



Festivals

Christmas worksheet 1

- This traditional poem by Clement Clarke Moore (1779–1863) is called *The night before Christmas*. It is now the tradition in many American families to read the poem every Christmas Eve. Pre-teach the words in snowflakes before starting. Ask pupils to read the poem and draw what they think the man saw. In the real poem, he saw Santa Claus, the reindeer and a sledge, but let pupils use their own imagination.
- **Optional follow-up:** Pupils make up their own poem about an adventure that happened one Christmas Eve. Give them this simplified form of the poem and ask them to add four more lines. Encourage them to rhyme the end of each line. Display the poems.

POEM OUTLINE:

*It was the night before Christmas and I was in my house.
It was very, very quiet. There was not even a mouse.
Then I heard a sound like a big, tall bear.
So I jumped out of bed to see who was there.
Suddenly I saw ...*

Christmas worksheet 2

- Explain what an Advent calendar is. Traditionally people use Advent calendars during the month of December. Each day they look for the date and open that window. The pictures behind the windows are usually associated with Christmas (e.g. presents, Santa) and the last window is opened on 24 December, the day before Christmas.
- Pupils need a piece of blank paper as well as the worksheet. Following the lines, they cut 24 'windows', which can be bent open. When they have created the windows, they glue the back of the calendar around the edges and stick it to the other piece of paper. They can then draw pictures behind each window. Depending on your school term dates, pupils can either keep their calendars at school or take them home to open a window each day.

Easter worksheet 1

- Explain that Easter traditions vary in different countries. Ask the pupils to read about Easter in four countries. They then match the sentences with the pictures.

Key: a 3, b 2, c 1, d 4.

- Pupils then write a letter to one of the children telling them about Easter in their own country. If your pupils don't celebrate Easter, they can write about another festival. They start the letter with 'Dear (Richard)'. The letters could be displayed on the wall.
- **Optional follow-up:** Pupils could find out about what other countries do for Easter. They could produce fact sheets about a country of their choice and what their Easter traditions are.

Easter worksheet 2

- Explain that all over the world people traditionally paint, decorate or dye eggs at Easter. Tell pupils to read the instructions for dyeing eggs and to complete the instructions using the words in the egg.

Key: b darker, c dye, d minutes, e colour.

- Next, teach pupils about dyes. Ask pupils to guess what effect each product will have on the egg, i.e. the colour. Focus pupils on the matching activity. They match the different ingredients with the dye they create.

Key: coffee or tea – brown, purple grape juice – blue, spinach leaves – green, cooked carrots – orange, orange peels – yellow.

- Finally, pupils read three ideas for dyeing. Ask pupils to hard-boil a white egg at home and bring it to class. Bring cups, vinegar, spoons, paper towels, wax crayons, elastic bands, etc. and the dyes to the class. To dye the eggs, pupils follow the exact instructions on their worksheet.
- **Optional follow-up:** Pupils make as many words as they can from *Happy Easter*.



Christmas worksheet 1

★ Read the poem. Then draw what you think the man saw when he opened the curtains.

creature
= animal

stirring
= moving

sprang
= jumped

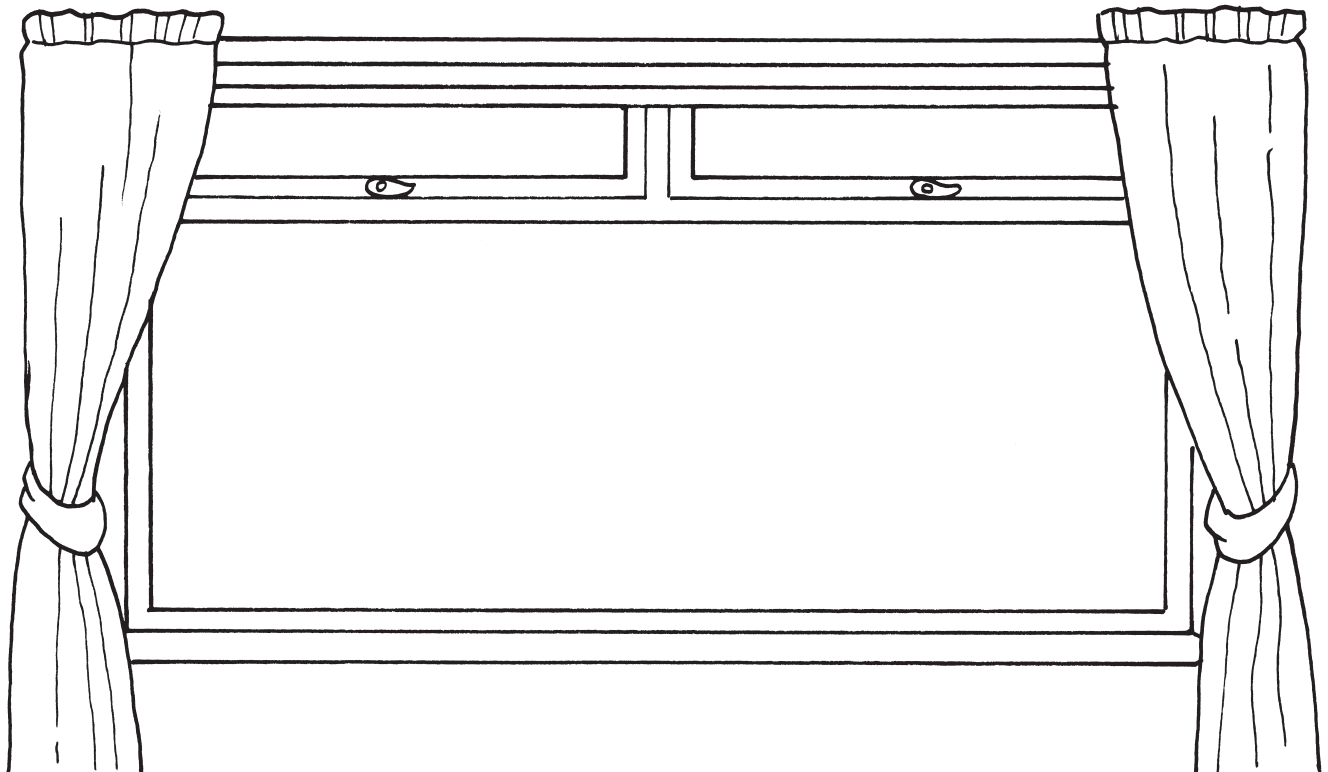
THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there;
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear ...?

'twas
= it was

lawn
= garden

clatter
= noise





Easter worksheet 1

1 Read and match the descriptions of Easter with the pictures.



Thomas

1 On Easter Day in North America, we wake up and find a basket of Easter chocolate and gifts by our beds. Our parents tell us it is from the Easter Bunny.



Paul

2 In Bermuda, we fly kites on Easter Day. Old people and young people make them.



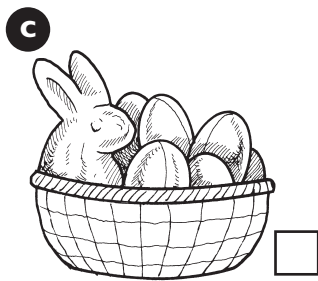
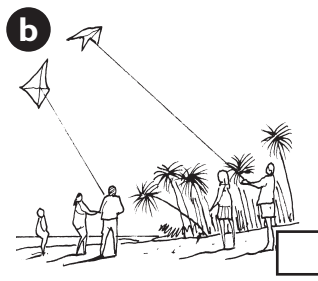
Julia

3 In parts of North Germany, we build and light fires on Easter Day at sunset.



Shannon

4 In England, we decorate eggs with beautiful colours and patterns.



2 Choose one of the children in Activity 1. Write them a letter telling them about Easter in your country.

Dear

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



Easter worksheet 2

dye
darker
minutes
colour
teaspoon

1 Read about how to dye an Easter egg.
Complete the instructions.

HOW TO DYE EGGS

- 1 Use a different cup (200ml) for each colour.
- 2 Add 1 (a) teaspoon of vinegar to each cup.
- 3 Add the dye. Use more dye material for more eggs or for a (b) colour.
- 4 Put your egg in the (c) carefully. Don't get it on your fingers!



- 5 Leave the egg in the dye for 3 (d)
- 6 Take the egg out of the dye. If you want the (e) to be stronger, leave the egg longer.
- 7 Dry the egg with a paper towel.
- 8 Put the egg in an egg box.

2 Match the food and drink with the colour of the dye.

red onion skins	coffee or tea	purple grape juice	spinach leaves	cooked carrots	orange peels
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yellow	orange	red	brown	green	blue
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3 Experiment with new ideas.

- 1 For an interesting effect, put some egg white on the egg when it is dry. Stick some **broken egg shells** onto your egg.
- 2 Do you want a nice pattern? Wrap rubber bands around the egg **before** you put it in the dye. The parts of the egg where the rubber bands are will not change colour.
- 3 Do you want **two colours**? Drip wax from a candle onto the egg. Put the egg in the dye when the wax is hard. Then take the wax off and put the egg into another dye.



Broken egg shells and egg white



Rubber bands



Candle wax