



Creative CHRISTMAS Activities



Each letter of the word 'Christmas' has been used to identify a thinking question or prompt - have a go at some of these suggested activities for the festive season, all designed to stimulate student thinking.

N.b. Some suggestions are suitable or adaptable for use with a range of age groups, some have been identified specific for the primary/secondary context.

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|  | <p>Convince your parents to buy you a PS5. Record responses on a <i>Cause Effect</i> Frame (slide 1).</p> |
|  | <p>How many words can you make from e.g. 'snowflake'?</p> <p>How is Alan Titchmarsh's poem 'A New Nativity' (slide 2) challenging modern celebrations of Christmas?</p> <p>Record on <i>Defining</i> Frame (slides 3 and 4).</p> |
|  | <p>Research two contrasting ways that Christmas is celebrated around the world.</p> <p>Record on <i>Compare Contrast</i> Frame (slide 5).</p> |
|  | <p>Invent your own jokes for Christmas crackers. Record on a <i>Defining</i> Frame (slide 6).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Is it always better to give than to receive? If you could be Santa Claus for a day, who would be the top three priority people for you to visit to leave gifts and why? <i>Philosophical questioning – discuss!</i></p> |



Sequence the story of the first Christmas/Nativity story.

Sequence a mathematical calculation to work out the number of turkeys consumed on Christmas day.

Record on a *Sequencing* Frame ([slide 7](#)).



Think-Puzzle-Explore

Use this Visible Thinking Routine to a picture stimulus such as:

- Banksy's - Mary and Joseph can't make it to Bethlehem ([slide 8](#))
- OR
- Glasgow: no room for the 3 Kings (Artist unknown), ([slide 9](#)),
- OR
- Jesus's startup: the hipster nativity set by San Diego-based company Modern Nativity ([slide 10](#)).

Instructions for Think-Puzzle-Explore ([slide 11](#)).



Make a speech to defend Santa Claus rewarding only well-behaved children.

Record initial ideas on a *Cause Effect* frame ([slide 12](#)).

Record order on a *Sequencing* frame ([slide 7](#)).

OR

Make use of the Habits of Mind to argue those demonstrated by Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem.

Record on a *Describing* frame ([slide 13](#)) - then make links with HoM. Record on a *Compare Contrast* frame to show the different Habits of Mind between them ([slide 14](#)).

OR

Memory Christmas activity

Ref www.thephilosophyman.com/blog

Play this game, which is a variation on, "I went shopping and I bought...", using Christmas activities as the focus to be remembered, e.g. -

A: I wish you a merry Christmas with an enormous turkey.

B: I wish you a merry Christmas with an enormous turkey and an epic snowball fight.

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| | <p><i>A: I wish you a merry Christmas with an enormous turkey, an epic snowball fight and cosiness.</i></p> <p>The game continues with as many things as the partners can remember.</p> |
|  | <p>Alphabet Key - can you identify a Christmas word beginning with each letter of the alphabet?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Advertising</p> <p>View the John Lewis Christmas accessible at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTttgc0DPA4&ab_channel=JackH2013</p> <p>Discuss responses to stimulus questions, such as - <i>What are the key themes of the advert?</i> <i>Why might it be controversial for some people?</i> <i>Why did the main character choose to keep it secret? How would you explain its key message?</i></p> |
|  | <p>See-Think-Wonder</p> <p>Use a photograph stimulus such as that provided on slide 15 and facilitate responses using the See-Think-Wonder Visible Thinking Routine (slide 16).</p> |