



# SANTA CLAUS is

Christmas would not be Christmas without Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve children around the world anxiously wait for the arrival of the white-bearded jolly old man also known as Father Christmas, Der Weihnachtsmann or Père Noël.

It all started long ago, in a land which is now called Turkey. Bishop Nicholas was a very wealthy and generous man who loved to make children happy. He often gave joy to poor children by throwing gifts in through their windows. It is for this reason that St Nicholas became the patron saint of children.

The stories about St Nicholas made their way to the United States with the Dutch immigrants who started calling him Santa Claus. This Dutch-American Saint Nick achieved his fully Americanised form in 1823 in the poem, "A Visit from Saint Nicholas", more commonly known as "The Night Before Christmas" by writer Clement Clarke Moore. Moore included the names of the reindeer in his poem. Nowadays, every American child knows that the eight reindeer are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen, thanks also to television and the movie industry.



## ACTIVITIES

Photocopy this picture of Santa Claus with his eight reindeer. Ask the children to copy the names of the reindeer on the bottom of the sheet.

### Merry Christmas



The eight reindeer are:

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 ..... | 5 ..... |
| 2 ..... | 6 ..... |
| 3 ..... | 7 ..... |
| 4 ..... | 8 ..... |

ENLARGE TO USE

## ACTIVITIES

Ask your pupils to colour and cut out this door hanger which they can hang on their doors to welcome Santa on Christmas Eve.



ENLARGE TO USE

# coming to town

Children all over the world send letters to Santa Claus because they believe that he arrives on Christmas Eve, on a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. He slides down the chimney or comes in through the window and leaves gifts under the tree and in the socks that children have put on the end of their beds. Most children leave a plate of biscuits and a glass of milk for busy old Santa Claus. Then off he goes... back home. Where is home? The North Pole of course!



Dear Santa,

My name is .....

My surname is .....

I live in .....

I am a good .....

For Christmas I want a .....  
..... and a .....

.....

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year

## Teach your pupils this Santa Claus song!

Where is Santa Claus? Where is Santa Claus?

one child pretends to look for Santa

Here I am! Here I am!

one child pretending to be Santa with hands on belly answers

Merry Christmas (child's name)  
Merry Christmas (child's name)

child pretending to be Santa answers and shakes hands with child named

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

child pretending to be Santa holds his belly and laughs

(Sing it to the tune of "Are you sleeping?")