

Suggestions for using this resource

1. Enlarge planning sheet to A3 and photocopy (enough for 1 between 2). I have also included a blank planning sheet to give teachers/children the option of inserting their own headings.
2. Photocopy fact sheets 1 and 2 (enough for 1 between 2). Cut out each set of facts and place in envelopes. For this particular activity, I have also included some "fun facts" and pictures based around Santa's reindeer. The use of these is entirely optional but I find that they provide an extra element of Christmas fun as well an opening for discussion opportunities relating to fact and fiction.
3. Give each pair of children an envelope and a planning sheet and discuss subheadings.
4. Children sort facts into different sections on the planning sheet (point out that the facts have largely been written in note form). This part of your lesson provides an excellent opportunity to discuss paragraphing.
5. The images provided can be used to support some of the facts.
6. After sorting the facts into the different groups, children can stick them onto their planning sheet.
7. Using the report writing frame provided, teacher discuss/demonstrate how to use the notes to create sentences.
8. Give each child a report writing frame on which to draft their report (I enlarge mine to A3).

Notes

- *It is assumed that the teacher will have familiarised the children with the subject of reindeer and the features of a non chronological report prior to engaging in this activity.*
- *I have found that this activity works best when children work in mixed ability pairings for the sorting activity. I then ask them to work individually when writing the report. (Obviously, in the present climate - COVID19 - teachers may need to be creative in the way they allow their children to collaborate).*

- *Suggested differentiation:*

LA: include at least 2 facts under each subheading and 1 amazing fact.

MA: include at least 4 facts under each subheading and 1 amazing fact.

HA: include more than 4 facts under each subheading and 1 amazing fact.

I can plan a report.

What do reindeer look like?

What do reindeer eat?

Reindeer - Introduction

Where do they live?

What is it like there?

What do reindeer do?

Did you know?

(Amaze the reader!)

I can plan a report.

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Fact sheet 1

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| males and females grow antlers | thick, double layered coats to keep them warm |
| can be found in northern parts of Europe, North America and Asia | sense of sight and hearing not good - mainly rely on sense of smell |
| males usually bigger and heavier than females | herd animals - live in groups |
| antlers are like fingerprints - no two are the same. | can run fast - between 36 and 48 mph (much faster than Usain Bolt) |
| plant eaters (herbivores) | large cloven (split into 2) hooves - good for walking on soft ground |
| males are called bucks, females are called does, babies are called fawns | grey-brown fur - darker in summer and lighter in winter |
| live for up to 15 years | shed their antlers every year and new ones grow |

Fact sheet 2

| | |
|--|--|
| babies (calves) can run within a few hours of being born | after they shed their antlers, smaller animals and rodents eat them |
| reindeer predators include grey wolves, grizzly bears, brown bears, wolverines and golden eagles | polar bears don't usually hunt reindeer because they cannot catch them |
| the only mammal with eyes that change colour - in the summer, eyes look golden brown and in the winter they look blue | reindeer's milk has more fat than cow's milk to help calves grow big and strong |
| calves stay with mothers for up to two years | calves antlers start to grow 2 months after birth |
| live in herds for protection against predators - predators have more chance of attacking one reindeer than a large group of reindeer | Some can make clicking noises as they walk to communicate with other members of a herd during bad weather or blizzards |
| move around a lot - have been known to cover up to 3000 miles in a year | use hooves to dig holes in snow to find food in winter |
| eat sedges (grass like plants that grow in clumps), grasses, herbs, ferns and mosses in summer | eat lichens and fungi in winter |

Santa's reindeer fun "fact" sheet

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|---|---|
| <p>9 reindeer pull sleigh for Santa</p> | <p>Rudolf is Santa's lead reindeer - his red shiny nose lights the way</p> |
| <p>Santa's reindeer names - Rudolf, Dasher, Dancer, Vixen, Donner, Prancer, Comet, Blitzen and Cupid.</p> | <p>only Santa's reindeer can fly - Santa's has sprinkled them with magic dust</p> |
| <p>Magic reindeer food for Santa's reindeer: 1 cup of porridge, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sparkling stars, 1 heartful of Christmas hope</p> | <p>Like Santa, his reindeer are over 1200 years old.</p> |
| <p>Santa's reindeer can fly at a speed of 1000 mph</p> | <p>When not pulling sleigh, Santa's reindeer help the elves with present wrapping</p> |

Title

Introduction

Subheading 1

Subheading 2

Subheading 3

Did you know?



