

Objective: For children to see the similarities and differences of how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

### Materials

Non-fiction books on Christmas in different countries.

Pictures, posters or photos of Christmas celebrations around the world. (You could even find some on the internet.)

A world globe or map.

A large blanket which you can pretend is a sleigh.

Elf hats (optional).

### Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes\*

#### **Outcome 1:** Children

- move confidently around the room with care and respect for others. They can enjoy moving within their own space, while taking care to respect the personal space of others.
- can safely experiment with the different ways their body can move, and the different ways it can occupy space (up high, bending low, sitting, stretching).

#### **Outcome 2:** Children

- develop a sense of belonging to a group, by participating in a shared movement experience.
- respond to diversity with respect through a greater understanding of how Christmas is celebrated in other countries.

#### **Outcome 3:** Children

- develop social, emotional and physical wellbeing through participation in an enjoyable guided dramatic play experience which gives them physical exercise.

#### **Outcome 4 :** Children

- transfer and adapt the knowledge they have gained from books, pictures and discussions on Christmas, into a meaningful creative movement experience.
- resource their learning, connecting people, place and materials through drama.

#### **Outcome 5:** Children

- interact verbally and non-verbally with others, throughout their adventure around the world.

### Extension Ideas

Find China, Japan and France on a world globe. What other countries do children know?

Make a Japanese Christmas cake.

Learn a Christmas poem or song.

Repeat the experience, visiting different countries.

### Instructions

Using your globe, books and pictures, talk about Christmas around the world. Discuss the fact that many, but not all countries celebrate Christmas, and that some celebrate in similar ways to us, and some celebrate differently.

Give each child an elf hat if using these, and explain that you are all going to be Santa's elves. You are going to go for a ride on his sleigh, around the world, to see how children are celebrating Christmas in other countries. Dramatise a sleigh ride with your 'elves', using the points below as a guide. Visit these countries:

1. China—notice the Christmas trees are called 'Trees of Light'. They are decorated with paper chains, paper flowers and paper lanterns. (Help Santa fill their stockings. Sshh Don't wake them!)
2. Japan—the children like their presents left beside their pillow. Look! They have left us some Christmas cake. It's sponge cake covered in whipped cream and strawberries! Yum!
3. France—the children have left their shoes out by the fireplace so Santa can put their gifts in. Let's help Santa!

Visit more countries if you choose, and then fly safely back to Santa's house for a well deserved mug of hot chocolate!

### Key Learning Areas Skills and Knowledge

#### Literacy/Vocabulary (English)

Positional language—up, down, high, low, over, in, next.

Following instructions/directions.

#### Health and Physical Education

Gross Motor Skills -'flying' on the 'sleigh', creeping around while exploring homes and delivering presents.

#### SOSE (Studies of Society and Environment)

How are our Christmas celebrations alike?

How are they different?

#### The Arts

Dramatising a Christmas sleigh ride around the world.

### Global Kids Oz Linked Resources

Whole World mini book and CD

World Wide Know Your World Activity Pack