

INSTRUCTIONS. HOW TO GUIDE.



HOW TO USE OUR SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL.

These activities and tasks have been designed for you to use in school in a way that works best for you. As they will be accessible from the web link below until the end of term you can choose when to do them in your school day, in what order and which ones. Our aim is to support our schools and to assist you with bringing some added festive sparkle to the weeks ahead!

First things first, please visit: <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/santaslittlehelpers> where you will find:

- Elf name generator.
- Video: Introduction to the 'Santa's Little Helpers' school challenge.
- Audio: 12 separate audio challenges, set by Santa's chief elf instructors 'Bauble and Jangle'.
- Pdfs: 12 separate pdf's with information and idea's linked to the audio
- Video: Message from Santa, congratulating all your 'elves' hard work and informing them that they are now qualified 'elves' in case Santa ever has the need for help in coming year.
- Certificate of achievement: a pdf that you can print out at school, allowing each participating elf to receive special recognition for their hard work.

WHAT TO DO?

1. **Elf name generator:** In class, in preparation for your challenges and elf training each child should make their own elf name from the 'elf name generator' pdf.
2. **Video message from Santa:** Please watch the video in class. This will set the scene and allow your pupils to understand the task at hand.

Opening video: Santa's script.

'Oh hello there boys and girls. My-my, look at you! Haven't you all grown since last year, I hardly recognise you! Well, you will be pleased to hear that preparations are well underway for Christmas here at the North Pole. The reindeer are getting plenty of fresh air and exercise ready for their long flight on Christmas Eve,

and all of the elves are busy in their workshop wrapping and sorting the Christmas presents. Well, almost all of the Elves. You see, the reason that I wanted to speak to you all today is that I want to make sure that THIS Christmas is the most magical Christmas EVER! So this year, I have organised a very special mission for you: Mission Santa's Little Helpers! I have assigned two of my favourite elves, Jangle and Bauble, to help to train you up. They will guide you through a series of exciting, festive activities designed to put you and your teachers and grown-ups in a warm, Christmassy mood! Now as elves are very shy magical creatures, they don't want to be seen by humans, so they will send your teachers some voice recordings with all the information telling you what you need to do next. So, do you think you are ready for the challenge? (PAUSE) Well, I certainly hope so. I will be keeping a close eye on your progress too, and I will see you once you have completed all of your activities! Right, I had better go and check on Rudolph. See you soon... and good luck!'

Decide how many challenges you want to use in class for your 'Santa's Little Helpers' challenge. We have designed this activity to be really flexible and suit your needs. You might decide to do 1 challenge, 4 challenges or all of them, it's up to you! We have given you ideas but you can take this in whatever direction you want and we aim to pitch the activities to suit all age groups.

3. **Audio by 'Bauble and Jangle':** Once you have decided which challenges you are going to complete in class play and listen to the audio from the webpage. *There is also a challenge 'title page' pdf which lists each of the challenges that you can have on your class white board whilst listening to the audio.
4. **PDF instructions:** We have provided paired pdf's documents to match the challenge, therefore if you are doing challenge 1, please look at the accompanying pdf for ideas and templates.
5. **Video message from Santa:** Once you have completed your set tasks you are now a fully qualified elf – just in case Santa need extra help one day. Watch the closing video in class with all your elves/ pupils and celebrate!

Closing video: Santa's script.

Hello there, me again! Well... haven't you all been busy! I have been hearing reports from Jangle and Bauble that you have been working extra hard on some wonderful Christmas activities. Have you had fun doing them? (Pause) I am sure you have! You know, Christmas really is a wonderfully magical time... it's my favourite time of year, as well as my busiest, obviously. (Chuckle)

Well, Jangle and Bauble have been so impressed with the way you have helped me to bring some extra magic and sparkle to this Christmas, I take great pleasure in declaring that you are now all officially 'Santa's Little Helpers'. To show you how grateful I am, I am sending each of you a special certificate so that you can show everybody just how helpful you have been, and just how proud I am of you. Teachers, you have got a very important job now... please make sure that my wonderful new helpers get their certificates.

Right, I had better stop chatting to you and get back to work. Before you know it school will be over for the Christmas holidays and you will all be at home with your loved ones. Before then I have got a lot of work to do, checking my nice list and naughty list, loading my sleigh and of course keeping an eye on those cheeky elves! I will see you on Christmas Eve, but you won't see me, because you will be fast asleep, so I am going to say goodbye for now and I wish you all the very merriest Christmas!

6. **Certificate of achievement:** To assist you and your class celebrate their achievement we have made a super, special certificate for you to print out and hand to each of your elves/ pupils.

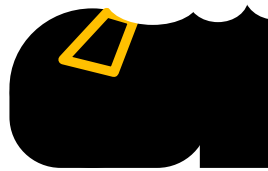
List of all 12 challenges:

1. Make an elf's hat.
2. Make a gift tag.
3. Make a Christmas decoration.
4. Class paper chain championships.
5. A festive window display.
6. Wrap a gift.
7. Do a festive dance.
8. Balloon Santa sack filling.
9. Make a reindeer antler headband.
10. Create a short scene or movement to music for 'A day in the life of an Elf'.
11. Festive obstacle course.
12. Sing a festive song or Christmas carol.



CHALLENGE 1

Make an Elf Hat



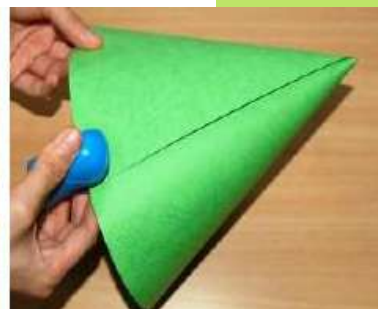
No Elf would be seen anywhere at Christmas without his festive Elf hat.

Your class challenge is to make their own hats and wear them with pride!

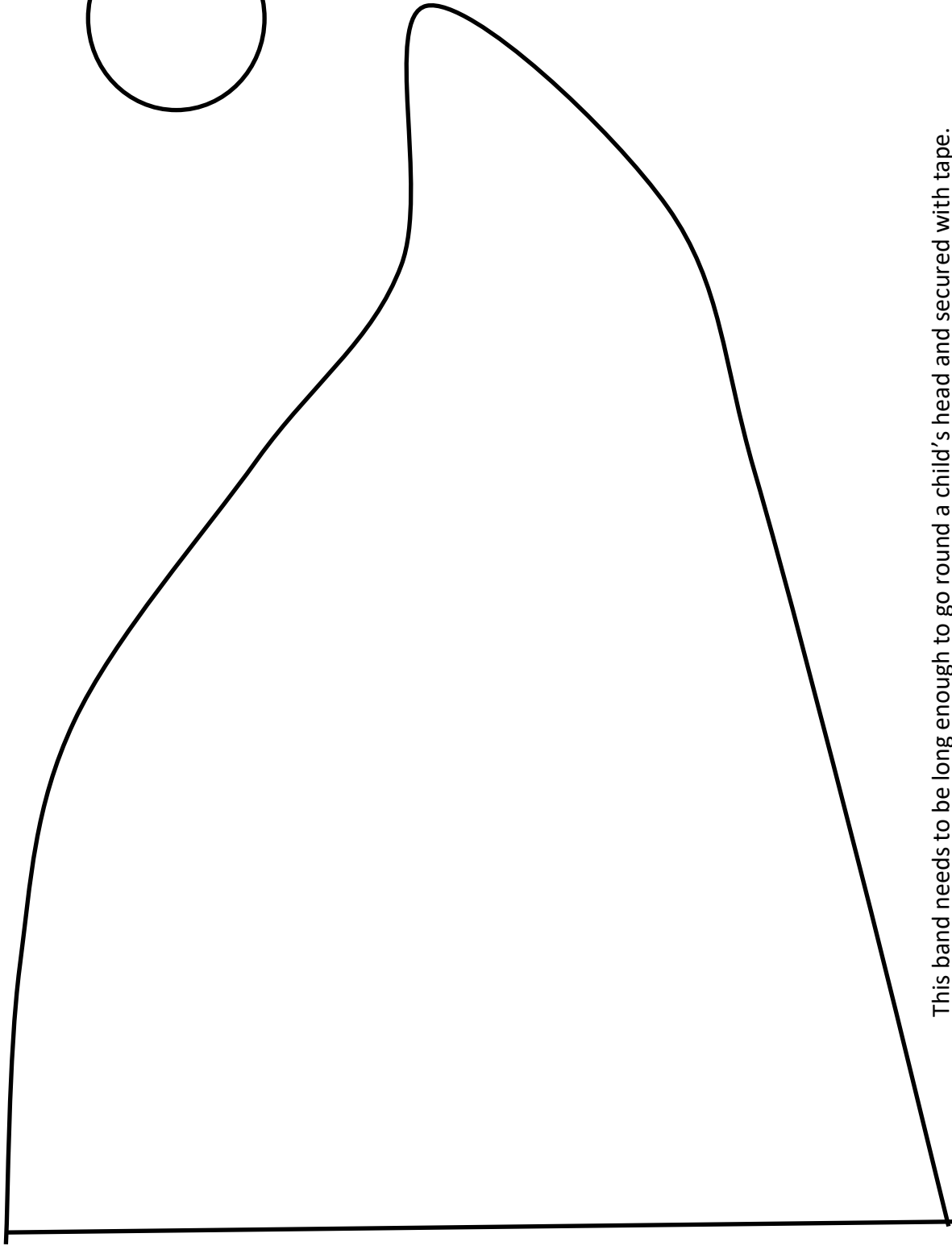
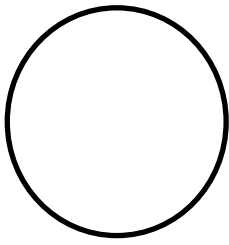
You can create templates to trace round and cut out of coloured card, or print off and colour with pens or paint. Stuck on to a headband made from a strip of card or made from a semicircle of card, they are simple and fun to make and wear!

Elf appearance

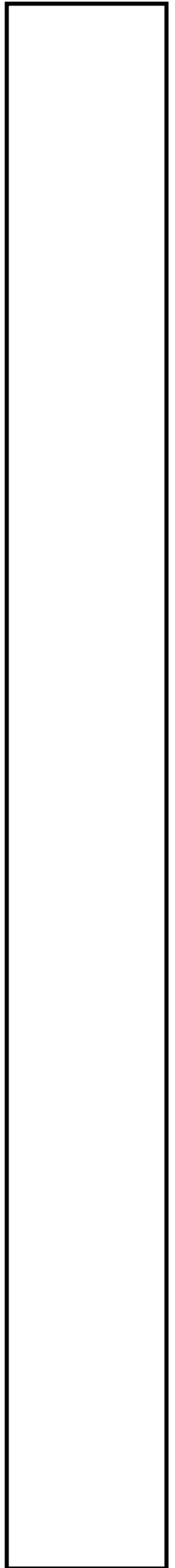
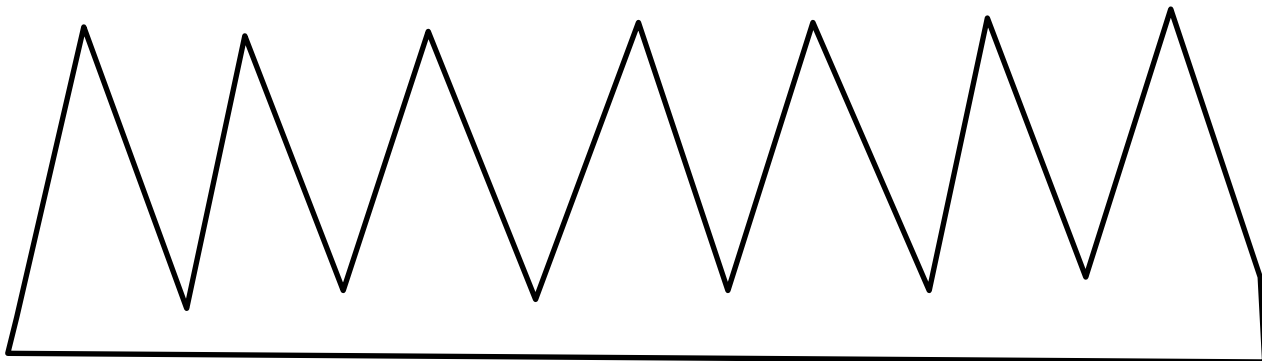
- Not exceeding 4 feet, and with long pointy ears.
- Costumes are red or green with pointy hat, rosy cheeks, and pointy ears.
- Their clothes keep them warm despite living in an extremely cold habitat.
- They live in tiny cottages which they decorate with Christmas lights, gingerbread, and other Christmas ornaments.
- They can be either male or female.



Elf hat template



This band needs to be long enough to go round a child's head and secured with tape.



CHALLENGE 2

Make a Gift Tag

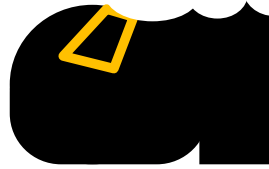
All presents need a gift tag and one of the Elves' jobs is to create festive tags for all of Santa's presents. Your class challenge is to make a unique gift tag for a special person.

This challenge can be as simple or elaborate as you want to make it. Luggage labels are great to use as tags and really simple designs work best for the youngest pupils.



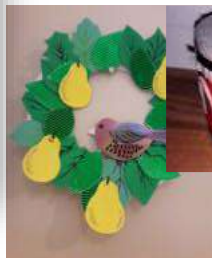
CHALLENGE 3

Make a Christmas Decoration



You can't go wrong with this challenge as really anything goes - as long as its sparkly and festive!

If you want to follow the 12 of Christmas theme there are ideas and instructions for making decorations for each of the 12 days on our webpage:
www.tameside.gov.uk/12daysofchristmas



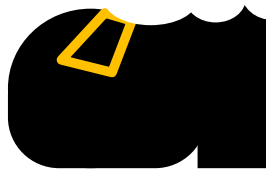
In Germany, the first Christmas Trees were decorated with edible things, such as gingerbread and gold covered apples. Then glass makers made special small ornaments similar to some of the decorations used today.

At first, a figure of the Baby Jesus was put on the top of the tree. Over time it changed to an angel that told the shepherds about Jesus, or a star like the Wise Men saw.



CHALLENGE 4

Paper Chain Championship



Speed and team work is the key to this challenge.

Working in pairs or teams, set a time limit and see which team can make the longest paper chain in the time.



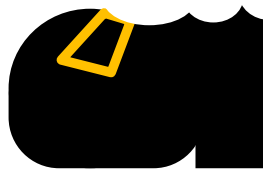
Of course, everyone is a winner as the chains can now be used to decorate the classroom!

Flower garlands have been made since Roman times and tinsel garlands in Germany in about 1610, but another form of decoration, **paper chains**, were first seen in the UK in the 1850s. They were used to decorate their Christmas trees.



CHALLENGE 5

Create a Festive Window Display



Tameside's Christmas celebrations this year have the theme 'The 12 days of Christmas'.

Your challenge is to create a fabulous window display depicting each of the 12 days in the song, in which the singer brags about all the cool gifts they received from their "true love" during the 12 days of Christmas.

With 12 different elements, it may be an idea to split the class into 12 groups, each having to create an element of the window display. Each group could randomly pick out a slip of paper from a hat that will give them their theme.

You could limit the resources available eg: just black paper to create silhouettes. You could set a time limit to this challenge.

The 12 days:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. A partridge in a pear tree | 7. Seven swans a-swimming |
| 2. Two turtle doves | 8. Eight maids a-milking |
| 3. Three French hens | 9. Nine ladies dancing |
| 4. Four calling birds | 10. Ten lords a-leaping |
| 5. Five gold rings | 11. Eleven pipers piping |
| 6. Six geese a-laying | 12. Twelve drummers drumming |

We have created a series of silhouettes of the '12 Days of Christmas'. You will find these via this link:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/12daysofchristmas>

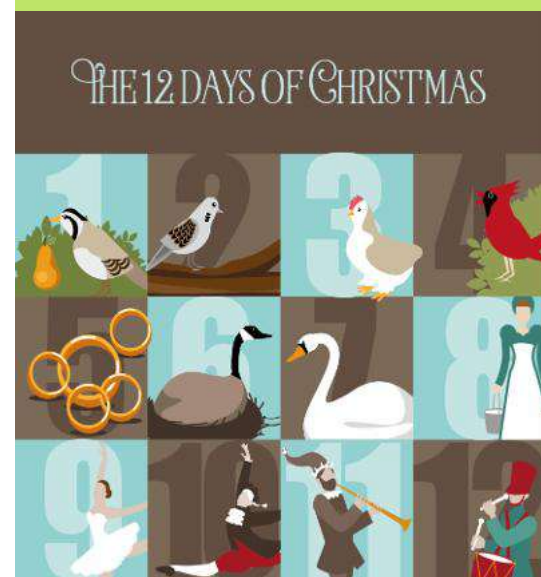
pdf titled: 12 Days of Christmas Silhouettes



The 12 days of Christmas is the period between the birth of Jesus (25th December) and the coming of the three

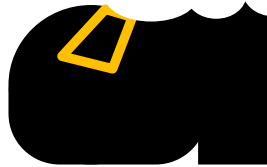
Question: In the Christmas song, "The 12 Days of Christmas", how many total gifts does her 'true love' give to her?

Answer: $1 + 3 + 6 + 10 + 15 + 21 + 28 + 36 + 45 + 55 + 66 + 78$
= 364 gifts



CHALLENGE 6

Wrap a Christmas Gift



Every prospective Elf must be expert at wrapping presents of all shapes and sizes. Your class challenge is to wrap their present within a set time, complete with ribbon and a name tag!

You can group your class in teams or as individuals and the presents can be anything from an easy empty box to an inflated balloon or something even more complicated.

You could supply inexpensive wrapping paper, tissue or newspaper.

Consumers in the UK will use **227,000 miles** of wrapping paper each year
over 83 square km of this will end up in our bins!

This in turn means that the average household will get through four rolls of wrapping paper

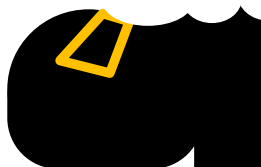


Points for the neatest, most creative, least recognisable etc!



CHALLENGE 7

Do a Festive Dance



What better way to keep fit, get moving and have fun than all joining in a group dance.

Your challenge is to create some really 'Elfish' dance moves with the class and really get into the Christmas spirit.

Today's Fortnite 'Floss' moves may prove more popular than the Macarena or Gangnam Style, but it's a great opportunity to have fun as a group.

Maybe you can run your own 'Strictly Elf Dancing' competition where you pair up children, and have presenters and judges.



Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around 22nd December.

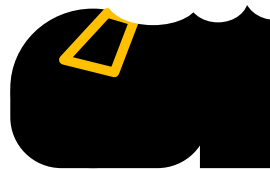
The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy!

Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has survived.



CHALLENGE 8

Santa Sack Filling



This challenge takes the form of a relay race. You may need quite a bit of space for this so outdoors would be great or the school hall.

Work in teams, with each pupil having a balloon. Each 'Elf' has to run to Santa's sack and place the balloon, like a present, into the sack and get back to their team. It's then the turn of the next Elf and so on, until the sack is filled.

The first team to fill their sack is the winner.

(you could say the first team to fill their bag with 5 balloons is the winner)

Bin bags are perfect as Santa's sack, and of course you can always use sports balls or boxes instead of balloons.



Transdimensional Present Compartment (The Bag)

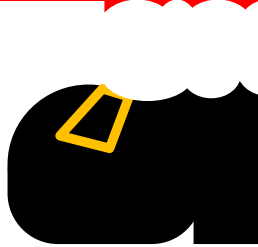
When it comes to Santa's sack, you're probably wondering how he fits all of those presents into one bag.

Think of a transdimensional present compartment in the form of a traditional gift sack. Santa's sack really acts as a portal between the sleigh and the North Pole. However, we'd also like to think that Santa may have harnessed the power of nanotechnology and found a way to miniaturize millions of presents into one large bag. But this information remains unconfirmed.



CHALLENGE 9

Make a Reindeer Antler Headband



There are lots of variations of ways to make a set of reindeer antlers.

Starting with a strip of card that circles the head you can then add the antlers of your choice. You can use the template and cut the antlers out of brown card, draw round hands or make from pipe cleaners.

Your class could get outdoors and hunt for antler shaped twigs and just hold them to the side of their heads to create a whole reindeer herd.

You don't have to stick with headgear. Maybe make a mini reindeer from clay or one from a paper plate.

Reindeer facts

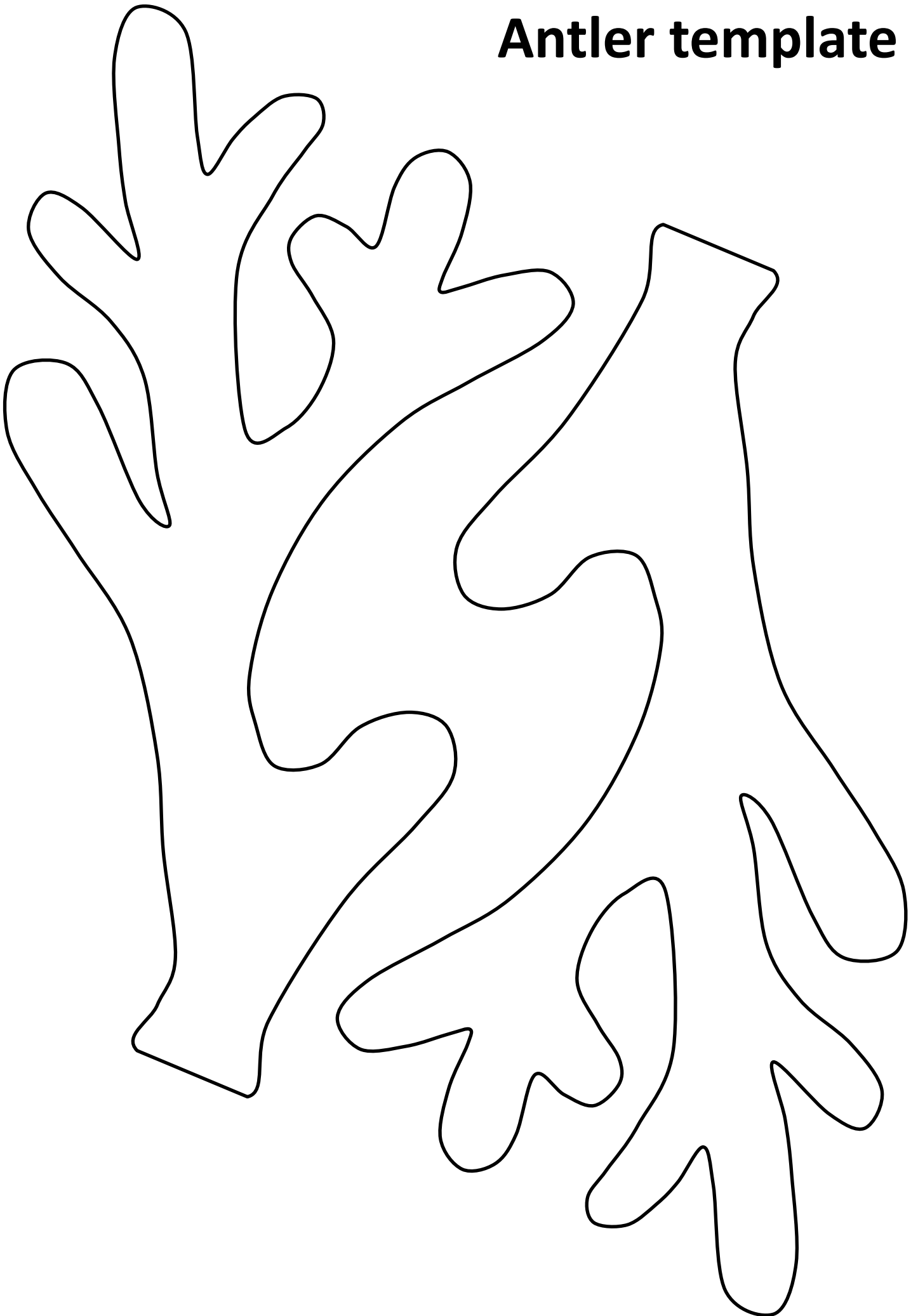
Reindeer are a species of deer. They are the only deer species in which both the male and female can grow antlers. In fact, males' antlers can grow up to a whopping 1.4 metres in length and have as many 44 points, called 'tines'.

Santa's reindeer travel a distance of over 41 million miles to deliver more than one million tonnes of presents at Christmas.

Santa's reindeer are named **Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph**



Antler template

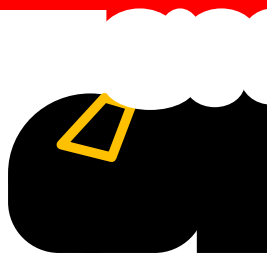


Some Reindeer Antler ideas



CHALLENGE 10

Create a Show Scene



Using a piece of instrumental Christmas music ask the children to act out a day in the life of Santa's Elves.

Children can work in pairs or small groups of 4 or 5 children to devise their own ideas, or work as a whole class, led by the teacher.

Mime various activities to the music such as getting ready in the morning, feeding the reindeer, wrapping presents, checking Santa's list etc.

The children can then perform their pieces to one another. Maybe other groups guess what the Elves are doing?

(Prokofiev's Troika is a great piece of music to use for this from approx 28 seconds in).

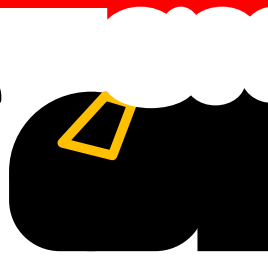
Some thoughts

- *The reindeer need to be taken out for their afternoon fly*
- *Christmas baubles and fairy lights need polishing to keep them sparkly*
- *Santa's beard needs brushing and trimming to keep him neat*
- *The Elves' uniforms need washing*
- *Putting the stuffing in teddy bears*
- *Fixing the wheels on to toy cars*
- *Putting the tings into bells and the toots into horns for children's bikes*



CHALLENGE 11

Festive Obstacle Course



With chimneys to navigate and sacks full of presents to load onto the sleigh, an Elf has to be super agile.

Sharing ideas as a whole class, design, build and use an obstacle course made for Santa and his elves.

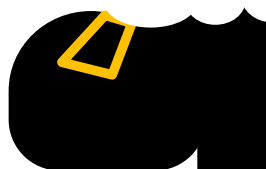
You could use gym equipment, hoola hoops, rope and balls or outdoors use trees, logs or playground markings.

- **Throwing presents into his sack**
(beanbags into buckets)
- **get fit ready for the big night**
(star jumps)
- **Balancing along 'the rooftops'**
(a line on the playground floor or a piece of balancing apparatus).
- **Jumping down the chimney**
(into a hoop)
- **Tiptoeing around the Christmas tree**
(a cone or similar)
- **Loading the sleigh with sacks**
(a relay race with inflated bin bags)
- **Not waking the children**
(make a 'laser' string course that can't be touched)
- **Pass the snowball**
(using a white balloon or crunched up paper, pass the snowball between the knees)



CHALLENGE 12

Sing a Festive Song or Christmas Carol



This challenge shouldn't be difficult at all!

We want your class to perform their choice of Christmas song. Its up to you whether you put together a whole class performance or split the class into groups and tackle a number of songs.

In the northern hemisphere, there are lots who dream of a white Christmas, whereas in the south of the world the holiday season is best enjoyed by the pool while sipping cool drinks.

No matter where we are in the world for the holidays, two things remain the same: we all look forward to getting together with family and friends, and we sing Christmas songs.

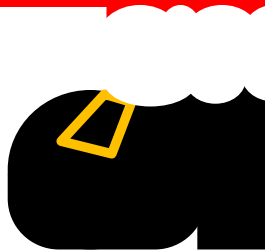
There are lots of online videos of songs, many with funny actions to really get your class in the mood for Christmas.

- *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*
- *Jingle Bells*
- *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*
- *Frosty the Snowman*
- *Silent Night*
- *The 12-days of Christmas*
- *All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth*
- *Deck the Halls*
- *Santa Shark*



ELF NAME GENERATOR

What's your Elf Name?



If you've already picked out a festive or funny Elf name, that's fantastic. But if not, don't worry, the whole class can have fun with this 'Elf Name Generator!'

1. Choose the first letter of your first name.
2. Pick your favourite colour.

A	Tickle	N	Twinkle
B	Jolly	O	Berry
C	Buddy	P	Sprinkle
D	Dizzy	Q	Glitter
E	Jingle	R	Bobble
F	Candy	S	Sprouty
G	Ernie	T	Merry
H	Cookie	U	Cracker
I	Happy	V	Holly
J	Frosty	W	Noel
K	Elfie	X	Snowy
L	Tinsel	Y	Tiny
M	Spangle	Z	Sparky



Have fun
everyone!

Merry Tinselbottom
(Tracy Webster)

Red	Mc Snowflake
Yellow	Tinselbottom
Pink	Mc Fluff
Green	Sparklepants
Purple	Twinkletoes
Orange	Mc Jingles
Blue	Stripeypants
Brown	Jollywobble
Black	Gumdrop
White	Humberdink



Official North Pole

HONORARY ELF CERTIFICATE

Presented to

.....

For keeping the spirit of Christmas alive, you have qualified as an honorary Elf.
It is your elf duty to spread good cheer and kindness throughout the year.

AWARDED BY:

Jangle & Bauble



Official North Pole

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