

Card 1

Christmas Puddings

Christmas puddings were introduced to the UK in Victorian times by Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert. The puddings looked and tasted very much as they do today. However, in those days they were all made at home and all the ingredients had to be chopped and mixed by hand. Nowadays most people buy them from supermarkets. People sometimes pour brandy over the puddings and set fire to them.



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Card 1 Questions

1. Who introduced Christmas puddings to the UK?

2. Where were Christmas puddings made in Victorian times?

3. Where do people buy their Christmas puddings nowadays?

4. What do people sometimes do to Christmas puddings?

Card 2

Reindeer Facts

- Both male and female reindeer grow antlers.
- They live up to 15 years!
- Their antlers are like our fingerprints - no two are the same!
- They are plant eaters!
- A male is called a buck, a female a doe and a baby is called a fawn.
- They are called reindeer in Europe and caribou in America.



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Card 2 Questions

1. Why are reindeer antlers like our finger prints?

2. What do reindeer eat?

3. What is a baby reindeer called?

4. What are reindeer called in America?

Card 3

The Robin

The robin is a popular visitor to gardens and is well-known for its tameness. In the winter they will regularly visit a bird-table to eat kitchen scraps. Robins have become symbols of Christmas-time in Britain and pictures of them are often shown on Christmas cards.



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Card 3 Questions

1. What are robins well known for?

2. When do robins visit bird-tables?

3. Why do robins visit bird-tables?

4. Where might you see a picture of a robin?

Card 4

The Christmas Cracker

Christmas crackers are a Christmas favourite in the UK. They were first made over 100 years ago by a London sweet maker called Tom Smith.

One night, while he was sitting in front of his log fire, he became very interested in the sparks and cracks coming from the fire. Suddenly, he thought what a fun idea it would be, if his sweets could be opened with a crack when their fancy wrappers were pulled in half. It was from this idea that Tom Smith created the first Christmas cracker.



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Card 4 Questions

1. When were Christmas crackers first made?

2. Who created the Christmas cracker?

3. Where was Tom Smith from?

4. What gave Tom Smith the idea of making a Christmas cracker?

Card 5

Stuck in the Loft

Mum had taken Amy to school and left Dad with a list of jobs. He had to get the Christmas decorations from the loft and take Toby for a walk.

Dad decided to get the decorations first. He got some step ladders and put them carefully under the door to the loft. He climbed into the loft and started to look around. Just then, the postman delivered some cards. Toby was so excited, he rushed downstairs barking. But he knocked the ladders over, leaving poor Dad stranded in the loft.



"You silly dog! Mum won't be back until 4 o' clock, so no walk for you today. Serves you right!" shouted Dad.

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Card 5 Questions

1. What jobs had Mum left for Dad?

2. How did Dad get into the loft?

3. Why did Dad call Toby a silly dog?

4. When did Dad expect Mum to return from the shops?

Card 6

Christmas Morning

"He's been!" shouted Alex when he saw the stack of Christmas presents at the end of his bed. Quickly, he scrambled across to the presents and began to rip the paper off the biggest, brightest looking present. "It's a bicycle!" he shrieked, excitedly. Next, he picked up the smallest present and as he began to open it, he could hear a tick-tock, tick-tock sound coming from the tiny parcel.



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Card 6 Questions

1. Who do you think had been to Alex's house?

2. Where were Alex's presents?

3. What was inside the first present that Alex opened?

4. What do you think could have been inside the second present opened by Alex?

Card 7

Fun Facts about Santa's Elves



- Santa's Elves are small, magical creatures who help Santa throughout the year.
- They live in tiny, colourful houses in the North Pole.
- Elves decorate their houses with Christmas decorations all year round.
- They have pointy ears and rosy cheeks.
- Elves' favourite things to eat are biscuits and sweets. Mrs Claus looks after the elves by making sure they also eat fruits and vegetables.
- All of Santa's Elves are less than 1 metre tall.

Card 7 Questions

1. Where do Santa's elves live?

2. When do Santa's elves decorate their houses?

3. How does Mrs Claus look after the elves?

4. How tall are Santa's elves?

Card 8

A Letter to Santa

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy all year. I have helped Mum do lots of jobs. I have taken Buster for little walks, I have been kind to my friends at school and I have tried to remember to brush my teeth.

For Christmas, I would like:

- A football shirt
- A new game for my PlayStation
- Some new trainers (no laces please)

Thank you

Matthew



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Card 8 Questions

1. What is Matthew's dog called?

2. Who has Matthew been kind to?

3. What kind of shirt does Matthew want?

4. Why do you think Matthew doesn't want laces in his trainers?

Card 9

Delivering Cards

Mum asked Daisy and Tom to deliver Christmas Cards to the neighbours. "Great," said Daisy, "that will be fun." They got all dressed up with scarves, boots and woolly hats and picked up the pile of cards Mum had written. The first house they delivered to was Mrs Brown, who lived next door. She was an old lady who lived on her own. She was always very kind to the children. As they walked up the path, the front door opened and Mrs Brown greeted them with a big smile. "Hello children, what can I do for you on this cold winter's night?"



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Card 9 Questions

1. What did Mum ask the children to do?

2. What did the children wear to deliver the cards?

3. Whose house did the children visit first ?

4. What was Mrs Brown like?

Card 10

The Turkey



Nine out of ten families in Britain have turkey for their Christmas dinner. Turkeys were first found in Mexico and South America 2000 years ago.



An English farmer called William Strickland bought six turkeys from Native Americans and brought them back to England 500 years ago. He bred them and soon had enough to sell at Christmas.



Other European countries have different traditional Christmas food. In Portugal they eat cod, in Germany they eat wild boar and venison (deer) and in Sweden they like shellfish.



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Card 10 Questions

1. Where were turkeys first found 2000 years ago?

2. Who brought turkeys back to England?

3. Which food is eaten in Portugal at Christmas?

4. Where is wild boar and venison eaten?

Card 11

Decorating the Tree

Max was helping Dad decorate the tree. He loved this job, it got him in the mood for Christmas.

First of all, Dad tested the lights to make sure they worked ... they did. Then Dad arranged them on the tree. Next Dad got the silver and gold tinsel and draped it all over the tree. Then it was Max's turn to put on the baubles and little toys. Finally, the angel had to be put on top of the tree. It was so high, Dad had to pick Max up and lift him so he could reach. When Dad put him down, they looked at the tree and smiled at a job well done.



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Card 11 Questions

1. Why did Max love decorating the tree?

2. What did Dad do first?

3. Who put the baubles on the tree?

4. Why did Dad pick Max up?

Card 12

Pigs in Blankets - Recipe

1. Get a pack of pork chipolata sausages and some streaky bacon.
2. Wrap each sausage with 2 rashers of streaky bacon and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
3. Place on a baking tray and place in a hot oven.
4. After 35 minutes, remove carefully from the oven.
5. Serve with roast turkey.



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Card 12 Questions

1. What kind of sausages should you use?

2. What kind of bacon should you use?

3. For how long should they be cooked?

4. With what meat should you serve your Pigs in Blankets?
