

MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

1. Make a copy of the text and exercises for all pupils.
2. Make sure all the pupils have a copy of the Step-by-Step Reading Guide available.
3. *Words to help you* is not available this lesson, because the pupils have to look up the words they don't know in their dictionary.

Reading strategy: clarifying, using a dictionary

Key visual: word web

Language: listening

Method:

To give the pupils the opportunity to talk about the text and the exercises, it is best to let them work in pairs or threes.

You can use the video *Bet You Didn't Know: Christmas* to introduce the subject to the pupils: <http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas/videos/bet-you-didnt-know-christmas> (2:45)

If the pupils are not familiar with the subject at all, you can show this video *before* they are going to read the text, but *after* they have made a prediction.

1. READ THE TEXT AND FOCUS ON UNKNOWN WORDS

1. The pupils look at the title of the text, *Christmas Time*, and discuss the questions in small groups.
2. They read the text and underline or mark the words they don't know.
3. The pupils read the explanation. Check if they understand all the theory. Model how you use a dictionary (search alphabetically – first and next letters – and read the different meanings. Consider, thinking aloud, which meaning suits best in this text and why).
4. The pupils work together in pairs; they look up the meanings of the words in the dictionary and write them down.
They also look up the words they underlined or marked in the text.

2. MAKE A WORD WEB

The pupils read the text again and look for words that are typical for Christmas. Subsequently they make a word web centered around 'Christmas', using relevant text elements. They complete the word web with what they know about Christmas and Christmas traditions.

3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

The pupils answer the questions about the text in pairs or threes. Encourage them to discuss their answers!
You can find the correct answers on page 2 of this manual.

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

The exercise refers to a famous Christmas song. Play the song *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, performed by Andy Williams: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFtb3EtjEic> (2:32), or from Spotify.
The pupils listen to the song and fill in the gaps. They also translate the text into their own language. Correct the translations if necessary.

ANSWERS

1. READ THE TEXT AND FOCUS ON UNKNOWN WORDS

the nativity scene (line 7) = a scene that shows the birth of Jesus Christ

the manger (line 8) = an open box that horses and cows can eat from

the shepherd (line 9) = a person whose job is to take care of sheep

secular (line 10) = not connected with spiritual or religious matters

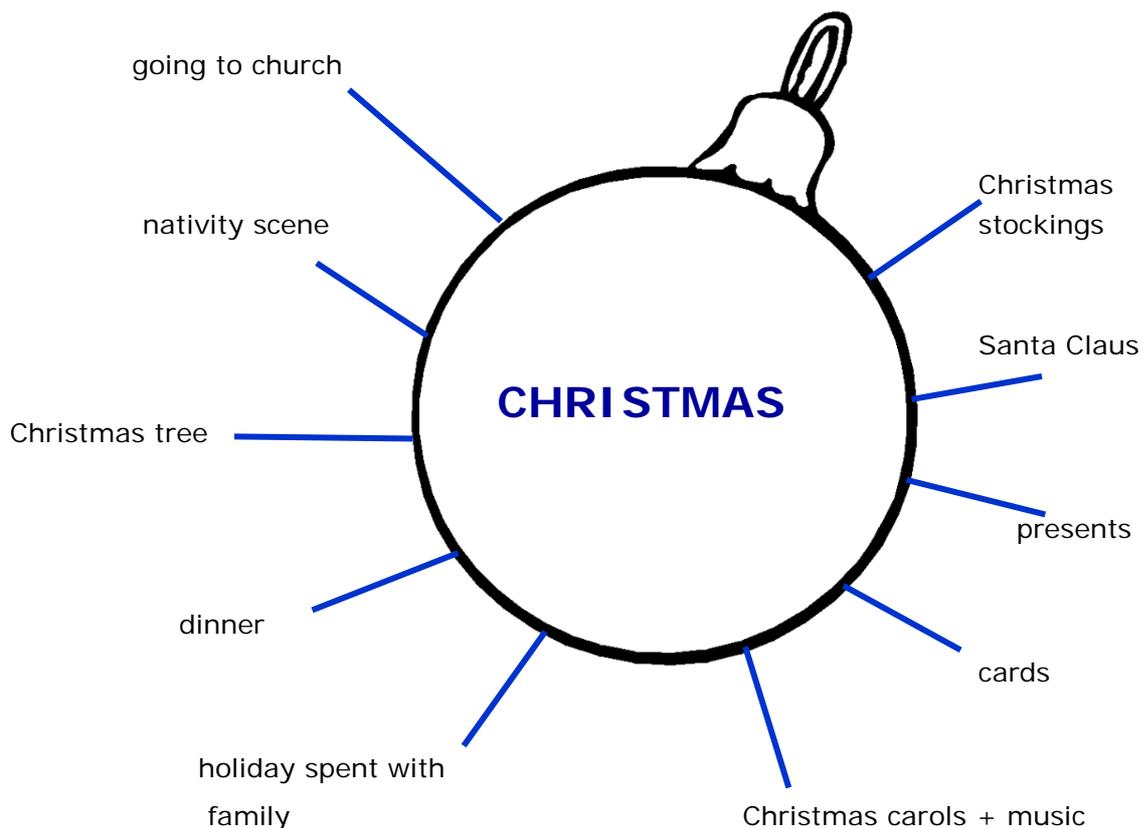
to decorate (line 13) = to make something look more attractive

to celebrate (line 20) = to remember something special

to prepare (line 23) = to make food ready to be eaten

the carol (line 29) = a Christian song sung at Christmas

2. MAKE A WORD WEB



3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. The feeling of Christmas, and the well known Christmas traditions.
2. Joseph, Maria, baby Jesus, shepherds, the Three Kings and farm animals.
3. A
4. A and B
5. Lights, Christmas music, holiday spent with family

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

It's the most wonderful time of the year
With the **kids** jingle belling
And everyone **telling** you be of
good cheer
It's the most wonderful time of the year

It's the **(hap-)happiest** season of all
With those **holiday** greetings and gay
happy meetings
When **friends** come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all

Chorus:

There'll be **parties** for hosting
Marshmallows for toasting

And **caroling** out in the **snow**
There'll be scary **ghost** stories
And tales of the glories of the
Christmases **long, long** ago
It's the most wonderful time of the year

There'll be much mistletoeing
And **hearts** will be glowing
When loved ones are **near**
It's the most wonderful time of the year

Chorus

Yes, the most wonderful time
Oh, the most wonderful time
Of the year