getting tired of the same old thing."

The gardener tried to gather ideas from the elves, but they weren't much help. And he didn't know how to talk to reindeer. Mrs. Santa and Santa were too busy to share ideas. "That's alright," thought the gardener to himself. "I can be creative when I need to be."

Late one night, just before Thanksgiving, he burst into Santa's cottage. "I've got it!" shouted the gardener, excitedly. "I've got it!"

Santa and Mrs. Santa looked up politely. "Yes?"

"We'll have a White Christmas this year. A very White Christmas. A very, very White Christmas. You'll love it!" And the gardener left without another word.

Santa looked at Mrs. Claus. "It'll be alright my dear," he said.

The next morning the gardener was up bright and early working on his plan. He painted the sled white. He bleached Santa's outfit white. And he dyed his toy sack white. The gardener even spray painted the reindeer, their antlers and the reins white.

Every day he worked on his plan, always looking for the white in things! When the elves started wrapping presents in the usual colorful wrapping paper, he stopped them, horrified. "No!" shouted the gardener. "Only white paper will do!" And he gave them white paper to use for their gift wrapping. "This is going to be a very, very, very White Christmas," he said.

It was seemed innocent enough. When one of the elves complained, Santa smiled kindly. "Oh what does it hurt?" he asked.

But that was before Christmas Eve. On December 24th, Santa couldn't find his sleigh, camouflaged in the snow. And when he finally took off, the weather was very bad. It was nearly impossible for the reindeer to fly straight so Santa had to make an emergency landing.

But because everything was white, no one could find Santa and his team of white in the blizzard conditions. Finally, the elfin rescue party found Santa two days later, using sled dogs to sniff them out! Christmas didn't come until December 29th that year. And then it was a very *red* Christmas. Santa had seen to that! In fact, there has never been a themed Christmas since then. We'll leave that to the Cub Scouts!

Christmas Applauses

Try these out at the meetings...

Good Turn Applause: Stand up and turn around.

Rudolph Applause: Everyone puts their hands to their heads in the shape of antlers, wriggle their noses, and shout "Blink, blink, blink!"

Santa Claus Had A Sleigh

Here's a "challenge activity." Get the word out to the dens that they have to come up with their own verse

to the new song, "Santa Claus Had A Sleigh." The song will be song at the December Pack Meeting.

Let them know that it's to the tune of "Old McDonald Had A Farm" and that the first verse and chorus go like this...

Santa Clause Had A Sleigh.
Ho ho ho ho ho!

And on his sleigh he had a ball
Ho ho ho ho ho.
With a Bounce-Bounce here
And a Bounce-Bounce there
Santa Clause Had A Sleigh.
Ho ho ho ho ho!

Songs

The following set of Holiday Songs comes from the fantastic Scouting website www.macscouter.com. It's listed under Songs for Scouts, Silly Holiday Songs. Enjoy!

A Scout's Christmas

By K. Meyers, D. Busker, and the boys of Den 4, Pack 1515, Alexandria, VA

(tune: Jingle Bells)

Dashing through the den,
With a rope held by each end,
Tying a bowline knot
Then showing what I've got.

Whittling with my knife
On a practice Dial soap bar.
I can hardly wait,
Scout camp can't be far.

Bait a hook,
Learn to cook,
Bike ro-de-os.
Neckerchief slides,
Canned food drives,
Learning to take photos.

Pancake mix,
Carving sticks,
Keeps us on the run.
Our families
Make all these
Memories so much fun.

Dashing through the camp,
Putting up the tents,
Popping all the corn,
Blowing that morning horn.

Of Scout camp we all dream
We'll soon be old enough
Tigers, Bobcats, Wolves, and Bears
We're made of real tough stuff!

Half-hitch knots,
Setting up cots,
Playing fun new games.
Hammers and nails,
Compass and trails,
Arrow points are the thing.

Santa's coming,
We've been good,
As good as we can be...
Load our stocking
With a pocket knife,
Boy Scouts we want to be!

-- Thanks to Pete Farnham, CM, Pack 1515, GW District, NCAC, Alexandria, VA

The Twelve Scouting Days of Christmas

(Tune: 12 Days of Christmas. Substitute Christmas for Scouting in the leading lines as you wish)

On the first day of Scouting, Akela gave to me...
A Den Leader swinging from a tree!

2nd Day: *Two Screaming Bobcats,*
3rd Day: *Three Skinny Wolves*
4th Day: *Four Hungry Bears*
5th Day: *Five We be los*
6th Day: *Six Arrow points*
7th Day: *Seven Silly Den Chiefs*
8th Day: *Eight Shouting Scouts*
9th Day: *Nine Warring Eagles*
10th Day: *Ten Derby Cars*
11th Day: *Eleven Funny Den Skits*
12th Day: *Twelve Wacky Cheers*

-- Thanks to Jack W. Weinmann,
aa855@cleveland.freenet.edu

The Twelve Days of Summer Camp

On the first day of summer camp, my mommy sent to me *A box of oatmeal cookies.*

2nd day: Two T-shirts
3rd Day: Three pairs of socks
4th Day: Four woolen caps
5th Day: Five underpants
6th Day: Six postage stamps
7th Day: Seven nose warmers
8th Day: Eight Batman comic books
9th Day: Nine bars of soap
10th Day: Ten Band-Aids
11th Day: Eleven shoestrings
12th Day: Twelve bottles of blood-sucking helicopter repellent

--Thanks to Chuck Bramlet, ASM Troop 323, Thunderbird District, Grand Canyon Council, Phoenix, Az. and the Thunderbird District, TRC, Cub Scout Roundtable resource packet, Nov 9, 1989.

I 'm A Snowflake

by Karen Rogers
Tune: Clementine

I'm a snowflake, I'm a snowflake,
I'm a snowflake yes I am.
And I'm falling, yes I'm falling,
Right upon your little head.

Oh, I'm melting, Oh, I'm melting
Oh, I'm melting yes I am.
Aren't you glad that I'm not yellow,
But white like I am.

--Thanks to Chuck Bramlet, ASM Troop 323, Thunderbird District, Grand Canyon Council, Phoenix, Az. and the Thunderbird District, TRC, Cub Scout Roundtable resource packet, Nov 9, 1989.

Christmas Time

Tune: Jingle Bells

School is out, we won't pout,
Cubs shout "hip hooray!"
Something Special's coming soon,
And it's Christmas day.

Wrap the gift, trim the tree,
Mind your Mom and Dad.
You'll get presents if you do,

Boy, won't you be glad!

Santa's Coming

Tune: Brother John

Santa's coming, Santa's coming,
Can you hear? Can you hear?
Jingle Bells are jingling, we are happy singing.
Christmas Bells, Christmas Bells.

--Thanks to Chuck Bramlet, ASM Troop 323, Thunderbird District, Grand Canyon Council, Phoenix, Az. and the Thunderbird District, TRC, Cub Scout Roundtable resource packet, Nov 9, 1989.

Randall

Tune: Rudolph

Randall, the red-cheeked Cub Scout
Had a very cold, cold nose.
And if you ever noticed,
You could even say it flows.

All of the other Cubbies,
Used to laugh and point it out.
That Randall, the red-cheeked Cub Scout
Had a very runny snout.

Then one day the Den Leader
Took Randall to his side
And told him that it's time he knew
How to wipe his nose just right.

Now all the other Cubbies
Think Randall is a "Class-A" Scout.
Cause Randall, the red-cheeked Cub Scout
Finally learned to blow his snout.

--Thanks to Chuck Bramlet, ASM Troop 323, Thunderbird District, Grand Canyon Council, Phoenix, Az. and the Thunderbird District, TRC, Cub Scout Roundtable resource packet, Nov 9, 1989.

Rudy The Red-Nosed Cub Scout

Rudy, the red-nosed Cub Scout,
Had a very runny nose;
And if you ever saw it,
You would probably say, Oh, Gross!

All of the other Cub Scouts
Used to look and say, Oh, Ick! ;
Parents wouldn't go near Rudy,
Cause they thought they would get sick.

Then one winter's Pack Meeting,
Akela said, Sign's Up! .
Rudy, with your nose so wet,
A box of Kleenex is what you'll get!

Then all the Cub Scouts cheered him,
As he blew and blew and blew;
Rudy, the red-nosed Cub Scout,
We will Do Our Best with you!

-- Words by Kelly Parker, CM, Pack 43, Thunderbird
District, Grand Canyon Council (Phoenix, AZ)

Tommy the Cub Scout

Tune: Frosty

Tommy, the Cub Scout
Was a very happy boy.
With a uniform of blue and gold
And a Den that gave him joy.

Tommy, the Cub Scout
Earned his badges one by one.
He did his best and met the test.
A good citizen he's become.

He helps out other people when
He sees they need a lot.
He does his chores around the house
And feeds his dog (named Spot).

Tommy, the Cub Scout
Does his duty willingly.
Someday he'll join a Boy Scout Troop
And a fine man he will be.

--Thanks to Chuck Bramlet, ASM Troop 323,
Thunderbird District, Grand Canyon Council,
Phoenix, Az. and the Thunderbird District, TRC, Cub
Scout Roundtable resource packet, Nov 9, 1989.

More Christmas Stuff

by Rob Stawicki

Giving time, sharing time, fun for everyone,
Scouters know that Christmas is
The time for deeds well done.

Giving time, sharing time, let us all take part.

Join with Cub Scouts all around,
And give gifts from the heart.

Rudolph's Light

(Tune: Camptown Races)

Rudolph's pulling Santa's sleigh, ho-ho! ho-ho!
Rudolph's leading all the way, ho-ho! ho-ho!
Gonna ride all day, gonna ride all night,
They'll be flying through the sky, using Rudolph's
light.

S-A-N-T-A

(Tune: Bingo)

I know a man in a jolly red suit,
and Santa is his name-oh.
S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A, S-A-N-T-A
and Santa is his name-oh.

He'll Be Driving Eight Red Reindeer

(Tune: She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain)

He'll be driving 8 brown reindeer when he comes,
He'll be driving 8 brown reindeer when he comes,
He'll be driving 8 brown reindeer, driving 8 brown
reindeer,
He'll be driving 8 brown reindeer when he comes.

(Other verses)

- He'll be coming down the chimney when he comes.
- He'll be dressed up in a red suit when he comes.
- We'll all peek to see him when he comes.
- We'll give him milk and cookies when he comes.

12 Days of Scouting

(Tune: 12 Days of Christmas)

On the first day of Scouting, Akela gave to me... A
den leader swinging from a tree

2nd Day... 2 screaming Bobcats
3rd Day... 3 skinny Wolves
4th Day... 4 hungry Bears
5th Day... 5 We bel os
6th Day... 6 Arrow points
7th Day... 7 silly den chiefs

8th Day... 8 shouting Scouts
9th Day... 9 warring Eagles
10th Day... 10 Derby cars
11th.. 11 funny den skits
12th.. 12 wacky cheers

A Hanukah Song

(Tune: Three Blind Mice)

Eight bright lights, eight bright lights,
See how they glow, see how they glow,
They call to mind the Maccabees,
The struggle for our liberties,
The glory of their victories,
Eight bright lights.

Songs for Scouts is presented by R. Gary Hendra --
The MacScouter -- CM Pack 92 & CC Troop 92,
Milpitas, California

Skits

Looking For Christmas

As the narrator reads the story, Cub Scouts arrive on stage with the different items being described.

Once upon a time, there was a den of Cub Scouts. They decided to find Christmas and bring it back to their Den Meeting.

The first Cub Scout thought he'd found Christmas and came back with a Christmas Tree.

The second Cub Scout also thought he had found Christmas and came back with a gift for each person in his family.

The third Cub Scout thought he had found Christmas and came back with a stocking.

The fourth Cub Scout, thinking he had found Christmas, came back signing a Christmas carol.

The fifth Cub Scout thought that he had really found Christmas and he brought back some snow.

The sixth Cub Scout was sure he had found Christmas because he came back with Santa Claus.

Now the seventh Cub Scout searched and searched but could not find anything that he thought to be Christmas, so he came to the Den Meeting with

nothing. But his heart was filled with love and goodwill so he had truly found Christmas. Let us enjoy that Spirit of Christmas with love and goodwill the whole year through. Merry Christmas from all of us in Den ____.

Trimming The Tree

Cast: Mother, Father, and Child

Props: Walking staff (or really thin crooked branch) with some greens tied to the top of it. Kitchen setting like wash pan, dishes, and wash cloth. Also need shrub sheers, board, and saw.

Setting: Mother is in plain view "in kitchen" doing dishes. Father and child are off stage.

Father: Go ask mother if the tree looks alright.

Child (walks on stage and asks Mother): Father wants to know if the tree is trimmed evenly.

Mother (looking off stage as if looking into next room): Well, it could use a little more off the sides.

Child (returning with message to Father): Mom says take more off the sides.

[This goes back and forth for a couple times before Father gets a little exasperated.]

Father: Fine, I'll take care it this time.

[Off stage audience hears sounds of sawing and shrub sheers going madly to work.]

Father (walking onto stage with stick and a few greens tied to the top): Is this okay then?

A Christmas Operation

Setting: Group of Cub Scout surgeons are standing behind operating table. A Cub Scout patient is lying on the operating table. A sheet is raised in front of the table so only the surgeons can be seen.

Materials: Long green garden hose, a large cardboard scalpel, and different cards with these words printed on them: GOODWILL, KINDNESS, SHARING, KINDNESS, UNSELFISHNESS, etc.

Surgeon 1: What seems to be this patient's problem, doctors?

Surgeon 2: It seems he cannot celebrate the holidays because his heart is strangled by something?

Surgeon 3: Well let's go in and see what the problem is.

[Surgeons appear to be operating until...]

Surgeon 4: Look at that! This is the worst case I've ever seen. There's so much greed strangling the heart, he could never hope to enjoy the true meaning of the season. Let's lake it out.

[They start pulling (and pulling and pulling) the green hose until it's finally all out. They toss it to the front of the operating table.]

Surgeon 5: Well as long as we're in here, we might as well put in some extras to help him recover and enjoy the true meaning of Christmas.

[Surgeons take turns showing different cards and putting them into the patient.]

Surgeon 1. Well that should do it. I wonder how long it will take him to recover the true meaning?

Surgeon 2: It looks like it's already working! Look, he's coming around quickly.

Patient (Gets up, looks happily at the surgeons and exclaims...) Thank you doctors, thank you so very much. You have helped me get back the true meaning of Christmas. Now I want to thank you. Let me perform the same operation on you.

[Patient picks up HUGE scalpel and chases doctors off stage as they say...] Oh no! Maybe we put in too much of the Christmas Spirit! HELP!!!

Advancement Ceremonies

Seven Candles

This ceremony again uses the Arrow of Light candleholder as shown in the Staging Den and Pack Ceremonies book and the overlays described in the Opening Ceremony section above. Again, the overlays are propped up against the AOL candleholder as the ceremony begins. [Note that this and other ceremonies should be reviewed and modified to suit the specific awards being giving at the meeting. This ceremony is written so that any

particular award can be used or omitted without impacting the whole of the ceremony.]

Setting: Lights are turned down or off and the candles are lit. The Cubmaster calls for quiet and attention (sign's up!).

CUBMASTER: Tonight we celebrate the holidays and the successes of our Cub Scouts and Webelos. As we present our awards tonight, we will also reflect on how our Cub Scout celebration and the holiday celebrations of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas are alike in very special ways.

During Hanukkah, Jews remember the Miracle of the Lights—when a lamp with only enough oil to burn for a night lasted eight days. The menorah is the candle holder and it can have seven or nine candles. Seven candles standing for the seven nights that the candle burned. The feast of Hanukkah also celebrates the triumph of the few over the many, the weak over the strong, and the faithful over the non-believers.

(BOBCAT)

Tonight we award the Bobcat badge. [Call boys and parents to front of room.] These guys have really worked hard to earn this award. They have learned the Cub Scout basics—from the Promise to Child Protection exercise. They are ready to move on in their Cub Scouting experience.

[Hand out badges to parents to give to the boys. Congratulate them and offer a suitable applause. Have them sit down.]

Kwanzaa is another holiday celebrated in December. It is a cultural festival during which African-Americans celebrate and reflect upon their rich heritage as the products of two worlds. Kwanzaa means "the first fruits of the harvest."

The candleholder used during Kwanzaa is called the Kinara and it represents the stalk from which all people came. The seven candles in the Kinara stand for the seven principles of Kwanzaa—Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. One principle is highlighted each day of the holiday.

(WOLF)

Tonight we celebrate the completion of the Wolf requiremetns for [call off names and ask the boys and parents to come forward]. The Wolf trail is no easy exercise, as these fellas will tell you. They have

had to work on physical skills, learn about our country and the flag, do special things with their families, and much more. But they stuck with it and have succeeded. We celebrate with them tonight.

[Hand parents the awards to present to the boys and congratulate them with the Cub Scout handshake. Offer an applause and ask them to take their seats.]

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. "Christ," is Greek and it means Messiah, or savior. Christmas is celebrated as a time for starting anew, committing to live and spread Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All, as Jesus lived and taught. Sometimes candles are used to mark the period before Christmas, called Advent. This is a time of preparation and waiting. During this time people reflect on many things, but mostly on the coming of the Christ Child, the Savior. Christians also use candles to proclaim that "Jesus is the Light of The World."

(BEAR)

[Hand parents the awards to present to the boys and congratulate them. Offer an applause and ask them to take their seats.]

Cub Scouting uses the Arrow Of Light as its special symbol. The Arrow of Light celebrates the highest level of achievement the Cub Scout can attain. The candles, representing the rays of light, have very special meaning also.

(WEBELOS)

Before a Cub Scout can earn the Arrow of Light, he must first earn the Webelos badge. Those that do earn it are well on their way to achieving the Arrow of Light Award. Tonight we award the Webelos badge to [call off names and ask boys and parents to come forward].

These young men have something really special to celebrate tonight. They have completed the requirements for the Webelos badge—earning Physical Fitness and at least two other Activity Badges and learning about the Boy Scouting (just like our Bobcats learn about Cub Scouting). They have done a great job.

[Hand parents the awards to present to the boys and congratulate them. Offer an applause and ask them to take their seats.]

The seven rays of light coming from the arrow, stand for the seven great virtues of life:

WISDOM: Having wisdom doesn't mean that a person is smarter than others. It means that he uses what he knows to live a better life.

COURAGE: Courage does not mean you have no fear of danger. It means that you can face danger in spite of your fear.

SELF-CONTROL: This means being able to stop when you have had enough of something, such as eating, playing, or even working too much.

JUSTICE: Justice means being fair with others we play and work with, regardless of who they are.

FAITH: Faith is belief in God and things we cannot see but feel are true.

HOPE: Hope means to look forward to good things you believe will happen. You hope for better things tomorrow, but at the same time you work hard today to make them happen.

LOVE: There are many kinds of love. Love of family, home, fellow men, God, and country. Every kind of love is important for a full and happy life.

(ARROW OF LIGHT)

[Leader calls forward the boys receiving the Arrow of Light and their parents.]

The Webelos Scouts who will tonight receive the Arrow of Light Award have worked hard—there's no questioning that. They've also studied well and have learned the basic requirements of being a Boy Scout. But more than all of that, they have shown, by their own actions, that they are worthy of the Arrow of Light and all that the rays of light represent.

Their parents are and deserve to be proud of their sons, just as the Pack is proud to have them as members.

[Hand boys the parent's pins to give to their parents (a.k.a. Mother's pins) and give parents the AOL awards to present to the boys and congratulate them. Offer an applause and ask them to take their seats.]

In closing, I offer this challenge. Celebrate your accomplishment because it is a great one. And do not let the light that your badge reflect ever dim. Keep the virtues of life alive and burning in your hearts.

Closing Ceremonies

Do Your Best

Boys with key words hold up cards saying "DO YOUR BEST"

CUB 1: DO unto others as they should do to you.

CUB 2: That's called the Golden Rule.

CUB 3: YOU'RE all Cub Scouts of Gold and Blue,

CUB 4: The Pack Law is your special tool,

CUB 5: BEST way we know to celebrate this season,

CUB 6: Is in giving your best to others,

CUB 7: And now we wish you, for that very reason,

ALL: Happy holidays! May we all be brothers.

Year's End

ARRANGEMENTS: House lights are dimmed. Ceremony board or log containing 7 small candles and 1 tall candle representing the Spirit of Scouting.

CUBMASTER: (Lights candles) This last ceremony for 19__ is one of rededication. Tonight 4 candles

represent the Cub Scout Ranks Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos.

Will all Bobcat Cub Scouts and their parents please stand. Bobcats, do you promise in 19__ to do your best to help other people and obey the Law of the Pack, and to advance on rank?

BOBCATS: We'll do our Best! (Extinguish Bobcat candle)

CUBMASTER: (Follow same procedure for Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts)

CUBMASTER: Will all Webelos and their parents please stand. Webelos do you promise in 19__ to do your best to help other people and obey the Law of the Pack, and to earn the Arrow of Light Award if you have not already earned it?

WEBELOS: We'll do our best!

CUBMASTER: Three candles and the Spirit of Cub Scouting remain burning. Those three candles stand for Follow, Helps, and Gives, which means "We'll be loyal." Will you be loyal Cub Scouts in 19__? (All respond) (Three candles are extinguished)

The Spirit of Cub Scouting will burn as it does in the hearts of Cub Scouts everywhere. May it continue to burn brightly in you hearts during the year of 19__ as we go upward and forward in Pack _____. Good night, Cub Scouts.

Den Meeting Ideas

Places To Go & Things To Do

YAAC Resources

Den Meeting Activity Ideas

Cooking

Hey, it's holiday time! AS long as the ovens are already hot and the flour's right at hand, why not do some *cooking*? Here are some recipes that will be used in celebrating the different holidays in December.

Sweet Potato Pie

- 2 c Sweet potatoes, drained
- 4 T Margarine, melted
- 3 Eggs
- 1 c Sugar
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp Grated nutmeg
- 3/4 c Milk
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 1 9" pie shell, baked
- 1/4 c Chopped pecans

Use a food processor or fork to mash sweet potatoes together with melted margarine. Blend in eggs, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add milk and vanilla. Pour mixture into baked pie shell. Microwave on 70% (medium high) 7 minutes. Sprinkle pecans over surface of pie. Rotating midway through cooking, microwave on 70 % (medium high) 6 to 8 minutes or until center no longer jiggles. If you prefer, you can bake it in the oven at 375 degrees for about 35-45 minutes or until it doesn't jiggle.

Yield: 8 servings

Grandmother's Southern Fried Okra

- 1 lb Fresh okra, cut 1 inch pieces
- 1 lg Green tomato, diced
- 1 med Onion chopped

- 1 Clove garlic, minced (optional)
- 1 Jalapeno pepper halved & sliced, remove seeds if too hot
- 2 Eggs beaten
- 1/4 tsp Salt
- 1/4 tsp Black pepper
- 1/2 c Milk
- 1 c Cornmeal
- 1/4 c Vegetable oil

Combine okra, tomato, onion, garlic & jalapeno in large bowl. In separate bowl combine eggs, salt, pepper, milk. Pour egg mix over veggies and toss to thoroughly coat. Gradually add cornmeal until mixture on the okra and at the bottom of the bowl soaked up. Continue to toss till ingredients evenly mixed. Mixture will have a gooey consistency.

Heat oil in 10-inch skillet over med. heat until hot. Oil is ready when dash of cornmeal sizzles. Spoon mixture evenly in skillet. Reduce heat to med low. Cover and fry till underside golden brown, 10-15 minutes. Then invert on plate and slide otherside up into skillet and cook uncovered 5-8 min until golden brown. Remove from skillet to paper towels to drain excess oil. Serve hot.

Yield: 6 servings

Potato Latkes

- 3 Large Potatoes, peeled and grated into ice water
- 1/4 C. grated onion
- 1/4 C. egg substitute
- 1/2 tsp. salt & pepper to taste
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 3 Tbsp. matza meal

In a tea towel, squeeze excess moisture from potato. Place in a mixing bowl with onion and egg substitute and mix well. In a small bowl, combine dry ingredients. Slowly add to potato mixture, beating very well. Drop by tablespoons onto hot, lightly oiled or vegetable oil-sprayed skillet. Cook on one side until well browned; turn over and brown other side. Serve with sour cream, yogurt, apple sauce or pear chutney.

Pear Chutney

2 C. sugar
1 1/4 C. white vinegar
1/4 C. white wine or apple cider
2 oranges, diced with rind
1 lemon, diced with rind
1 lime , diced with rind
1 medium onion, diced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 C. white raisins
2 3/4 ozs. crystallized ginger, diced
2 1/2 lbs. pears, unpeeled and diced

Bring sugar, vinegar and wine to a boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Add all remaining ingredients and simmer for 40 minutes. Cool; refrigerate in covered jars for as long as 6-8 weeks. Makes more than 1 quart.

Potato Kugel

1/2 C. Flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
Pepper to taste
6 potatoes, peeled
2 eggs
1 Large onion, chopped
1/4 C. vegetable oil

Stir together dry ingredients and set aside. Grate potatoes into ice water to prevent discoloration. Squeeze out all liquid; add eggs and mix well. Add dry ingredients. Sauté onion in oil until golden; add to batter and mix well. Pour into an oiled 15"x10"x1" jelly roll pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven and cut into squares. Return to oven and cut into squares. Return to oven and bake 30 minutes longer. Serve hot with apple sauce, yogurt or sour cream.

Figgy Pudding

1/2 Pound of figs
1/4 Cups of bread crumbs
1 Cup of almonds or walnuts
1 Cup of light brown sugar (scant)
1/2 Cup of candied grapefruit peel
1/4 Cup of candied lemon peel
3 Tablespoons of melted butter
4 Eggs, beaten
1/2 Teaspoon of cinnamon
1/4 Teaspoon of nutmeg

Directions: Chop the figs and mix with fluffy crumbs. Brown the almonds or walnuts (it using almonds, they should be blanched and skinned and chopped.

Walnuts should be chopped). Mix with all the other ingredients. Put the mixture into a greased mold and steam 2 1/2 hours (The pudding may also be baked in a 325 oven for 1 hour.) Moist, soft grapefruit peel adds a very good flavor. Serve with a brandy and cream sauce.

Gingerbread Cookies

2 3/4 Cups of all-purpose flour
2 Teaspoons of cinnamon
1 Teaspoon of ginger
1 Teaspoon of baking soda
1/4 Teaspoon of nutmeg
1/4 Teaspoon of cloves
1/4 Teaspoon of salt
3/4 Cup of butter or margarine
1/2 Cup of sugar
1/2 Cup of unsulphured molasses

1 Large egg, lightly beaten
Directions: Combine the flour , cinnamon, ginger, baking soda, nutmeg, cloves and salt in a bowl. Heat the butter, sugar and molasses in a saucepan over medium heat until the butter is melted. Remove from the heat. Pour this into the dry ingredients; stir. Add egg; stir until smooth. Let stand for 10 minutes.

Divide the dough in half.

While it still warm, roll each half of the dough to 1/8 inch thick between 2 sheets of wax paper. Refrigerate on cookie sheets at least 1 hour or overnight. Preheat the oven to 350F. Grease the 2 cookie sheets. Remove the wax paper and cut the dough with 2-inch cookie cutters. Transfer the cutouts to the prepared cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Reroll the scraps and refrigerate; repeat the and cutting and baking. Decorate if desired.

A List Of Ideas

Somehow, not only for Christmas, But all the year through, The joy that you give to others, Is the joy that comes back to you.

John Greenleaf Whittier

1. Put a Christmas message on your answering machine
2. Bake cookies with your kids, or someone else's!
3. Build a snowman
4. Buy a gift for a person less fortunate than you
5. Make your own personal Christmas cards
6. Baby-sit for a friend so she can go Christmas shopping
7. Sit in front of a roaring fire, listen to Christmas music, drink hot chocolate and stir it with a cinnamon or peppermint stick.
8. Help an elderly person decorate for the holidays
9. Be patient
10. Have a cookie exchange party
11. Start a tradition
12. In a traffic jam? Sing Christmas Carols!
13. Start an ornament collection for your kids to take with them when they grow up
14. String some popcorn
15. Invite a single person to spend the holidays with you
16. Make snow cream
17. Tack your first Christmas card of the season above your front door for good luck all year long
18. Wear bells on your sneakers
19. Go see your local Christmas parade
20. Bake Christmas goodies and share them with your neighbors
21. Wish everyone you see a Merry Christmas!
22. If you are giving toys that need batteries, include them in the package with the gift
23. Never use a new recipe for a holiday dinner! Try it out first. (Trust me on this one! :))
24. Decorate your car with a wreath or bow (static cling decorations are great for the windows, just be sure you don't block your view)
25. Be courteous
26. Watch Christmas cartoons with your kids, and recapture those wonderful memories from your childhood!
27. Remember, calories don't count on Christmas Day!
28. Use a Christmas cookie cutter for a package decoration
29. Make any reservations you need EARLY
30. In a long line of traffic, let someone in
31. Put an "open me first" gift under the tree for the kids, to keep them entertained till you get up. (a game perhaps?)
32. Buy a live Christmas tree that you can plant after Christmas
33. Have a snowball fight!
34. Get a plain white tablecloth, some paint pens, and have everyone sign their name and write a holiday message. Then use it every year
35. Simmer Christmas popuri in a mini crockpot
 1. 1/2 orange cut in quarters, 1/2 lemon cut in quarters, 3 4-inch cinnamon sticks, 3 bay leaves, 1/4 cup cloves, cover with water
36. Go caroling with your family
37. Go through your child's Toy box with them before Christmas and have them pick out some toys to give to the local shelter (make sure they are in good condition)
38. Hang a wish list on the fridge early in the year for people to write down gift ideas
39. Keep all your receipts and write the name of the recipient in the back
40. Buy and listen to the Trans Siberian Orchestra (Christmas and Other Stories) CD you'll be glad you did!
41. Christmas rule... you can NEVER have too many lights!
42. Tip extra when you dine out
43. Send your packages early
44. Replace any burnt out lights BEFORE you put them away for next year
45. Put shiny Christmas confetti in your Christmas card envelopes (kids love it!)
46. Always say thank you for what you receive, no matter what it is! :)
47. Mistletoe, holly and poinsettias are poisonous to humans and animals
48. Make a nature tree for the animals with strings of cranberries, popcorn and pinecones covered in peanut butter and rolled in bird seed
49. Read Christmas stories to your kids
50. Grab your loved one and cruise around town looking at Christmas lights while you listen to Christmas music
51. Go sledding with your kids
52. Send a care pkg to someone in the military overseas. They miss the celebrations. Fudge poured into a container and left un-cut works great! Don't forget the Christmas cards. I've even sent a little Christmas tree complete with lights!
53. Don't forget to buy the film and batteries for your camera
54. Do a good deed everyday, either help someone, compliment someone or even just a give smile and do this year around not just at Christmas!

Crafts

A CD Wreath

What you will need:

- An old, scratched, bad or AOL CD
- "Reflective" mylar ribbon
- White glue
- Glitter
- Mylar confetti (most stationary stores carry this) or holographic stickers
- Velcro with self adhesive on the back



Glue star, tree or whatever shape mylar confetti you want to the "shiny" backside of the CD. Swirl patterns and dots of white glue and sprinkle with glitter. Tie a bow out of reflective mylar ribbon and glue to the CD. Use a piece of self adhesive velcro to attach the CD Christmas wreath to a computer, door, or where ever! This project is very easy to do, even for younger children, and makes a great gift for a computer geek... er... I mean enthusiast.

Borax Chrystal Snowflake

Grow a snowflake in a jar!

You will need:

- * string
- * wide mouth jar
- * white pipe cleaners
- * blue food coloring (optional)
- * boiling water (with adult help)
- * borax (available at grocery stores in the laundry soap section)
- * pencil



Directions:

With a little kitchen science you can create long lasting snowflakes as sparkly as the real ones. Cut a white pipe cleaner into 3 equal sections. Twist the sections together in the center so that you have a "six-sided" star shape. If your points are not even, trim the pipe-cleaner sections to the same length. Now attach string along the outer edges to form a snowflake pattern. Attach a piece of string to the top of one of the pipe cleaners and tie the other end to a

pencil (this is to hang it from). Fill a widemouth jar with boiling water. Mix borax into the water one tablespoon at a time. Use 3 tablespoons of borax per cup of water. Stir until dissolved, (don't worry if there is powder settling on the bottom of the jar). If you want you can add a little blue food coloring now to give the snowflake a bluish hue. Insert your pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil is resting on the lip of the jar and the snowflake is freely suspended in the borax solution. Wait overnight and by morning the snowflake will be covered with shiny crystals. Hang in a window as a sun-catcher or use as a winter time decoration.

Snowglobe



About this project - This is an easy inexpensive project that I did with my kindergarten students. It makes a great gift for any occasion and is fun to make! This project is rated EASY to do.

Supplies -

- Baby food jars (medium or large jars)
- Florist clay
- Small figurine
- White glitter or fake snow (available at stores during the holiday season)
- Glue gun/glue or aquarium sealing glue (hot glue is cheaper)
- Optional: any ribbon, garland plastic greenery

Project how to -

1. Make sure jar is washed and clean. Note: Any jar will do if you desire a larger snow globe.
2. Attach figurine to inside of jar lid using florist clay. If you are using a small object, it's a good idea to build up the clay so the object will appear taller. Attach any optional items with the clay (greenery, berries, etc.). Use your imagination, but make sure it is waterproof and won't dissolve.
3. Fill jar with water to within 1/2 inch (1 cm) of top. Use cold water, warm water tends to cloud. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon (25 ml) of glitter, or snow into water.
4. Insert figurine in water, screw on lid. Let stand overnight -- lid side up.
5. Use glue/sealer to ensure waterproofness and attach decorative ribbon over lid. You may also paint the lid rather than use ribbon. Use your imagination, the possibilities are endless!

Tips:

1. Make sure the objects are secure in the clay, you could even glue them for added security.
2. Before glueing or sealing the lid, make sure you have sufficient amount of glitter. Depending on the size of the jar, you may need more or less.
3. To make a more elaborate snowglobe, add tiny objects to float in the water, use a drop of colored oil to create a swirling effect, use food coloring in the water, various colors glitter, etc. This can be altered in any way to be a one-of-a-kind. Use your imagination and have fun.
4. Choose a theme: birthday, sports, holiday, Victorian, seashells, etc.
5. This activity may be used with any size jar, have fun with this and be creative.

This project was contributed by: Leigh Ann Watkins

Wrapping Paper

About this project - This project is very easy and inexpensive. Even one year olds can do it. This project is rated VERY EASY to do.

Supplies -

- Tempra or poster paint
- Butcher Paper (I get it from Smart & Final Iris for a HUGE roll)
- Precut sponges in various shapes, or cut your own from regular sponges.

Project how to -

1. If cutting your own sponges, pick a simple shape such as a star, holly leaf, berry, etc. and cut a regular kitchen sponge to shape.
2. Pour paint onto saucer or other flat item.
3. Spread butcher paper (I use white) out on flat surface.
4. Dip sponge in paint, making sure to cover entire surface and sponge off excess.
5. Stamp sponge 2-4 times over surface of paper.
6. Reapply paint and repeat.
7. You can sprinkle glitter over the wet painted paper for extra pizzaz.

Tips:

1. For tiny people, I usually let them free paint with a large brush instead of sponges and then sprinkle the glitter.
2. The same idea can be used to make the gift tags and/or cards!
3. Any other kind of paper can be substituted. Brown packing paper or grocery bags are one idea.

4. At Christmas, I make my own using a star and gold paint.

This project was contributed by Wendee Swann,
swann5@earthlink.net

HOLI DAY WORD SEARCH

This puzzle contains words and phrases related to the Holidays. See how many you can find.

S L L E B E L G N I J A C H M K W I G R
X K W A H E R I S A Q L E D I E R D L T
D S A N T A C L A U S E Y A Y U E N A U
M Z L S R G N D B N J K I J O P A I D L
A W E D F A N U N V B H J O T L T H T T
N A T S E A R M K E K A D M Y E H U I G
G B S N M M L L I K J E S U S K J M D I
E H C G F U D A N S A A Q A W L E R I M
R Y E H U H I T A O P H L H K T E J N E
H E L F I S U A R S A D L C Z A X D G L
X C E V B M N M A R A S E E Y M D F S G
H J B K A S N L O P O I A B U B M Y T R
E W R R Q H A E S D F G R M H I A J K L
A D A H Y A E I Y K D C S O G K C B U D
B K T C W M D N F L S E I K O O C A A D
A W E H R A M A I C A H Z I A E A L A E
S L I D E S Z G A B M E T K T H B B Z T
O O R A H H N I C I T N E D Y G E E N O
Z A W A D I R R G E S T R H O M E E A A
U S H O L N W A A R I D E S U S S A W N
G E I O L E E B H A R A M B E E N A K N
N I R T A M I A C H H E L D R A L V E I
D A J S W T I H E L C W L P A I R A T M
C A N D L E S R E Z A S Y A D I L O H C

BABY
CANDLES
CAROLING
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS
COOKIES
DREIDEL
ELF
ERETZ ISRAEL
GIMEL
GLAD TIDINGS
HABARI GANI
HANUKKAH
HARAMBEE

HEY
HOLIDAYS
JESUS
JINGLE BELLS
KARAMU
KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA
KINARA
KWAHERI
MANGER
MECCABEES
MENORAH
MKEKA
MSHUMAA
MUHINDI

NGUZO SABA
NUN
PRESENT
SANTA CLAUS
SHAMASH
SHIN
SLEDS
TALMUD
TAMBIKO
WREATH
ZAWADI

Christmas Sayings and Songs Puzzle

Translate each of the 22 statements into recognizable English. Each one is a common Christmas saying or song.

-
1. Move thitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief.

 2. Listen, the celestial messengers produce harmonious sounds.

 3. Nocturnal timespan of unbroken quietness.

 4. An emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good given to the terrestrial sphere.

 5. Embellish the interior passageways.

 6. Exalted heavenly beings to whom harkened.

 7. Twelve o'clock on a clement night witnessed its arrival.

 8. The Christmas preceding all others.

 9. Small municipality in Judea southeast of Jerusalem.

 10. Diminutive masculine master of skin-covered percussionistic cylinders.

 11. Omnipotent supreme being who elicits respite to ecstatic distinguished males.

 12. Tranquility upon the terrestrial sphere.

 13. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.

 14. Expectation of arrival to populated area by mythical, masculine perennial gift-giver.

 15. Natal Celebration devoid of color, rather albino, as a hallucinatory phenomenon for me.

 16. In awe of the nocturnal time span characterized by religiosity.

 17. Geographic state of fantasy during the season of mother nature's dormancy.

 18. The first person nominative plural of a triumvirate of Far Eastern heads of state.

 19. Tintinnabulation of vacillating pendulums in inverted, metallic, resonant cups.

 20. In a distant location the existence of an improvised unit of newborn children's slumber furniture.

 21. Proceed forth declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation.

 22. Jovial Yuletide desired for the second person singular or plural by us.

Answers...

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Oh Come All Ye Faithful</i> | 2. <i>Hark the Heralds, Angels Sing</i> | 3. <i>Silent Night</i> | 4. <i>Joy To The World</i> |
| 5. <i>Deck the Halls</i> | 6. <i>Angels We Have Heard On High</i> | 7. <i>It Came Upon A Midnight Clear</i> | 8. <i>The First Noel</i> |
| 9. <i>Oh Little Town of Bethlehem</i> | 10. <i>Little Drummer Boy</i> | 11. <i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i> | 12. <i>Peace On Earth</i> |
| 13. <i>Frosty The Snowman</i> | 14. <i>Santa Claus Is Coming To Town</i> | 15. <i>I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas</i> | 16. <i>Oh Holy Night</i> |
| 17. <i>Winter Wonderland</i> | 18. <i>We Three Kings Of Orient Are</i> | 19. <i>Jingle Bells</i> | 20. <i>Away In The Manger</i> |
| 21. <i>Go Tell It On The Mountain</i> | 22. <i>We Wish You A Merry Christmas</i> | | |

Christmas Song Quiz

Fill in the Blanks...

-
1. Santa Claus is Coming To _____
 2. _____ Ol' St. Nicholas
 3. Up On The _____ top
 4. Carol of the _____
 5. Away In a _____
 6. _____ Night
 7. We _____ Kings
 8. What _____ Is This?
 9. The First _____
 10. Little _____ of Bethlehem
 11. It Came Upon a _____ Clear
 12. The _____ Days of Christmas
 13. Rock Around the Christmas _____
 14. Jingle _____
 15. We Wish You a _____
 16. Auld Lang _____
 17. Have Yourself a Merry Little _____
 18. _____ Roasting On An Open Fire
 19. I'm Dreaming of a _____ Christmas
 20. My Favorite _____
 21. God Rest Ye Merry _____
 22. Silver _____
 23. It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like _____
 24. I'll Be Home for _____
 25. I Saw Mommy _____ Santa Claus
 26. _____ Wonderland
 27. Feliz _____
 28. _____ Bell Rock
 29. Frosty The _____
 30. Blue _____
 31. Here Come _____
 32. Deck The _____
 33. _____ Fideles
 34. _____ The Red Nosed Reindeer
 35. Up On The _____
 36. Christmas _____
 37. Joy To The _____
 38. We _____ Kings Of Orient Are
 39. Hark, The _____ Angels Sing
 40. Come, All Ye _____
 41. While _____ Watched Their Flocks
 42. _____ Merrily On High
 43. _____ We Have Heard On High
 44. Good _____ Wenceslas

Answers...

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Town | 2. Jolly | 3. Roof | 4. Bells | 5. Manger |
| 6. Silent | 7. Three | 8. Child | 9. Noel | 10. Town |
| 11. Midnight | 12. Twelve | 13. Tree | 14. Bells | 15. Merry Christmas |
| 16. Syne | 17. Christmas | 18. Chestnuts | 19. White | 20. Things |
| 21. Gentlemen | 22. Bells | 23. Christmas | 24. Christmas | 25. Kissing |
| 26. Winter | 27. Navidad | 28. Jingle | 29. Snowman | 30. Christmas |
| 31. Santa Claus | 32. Halls | 33. Adeste | 34. Rudolph | 35. Rooftop |
| 36. Bells | 37. World | 38. Three | 39. Herald | 40. Faithful |
| 41. Shepherds | 42. Ding Dong | 43. Angels | 44. King | |

The AHA! Christmas Trivia Quiz - Questions

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Presented by the Family Games Web Center – <http://www.familygames.com>

1) The first instrument on which the carol *Silent Night* was played was:

- A) A harp
- B) A pipe organ
- C) A guitar
- D) A kazoo

2) In Guatemala, Christmas Day is celebrated:

- A) On January 6
- B) On December 25
- C) On October 31
- D) Never

3) Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:

- A) 1944
- B) 1895
- C) 1976
- D) 1492

4) Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?

- A) Abyssinia
- B) England
- C) Bohemia
- D) Gondor

5) Medieval English Christmas pantomimes did *not* include which character?

- A) St. Nicholas
- B) The Bold Slasher
- C) Father Christmas
- D) The Turkish Knight

6) The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was:

- A) Bob Cratchit
- B) Jerry Cornelius
- C) Bill Sykes
- D) Jacob Marley

7) In North America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch counterparts use:

- A) Old hats
- B) Beer mugs
- C) Shoes
- D) Stockings, just like everybody else!

8) Which of these events did *not* occur on Christmas Day?

- A) Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by four ghosts
- B) Charlemagne was crowned Roman Emperor
- C) Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in World War II
- D) King Arthur pulled Excalibur from the stone

9) Which name does *not* belong to one of Santa's reindeer?

- A) Comet
- B) Prancer
- C) Blitzen
- D) Klaxon

10) In Syria, Christmas gifts are distributed by:

- A) The Three Kings
- B) Tom o'Bedlam
- C) One of the Wise Men's camels
- D) Father Christmas

11) One notable medieval English Christmas celebration featured:

- A) A giant, 165-pound pie
- B) Snowball fights between rival courtiers
- C) A swimming race across the English Channel
- D) Huge crackers that sometimes exploded fatally

12) In Australia, usual Boxing Day activities include:

- A) Building snowmen
- B) Tobogganing
- C) Wombat hunting
- D) Surfing

13) In Sweden, a common Christmas decoration is the Julbukk, a small figurine of a goat. It is usually made of what material?

- A) Candy
- B) Straw
- C) Uranium
- D) Fir wood

14) The real St. Nicholas lived:

- A) At the North Pole
- B) On the island of Malta
- C) In Turkey
- D) In Holland

15) Which of the following was *not* one of the Three Kings?

- A) Caspar
- B) Balthazar
- C) Teleost
- D) Melchior

16) In Armenia, the traditional Christmas Eve meal consists of:

- A) Fried fish, lettuce and spinach
- B) Square meat pies
- C) Broiled partridges with gooseberry sauce
- D) Turkey and plum pudding

17) In Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker*, the Nutcracker's main enemy is:

- A) A girl called Clara
- B) The King of the Mice
- C) Dr. Almond
- D) Drosselmeyer the magician

18) The day after Christmas, December 26, is known as Boxing Day. It is also the holy day of which saint?

- A) St. Eustace
- B) St. Brigit
- C) St. Nicholas
- D) St. Stephen

19) In Greek legend, malicious creatures called Kallikantzaroi sometimes play troublesome pranks at Christmas time. To get rid of them, you should:

- A) Placate them with gifts of rice pudding
- B) Burn either salt or an old shoe
- C) Sing hymns in a loud voice
- D) Throw your sandals at them

20) When visiting Finland, Santa leaves his sleigh behind and rides on:

- A) Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
- B) A giant ptarmigan
- C) A goat named Ukko
- D) A flying carpet

21) A boar's head is a traditional Christmas dish. According to a popular story, the unlucky boar whose head began the custom in the Middle Ages was killed by:

- A) Choking to death on a book of Greek philosophy
- B) King Wenceslas, who speared it from horseback
- C) A falling fir tree
- D) Remorse, after goring St. Nicholas

22) When distributing gifts in Holland, St. Nicholas is accompanied by:

- A) His wife Lucy
- B) His servant, Black Peter
- C) Thirteen elves
- D) St. Stephen

23) At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?

- A) Ivy
- B) Yew
- C) Holly
- D) Mistletoe

24) Believe it or not, one Indiana town is called:

- A) Christmasville
- B) Wenceslas
- C) Noel
- D) Santa Claus

25) Who was the author of *A Christmas Carol*?

- A) Mark Twain
- B) Charles Dickens
- C) Hans Christian Andersen
- D) Thomas M. Sawyer

26) Which popular Christmas song was actually first written for Thanksgiving?

- A) *Away in a Manger*
- B) *Frosty the Snowman*
- C) *Jingle Bells*
- D) *Joy to the World*

27) A favorite Christmas story is Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in...*

- A) *Maryland*
- B) *Boarding school*
- C) *Wales*
- D) *China*

28) In Dr. Seuss' book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the name of the Grinch's dog was:

- A) Max
- B) Cerberus
- C) Rudolph
- D) Ginger

29) The world's largest Christmas cracker was made (and pulled) in which country?

- A) Sweden
- B) Australia
- C) England
- D) The United States

30) The poem commonly known as *The Night Before Christmas* was originally entitled:

- A) *Santa's Secret Visit*
- B) *A Visit from St. Nicholas*
- C) *The Night Before Christmas*
- D) *The Midnight Guest*

31) The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in which country?

- A) Central Asia
- B) Mexico
- C) Canada
- D) Spain

32) The first stamp ever issued specifically for the Christmas season depicted:

- A) An angel
- B) Santa Claus
- C) A star
- D) A rose

33) Many families eat a turkey dinner on Christmas Day. The turkey is native to:

- A) Turkey
- B) Central America
- C) England
- D) Japan

34) According to the song, *Frosty the snowman* did *not* have which of the following features?

- A) A corncob pipe
- B) A button nose
- C) A bright red scarf
- D) Two eyes made out of coal

35) In 1647, the English parliament passed a law that:

- A) Made Christmas illegal
- B) Recognized Christmas as an official holiday
- C) Let prisoners spend Christmas Day at home
- D) Gave Santa immunity to break-and-enter charges

The AHA! Christmas Trivia Quiz – Answers

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1) The first instrument on which the carol *Silent Night* was played was:

C) A guitar

The carol was first sung as part of a church service in Austria. A guitar was used because the church organ was so badly rusted it couldn't be played.

2) In Guatemala, Christmas Day is celebrated:

B) On December 25

Guatemalan adults, however, do not exchange gifts until New Year's Day. Children get theirs (from the Christ Child) on Christmas morning.

3) Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:

B) 1895

The idea for using electric Christmas lights came from an American, Ralph E. Morris. The new lights proved safer than the traditional candles.

NB: A correspondent has informed us that the General Electric company claims to have originated Christmas tree lighting in 1882, fully 13 years earlier than the date given in our answer. Unfortunately, we do not have access to an independent authority who could settle the matter beyond argument. In either case, however, answer (B) is clearly the best of the four choices given, so we will let it stand until further information becomes available.

4) Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?

C) Bohemia

The historical Wenceslas was actually only Duke of Bohemia, not a king. He lived in the tenth century.

5) Medieval English Christmas pantomimes did *not* include which character?

A) St. Nicholas

In Medieval England, Nicholas was just another saint - he had not yet metamorphosed into Santa Claus and had nothing to do with Christmas.

6) The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was:

D) Jacob Marley

Jacob Marley's spirit was the first of four to appear to Scrooge on Christmas Eve.

7) In North America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch counterparts use:

C) Shoes

Traditionally, the shoes used are wooden ones called sabots.

8) Which of these events did *not* occur on Christmas Day?

A) Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by four ghosts

The four spirits appeared to Scrooge on Christmas Eve, not Christmas Day.

NB: This answer has been challenged by two correspondents who note that at least three of the four spirits appeared to Scrooge after midnight, hence technically on Christmas Day. True, true - yet most of us think of Christmas Day as beginning when we rise from our beds, rather than when we are either already in them - as Scrooge was - or else about to retire. So, while acknowledging that our answer is open to a pedantic challenge,

we believe it is correct according to ordinary usage, and clearly the best of the four choices offered by the question.

9) Which name does *not* belong to one of Santa's reindeer?

D) Klaxon

A klaxon is actually an electric horn.

10) In Syria, Christmas gifts are distributed by:

C) One of the Wise Men's camels

The gift-giving camel is said to have been the smallest one in the Wise Men's caravan.

11) One notable medieval English Christmas celebration featured:

A) A giant, 165-pound pie

The giant pie was nine feet in diameter. Its ingredients included 2 bushels of flour, 20 pounds of butter, 4 geese, 2 rabbits, 4 wild ducks, 2 woodcocks, 6 snipes, 4 partridges, 2 neats' tongues, 2 curlews, 6 pigeons and 7 blackbirds.

12) In Australia, usual Boxing Day activities include:

D) Surfing

In Australia, as everywhere in the southern hemisphere, Christmas comes in the middle of summer.

13) In Sweden, a common Christmas decoration is the Julbukk, a small figurine of a goat. It is usually made of what material?

B) Straw

A variety of straw decorations are a usual feature of Scandinavian Christmas festivities.

14) The real St. Nicholas lived:

C) In Turkey

St. Nicholas was bishop of the Turkish town of Myra in the early 4th century. It was the Dutch who first made him into a Christmas gift-giver, and Dutch settlers brought him to America where his name eventually became the familiar Santa Claus.

15) Which of the following was not one of the Three Kings?

C) Teleost

A teleost is actually a bony fish.

16) In Armenia, the traditional Christmas Eve meal consists of:

A) Fried fish, lettuce and spinach

The meal was eaten after the Christmas Eve service, in commemoration of the supper eaten by Mary on the evening before Christ's birth.

17) In Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker*, the Nutcracker's main enemy is:

B) The King of the Mice

The King of the Mice, usually represented with seven heads, leads his troops against the nutcracker's toy soldiers, but loses the battle when Clara, the heroine, stuns him with a hurled shoe.

18) The day after Christmas, December 26, is known as Boxing Day. It is also the holy day of which saint?

D) St. Stephen

And here, we used to say: *St. Stephen, a 9th century Swedish missionary, is the patron saint of horses.*

Further research, and a kind note from Pastor Philip A. Gardner of Lancaster, Ohio, reveals that the Boxing Day St. Stephen has in fact nothing at all to do with Sweden or with horses. The Stephen for whom the day is named is the one in the Bible (Acts 6-8) who was the first Christian to be martyred for his faith.

19) In Greek legend, malicious creatures called Kallikantzaroi sometimes play troublesome pranks at Christmas time. To get rid of them, you should:

B) Burn either salt or an old shoe

Apparently the stench of the burning shoe (or salt) drives off the Kallikantzaroi. Other effective methods include hanging a pig's jawbone by the door and keeping a large fire so they can't sneak down the chimney.

20) When visiting Finland, Santa leaves his sleigh behind and rides on:

C) A goat named Ukko

Finnish folklore has it that Ukko is made of straw, but is strong enough to carry Santa Claus anyway.

21) A boar's head is a traditional Christmas dish. According to a popular story, the unlucky boar whose head began the custom in the Middle Ages was killed by:

A) Choking to death on a book of Greek philosophy

The story tells us that a university student saved himself from a charging boar by ramming a book of Aristotle's writings down its throat. He then cut off the boar's head and brought it back to his college.

22) When distributing gifts in Holland, St. Nicholas is accompanied by:

B) His servant, Black Peter

Black Peter is responsible for actually dropping the presents down their recipients' chimneys, but he also punishes bad children by putting them in a bag and carrying them away to Spain.

23) At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?

D) Mistletoe

Mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship in ancient Scandinavia, which may account for the practice of kissing beneath it.

24) Believe it or not, one Indiana town is called:

D) Santa Claus

There is also a Santa Claus, Idaho.

25) Who was the author of *A Christmas Carol*?

B) Charles Dickens

After *A Christmas Carol* Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

26) Which popular Christmas song was actually first written for Thanksgiving?

C) *Jingle Bells*

The song was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called *One Horse Open Sleigh*.

27) A favorite Christmas story is Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in...*

C) *Wales*

This charming and poetic story is based partly on Thomas' memories of his own childhood. Originally a radio script, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* is now sold as a book and has been made into a television special.

28) In Dr. Seuss' book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the name of the Grinch's dog was:

A) Max

The Grinch wickedly disguised his dog as a reindeer to help him imitate Santa Claus.

29) The world's largest Christmas cracker was made (and pulled) in which country?

B) Australia

The cracker, 150 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, was made by Ray Price in 1991.

30) The poem commonly known as *The Night Before Christmas* was originally entitled:

B) *A Visit From Saint Nicholas*

This poem was written by Clement Moore for his children and some guests, one of whom anonymously sent the poem to a New York newspaper for publication.

31) The poinsettia, a traditional Christmas flower, originally grew in which country?

B) Mexico

In Mexico, the poinsettia is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night". It was first brought to America by Joel Poinsett in 1829.

32) The first stamp ever issued specifically for the Christmas season depicted:

D) A rose

The stamp was sold in 1937 in Austria, where paper roses were a popular Christmas decoration.

33) Many families eat a turkey dinner on Christmas Day. The turkey is native to:

B) Central America

This bird, domesticated by the Mexican Aztecs long before Columbus, was named the turkey out of confusion with the African guinea fowl, a similar species that really is Turkish in origin.

34) According to the song, Frosty the snowman did *not* have which of the following features?

C) A bright red scarf

Pictures of Frosty often show the scarf, but the song doesn't mention it.

35) In 1647, the English parliament passed a law that:

A) Made Christmas illegal

Christmas festivities were banned by Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell, who considered feasting and revelry on what was supposed to be a holy day to be immoral. The ban was lifted only when Cromwell lost power in 1660.