

1

READ THE TEXT & FOCUS ON UNKNOWN WORDS

1. You are about to read the text *Christmas Time*. Look at the picture, the title and the headings of the text. What is the text about?
2. Read the text. Use the Step-by-Step Reading Guide. Underline or **mark** the words you don't understand while reading.
3. Read the explanation.

EXPLANATION

When you see a word that you don't understand, you can use the **Word help**. The last step of the Word help is: look it up in a **dictionary**.

How does a dictionary work?

To look up a word in a dictionary, you use the **alphabet**.



- What is the first letter of the word?
Is it, for example, a 'w'? Then you start looking at the end of the dictionary. Not at the beginning.
- On top of every page in a dictionary you see a few words.
The words start with certain letters. They help you to see if you are looking in the right place.
For example: you are looking for a word that starts with a 'g'. You open the dictionary and see the word 'good'. Then you know that you are looking in the right place.
- Look at the second letter of the word, then the third, the fourth and so on. For example: you are looking for the word 'luck'. You open the dictionary at the page with the words 'low' - 'lumber'. Then you know that you have to look at this page. The letters of the word 'luck' come after the word 'low' and before the word 'lumber'.

Sometimes a word has different meanings. Always check which meaning fits best in the text!

4. Read lines 6-7: For example, a **nativity scene**, where you see (...). What does **nativity scene** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

The **nativity scene** means: _____

5. Read lines 7-8: (...) where you see a small **manger** (...).
What does **manger** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

The manger means: _____

6. Read lines 8-10: (...) with beautifully made figures of Joseph, Maria, baby Jesus, **shepherds**, the Three Kings and farm animals.
What does **shepherds** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down.

The shepherd means: _____

7. Read line 10: Other traditions are **secular**.
What does **secular** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

Secular means: _____

8. Read line 13: **Decorating** an evergreen tree, or Christmas tree, has always been a tradition in Germany.
What does **decorating** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

To decorate means: _____

9. Read lines 19-20: But, some countries **celebrate** Christmas on other days in December and January.
What does **celebrate** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

To celebrate means: _____

10. Read line 22-23: Many people in Europe **prepare** a large dinner and share presents late in the evening.
What does **prepare** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

To prepare means: _____

11. Read lines 28-29: Christmas music is playing, either traditional **carols** or number 1 hits like White Christmas.
What does **carols** mean? Look it up in your dictionary and write down:

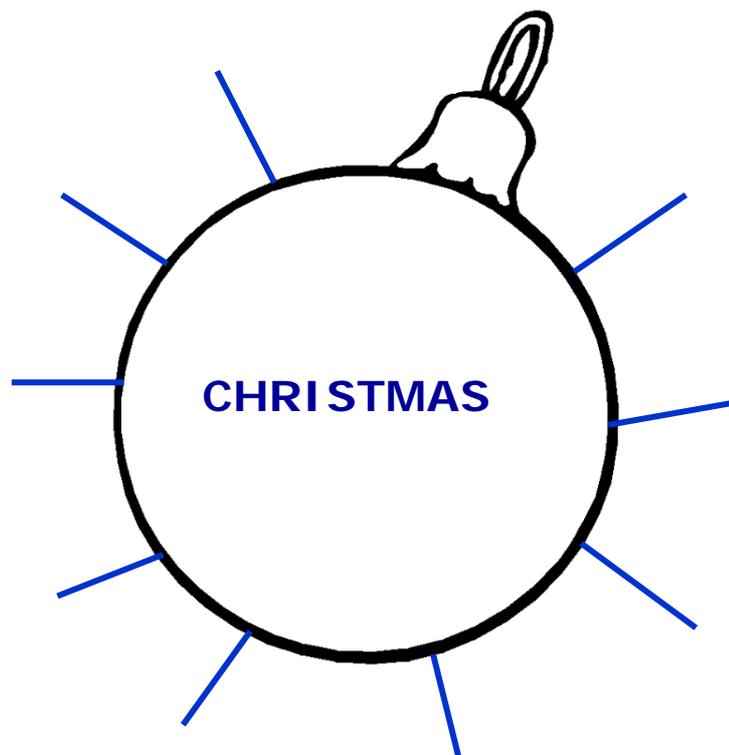
The carol means: _____

12. Probably you have underlined or marked more difficult words. What is the meaning of these difficult words? Look them up in a dictionary.

2. MAKE A WORD WEB

KEY VISUAL

1. What words are typical for Christmas? Look in the text and write these words down in a word web. Complete the word web with words you miss in the text, but you also think are typical for Christmas.



3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. In the introduction of the text a well known Christmas song is mentioned. What makes Christmas 'the most wonderful time of the year', according to the text?

2. Which figures do you see in a nativity scene (line 8)?

3. Where can you find the tallest Christmas tree in the world?

- A. Germany
- B. England
- C. United States of America
- D. Sweden

4. What is traditionally the moment when people share Christmas presents?

There are two correct answers.

- 1. In Europe on Christmas Eve
- 2. In England and North America on December the 25th
- 3. In England on December the 26th
- 4. In England and North America on Christmas Eve

5. What are the similar Christmas traditions all across the world? Tick the boxes with similarities.

- Lights
- Christmas music
- Eggs
- Candlelight parades
- Holiday spent with family

6. What are your plans for Christmas this year? What Christmas presents would you like? Write them down below.



4. IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

When you think of Christmas you probably also think of Christmas songs which are played everywhere. The text *Christmas Time* even starts with the first line of a famous Christmas song: 'It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year' by Andy Williams. You can find the song text below.

1. Listen to the song and fill in the gaps.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR – ANDY WILLIAMS

It's the most wonderful time of the year

With the _____ jingle
belling

And everyone _____ you
be of good cheer

It's the most wonderful time of the year

It's the _____ season of all

With those _____ greetings
and gay happy meetings

When _____ come to call

It's the happiest season of all

Chorus:

There'll be _____ for
hosting

Marshmallows for toasting

And _____ out in the

There'll be scary _____
stories

And tales of the glories of the
Christmases _____
ago

It's the most wonderful time of the year

There'll be much mistltoeing

And _____ will be
glowing

When love ones are

It's the most wonderful time of the year

Chorus

Yes the most wonderful time

Oh the most wonderful time
Of the year

2. Now translate the song into your own language. Write your translation on a blank sheet.