

The Children's Theatre OF CINCINNATI

TEACHER CURRICULUM & ACTIVITY GUIDE

SANTA CLAUS THE MUSICAL

December 8-17 at the Taft Theatre



After 1,000 years of bringing Christmas joy to the children of the world, Santa Claus is ready to retire. But not all the Elves are thrilled about his chosen replacement, Nick, a website designer who's in for the adventure of his life, assisted by his tech-savvy daughter Beatrice. A sleigh-full of fun, energetic, original Christmas music to put you and your entire classroom in the holiday spirit.

CURRICULAR TIES

FINE ARTS

MUSIC is studied and sung to tell a story. Aural learners will connect with the rhythms and melodies inherent to this project-based learning.

DANCE is brought to life through the show's choreography. Kinesthetic learners will embrace the movement of the show.

DRAMA is investigated through character work and storytelling. Linguistic and interpersonal learners will engage with the written word, and collaborative process.

VISUAL ARTS are explored through set and costume design. Visual learners will delight in the physical construction of the world of the play.

GEOGRAPHY

THE NORTH POLE

The unique situation of Santa's fictional workshop in the real-world region of the North Pole offers opportunities to discover and study facts related to the northernmost point on planet earth. Also known as the Geographic North Pole or Terrestrial North Pole, is the northernmost point on planet Earth. At the North Pole, all directions point south, and all lines of longitude and latitude converge. In contrast to the South Pole, which lies on a continental land mass, the North Pole is located in the middle of the Arctic Ocean.

LANGUAGE ARTS/HISTORY

LITERATURE/WRITING/POP CULTURE

Students can read, comprehend, and analyze the construction of the story's text. Additional opportunities exist to discover and study other representations of Santa Claus throughout world history, and popular culture.

The modern image of Santa Claus evolved from traditions surrounding the historical figure Saint Nicholas (a Greek bishop from the 4th century), the British character of Father Christmas, and the Dutch character of Sinterklaas (himself based on St. Nicholas). Depicted traditionally as a chubby, joyful, white-bearded man, in a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, a red hat with white fur, carrying a bag full of gifts for children, the image became popular in the US and Canada in the 19th century, due to the influence of the 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, commonly known as "The Night Before Christmas." Over time, this depiction of Santa has been reinforced in song, radio, television, books, films, and advertising.





THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

CO-OPERATION, FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
SELF-ESTEEM, TRADITION

SUGGESTED READING

FOR GRADES K-2

•WHEN SANTA LOST HIS HO! HO! HO! by Laura Rader

FOR GRADES 3-6

•THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS by Clement Clarke Moore

FOR GRADES 7-12

•A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

GRADES K-2

QUESTION: “In the story, Santa’s list keeps track of who’s been naughty and who’s been nice this year. Based on how you behaved this year, would you be on the Naughty or the Nice Lists? Why?”

ACTIVITY: In SANTA CLAUS: THE MUSICAL, there are many elves who work for Santa. Although the elves often move as a group, they are all unique individuals. Each one is different!

People are unique, too. If YOU were to become one of Santa’s Elves, what would be your goofy name? What quirky things would you do? How would you walk around? What tools/technology do you use to make toys? In the box below, DRAW A PICTURE of yourself as one of Santa’s Elves. Use as many colors as you like, and show what kinds of toys you would make. Have fun!

GRADES 3-6

QUESTION: “Different cultures and communities celebrate the Holiday Season in different ways. How does your family celebrate the season?” (SHORT ESSAY or DISCUSSION)

ACTIVITY: In SANTA CLAUS: THE MUSICAL, Santa and the Elves are responsible for making and delivering toys to every child on earth! As you can imagine, even the Elves have a hard time keeping track of all those toys. That’s why we need your help! Read and solve the word problems below, using your basic math skills to find the solutions. Be sure to check your work.

1. There were 600 boxes of toy trains that were sent to New York City. Half as many boxes were sent to Toronto, Canada. How many boxes TOTAL were sent to the two cities? BONUS: If each box contains 100 toy trains, how many trains TOTAL were sent to the two cities?

2. Henchy, Santa’s Head Elf, needs to know how many candy canes can be made from one gallon of sugar. An elf tells Henchy that 1 cup of sugar makes 2 candy canes. If there are 16 cups in 1 gallon, how many candy canes can be made from 1 gallon of sugar? BONUS: How many gallons of sugar would you need to make 200 candy canes?

3. There are 1,444 elves working at Santa’s Workshop. If each elf works 38 hours per week, how many total work hours do they put in every week? BONUS: How many hours do they put in every three weeks?

ANSWER KEY: 1. $600 + 600(1/2) = 900$ Toy Trains. BONUS: $900(100) = 90,000$ Toy Trains | 2. $16(2) = 32$ Candy Canes. BONUS: $200/32 = 6.25$ gallons | 3. $1,444(38) = 54,872$ hours. $1,444(38)(2) = 109,744$ hours

GRADES 7-12

QUESTION: “In the story, Henchy, the Head Elf, learns to set aside his selfish desires, and work together with Nick and the others in order to save Christmas. How, and with whom, do YOU co-operate for mutual benefit in your own life?” (SHORT ESSAY or DISCUSSION)

ACTIVITY: In SANTA CLAUS: THE MUSICAL, Santa’s Workshop is located in the North Pole. Have students learn facts about the North Pole through internet research in a fun and competitive fact collection game!

Materials: Internet Access; Paper/Pencil; Index Cards

•Divide students into teams.

•Have each team research and collect as many facts about the North Pole as possible in an allotted time frame (5-20 minutes). Each fact should be written on a separate index card.

•Once time is up, teams alternate in turns, sharing facts from their index cards. Each fact shared earns the team one point.

•Facts may not be repeated. If a team shares a fact that the other team has collected, that fact cannot be used by the other team.

•The team with the most facts shared wins the game.