

# CHRISTMAS WITH SANTA

BRIGHT STAR TOURING THEATRE

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CHRISTMAS WITH SANTA CLASSROOM STUDY GUIDE

## About the Show!

Carols, Santa & Christmas Galore!  
The spirit of the holidays are celebrated in this hysterical Christmas-wrapped comedy. Two hilarious elves named Scrunchie and Bangles have misplaced some of Santa's presents. When Santa arrives he teaches the well-meaning elves that the people we share the holidays with are the real gift of the season.

### THE REAL LESSON!

In every good play there is some kind of conflict. What was the main conflict or obstacle in this production? How was the conflict resolved or fixed by the end of the story?

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS SPECIAL?

The two elf-heroes of our story learn how to make Christmas special even without presents. As a class, brainstorm ways that you can make the holidays special for your friends and family besides buying them gifts. You could sing carols, make cookies, laugh and tell stories. What else?



## Classroom Activity Idea!

In the show, the elves learn the real meaning of the holidays. What did you learn from the show? What are the things that you are grateful for during this time of year? Pull out a sheet of paper or crayons and create a 'Grateful List' of all the things that you're grateful for-- could be you have a home and family that loves you; maybe a dog

or cat who's always there to greet you. What else?

Sometimes during the holidays it's easy to get really excited about the possible presents and gifts coming your way. It's important to be grateful for everything you already have and remember those that aren't as fortunate as you.

## Santa Around the world!



**ENGLAND:** Father Christmas dates back to the 16th century in England. Often depicted in a green robe with fur, he embodied the holiday spirit bringing joy, peace and good food to the holidays--and most importantly rode a goat!



**GERMANY:** Odin is a god dating back to a long, long time ago in German history. He is credited for supernatural events during the period of Yuletide. He first appeared riding through the sky on an 8-footed horse.



**RUSSIA:** Grandfather Frost generally delivers presents in person on or around New Year's. He usually arrives with an assistant, his granddaughter 'The Snow Maiden.' In Russia, Grandfather Frost is known as Ded Moroz.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS



**When?** The first Carols appeared in 4th Century Rome! The first English carols came about in 1426.

**BEST CAROL?** 'White Christmas' by Bing Crosby is the best selling single of all time--over 50 million copies worldwide.

**Huh?** The song Silver Bells was originally called 'Tinkle Bells'

**Neato!** 'Do You Hear What I Hear' was inspired by the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Side Note:** Before the book 'A Christmas Carol' people said "Happy Christmas!" The book popularized the term, "Merry

# Activities Galore!



### CREATE A PLAY (OLDER AGE ACTIVITY)

Break students into small groups and have them create their own holiday-themed production. These can be as simple or elaborate as you want them to be. Some groups may come in costume with cardboard backgrounds and some could present in just a few minutes of brainstorming. Some fun twists to this activity could be to have students combine several holidays at once. Maybe Halloween and Christmas; Thanksgiving and the 4th of July, etc.

### MAKE A WREATH (YOUNGER AGE ACTIVITY)

Craft a wreath together. Starting with a paper circle (the center cut out of a paper plate to form a ring works great for this)! Decorate your wreath using crayons, paints or pencils. You could cut out holly leaves from paper, found objects, recycled items or from magazines or newspapers.

### WINTER WONDERLAND DIORAMA

In the play, Scrunchie and Bangles are hanging out at the North Pole and outside of Santa's workshop. In a play this is known as scenery. Make your own winter wonderland scenery in a diorama. Use a shoe box, craft items and paints or crayons. You can include things like trees, snowmen, candy canes and snow! Consider using only found and recycled items to create your diorama.

## ACTIVITIES

With a stop watch, see who can name the most carols in the shortest amount of time.

**Make an ornament that involves your favorite moment in the show.**

Using the play as your jumping off point, what happens next? What happens to Bangles and Scrunchie? What lesson did they learn?

**Break into small groups and come up with a brand new Christmas carol. It can be sung based on popular music, but it must be brand new words.**

There are many different holidays celebrated this time of year. Go around the class and have students name their favorite traditions from their own home.

## Carol dates!

Christmas Carols play a key part of the show. Here are some of the dates of some of our favorite carols!

Silent Night	1818
Jingle Bells	1850-ish
O Tannenbaum	1827
White Christmas	1940
Rudolph...Reindeer	1949
Mele Kalikimaka	1949



## This holiday season, make the world a better place!

The best thing about Santa Claus is that he puts others first and he loves to give gifts. Here are some activities you can do a class that are centered around giving and putting others first:

### 1. Make sure those in your

**community have a good holiday.**

Choose a local charity as a class. Then make a pledge to gather as many items as possible and donate them. This will help make sure more families in your community have a good holiday season. Items to consider collecting are canned food items, coats or winter clothing and toys.

**2. Holiday Mail for Heroes.** Every year, the Red Cross collects holiday cards and letters and sends them to military members overseas. Have everyone in class send holiday mail to troops. Check out this link to find out more! [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**3. Gift Exchange!** Have everyone in class put their name into a hat. Then have each person draw a name. Whoever they draw that's who they will give a gift to. They can make gifts or cards in class and exchange them. You can even have a contest to decide who gave the most thoughtful gift!

### 4. Letter to Santa with a Twist!

Have students write a letter to Santa. The only rule is that they can't ask for anything for themselves! They can ask for something for a classmate, teacher, brother or sister, or even people they don't know!

## EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES!



Search for the best holiday stories! Have students read holiday stories and report about them in class OR create miniature plays about their favorite holiday tales. Consider the following stories-The Gift of the Magi, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, A Christmas Carol.

Read about other winter holidays besides Christmas and report on them, or discuss them as a class. How are they similar to Christmas? How are they different? Consider reading about the following holidays: Kwanza, Hanukkah and The Chinese New Year.



## AMAZING ELF ADVENTURES!



After students see the play, challenge them to remember all of the adventures Scrunchie and Bangles had during the show. Break students into groups and have them reenact different parts of the story; from Scrunchie's song to losing the presents, singing carols, leaving the Santa Compound and finally meeting Santa and being named elves of the year. You can also have students imagine what other adventures an elf could go on and act them out in class, or have students create and draw their own elf character. Have students give their Elf a name and decide what they could do to become the next Elf of the Year!

### Christmas Around the World

There is a town in India named Santa Claus!

Dutch children use wooden shoes instead of stockings to put out for Santa.

Poinsettia flowers are originally from Mexico and they are also known as "Flower of the Holy Night."

In Syria, Christmas gifts are brought by one of the Wise Men's camels!

In Armenia, they eat fried fish and spinach for Christmas Eve dinner.

Electric Christmas lights were first used in 1854.





## YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

**Where to start:** All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

**In School!** Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

**In Your Community!** Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

**Start Something!** If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

**At Home!** Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

## Try new things and do your best at them!

There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!

# Before, During and After the Play...



## BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



## After seeing the Play...

**Write your own review of the play!** A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him-- the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"



# Everything about the Theatre!



**A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!**

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## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Actor:** The people on-stage performing the play.

**Backdrop:** The background for the play.

**Props:** Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

**Downstage:** the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.



**Upstage:** The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

**Director:** The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

## Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

## ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

**Costumes:** The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters .



**Auditions:** How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

**Set Designer:** The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

**The Process of a Play:**

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?



## BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

## CHRISTMAS WITH SANTA

Created by Bright Star Touring Theatre-Lead Authorship carried out by David Ostergaard, All Rights Reserved.

Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

## CHRISTMAS WITH SANTA

Made its debut in November of 2013  
National Tour

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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