

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: mind map

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)

It is best to show the video *after* the pupils have read the text.

1. READ THE TEXT AND CLARIFY

1. The pupils look at the title of the text, *Yuletide*, and discuss the questions in small groups. Let the pupils look at the picture; what do they recognize and what is different.
2. The pupils read the explanation. Check if they understand all the theory.
3. They read the text and underline or highlight the words they don't know.
4. The pupils work together in pairs; one tries to find meanings of the words with the help of the text while the other looks them up in the dictionary and writes down the meanings. After having done that, the pupils discuss the outcomes and choose the best fitting definitions.

2. MAKE A MIND MAP

The pupils read the explanation about mind maps and how to compose one.

Subsequently, they make a mind map centred around 'Christmas', using relevant text elements. They complete the mind map 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 it 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 CLARIFY

the yuletide (title) = the period around Christmas Day

secular (line 8, 16) = not connected with spiritual or religious matters

religious (line 8, 9) = connected with religion (the belief in a god or gods)

the nativity scene (line 12) = a scene that shows the birth of Jesus Christ

the manger (line 13) = an open box that horses and cows can eat from

the shepherd (line 14) = a person whose job is to take care of sheep

the evergreen tree (line 18) = a Christmas tree

towering (line 28) = extremely tall or high and therefore impressive

the bonfire (line 39) = a large outdoor fire as part of a celebration

to draw a crowd (line 53-54) = that many people come to look at

to outweigh something (line 57) = to be greater or more important than something

to carol (line 62) = to sing (Christmas) songs in a cheerful way

3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. The sense of warmth and joy it brings you and your family, but also the safety of your own Christmas traditions.
2. B
3. In Europe at Christmas Eve and in England and North America on the 25th.
4.
 1. family time
 2. lights
 3. Christmas music
 4. Christmas gifts
 5. Christmas cards
 6. a fabulous dinner

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