



Activities for Fred Koch's Tis the Season CD

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Grades Pre-K - 3 / Teachers/Parents

1. Must Be Santa

- Create a cutout (either out of felt for a felt board, or out of laminated paper for a white board) of Santa (only in his long johns) and each of the following items that are mentioned in the song: a long white beard, moon and stars, boots, a red suit, a long cap for his head, a big cherry nose, a talking bubble that says, “Ho, Ho, Ho!”, and eight reindeer with a sleigh. Before the song is played, put the Santa cutout on the board (if using a white board, put it up with sticky putty) and then give each student one of the item cutouts. As the song is played, have the students dress Santa and create the night scene as each of the items is mentioned.
- Teach the students motions to do during the song. You can make up your own, or if you are interested in teaching them motions based on sign language, check out the American Sign Language Browser at: <http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm> for video clips of the words being signed that you want to focus on.
- Talk with your students about the origins of Santa Claus. You could read “The Night Before Christmas” by Clement C. Moore, which is where most of our society’s ideas about Santa comes from.
- Use this song with “Up On the Housetop,” “Here Comes Santa Claus,” and “Jolly Old St. Nicholas” for a Santa Claus theme.

2. Up On the Housetop

- Have the students illustrate the three verses of the song, as well as the chorus.
- Ask your students, “What would you have Santa leave in a stocking for you?”
- Use this song with “Must Be Santa,” “Here Comes Santa Claus,” and “Jolly Old St. Nicholas” for a Santa Claus theme.

3. Oh Come Little Children (instrumental)

- Listen to this song during writing time or during transitions.

4. Sleigh Bells Jingling

- Play the song throughout winter as a way to bring the class together before discussions or circle times, story times, etc.
- Have the students illustrate the song.

5. Silver Bells

- This songwriter thinks of Christmas-time whenever he sees or hears silver bells. Ask the students what causes them to think of Christmas-time. Have them each write a short poem, story, or song about that.
- Have the students illustrate the song, verse by verse.
- Have the students describe Christmas-time through writings or drawings.
- Talk about the holiday of Christmas, its origin, and traditions inherent in it. Read picture books to the class about Christmas.

6. Hanukkah Medley

- Teach the students gross motor actions that they can do during the song:
 - During the 1st and 5th lines: run in place
 - During the 2nd and 6th lines: squat up and down
 - During the 3rd and 7th lines: run in place
 - During the 4th and 8th lines: spin around in place
- Talk about the holiday of Hanukkah, its origins, and traditions inherent in it. Read picture books to the class about Hanukkah.
- Have the students illustrate each verse of the song.

7. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth

- In the song, the girl wants her two front teeth for Christmas. Have them write a persuasive letter asking for what they'd like. Challenge the students to also think about non-material things, too.
- Have the students write about a time when they lost one or more of their teeth.

8. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (instrumental)

- Listen to this song during writing times or transitions.

9. Here Comes Santa Claus

- Bring different types and sizes of bells for the students to play during the song. Have them practice staying on the beat. Talk about the differences in sound with the different types and sizes of the bells.

10. Jolly Old St. Nicholas

- The child singing this song told Santa what some of his friends would like for Christmas. Ask the students, “If you could give your friends anything, what would you give them and why?”

11. Jingle Bells

- Same activity with bells as in “Here Comes Santa Claus.”
- Share some paintings that depict life when sleighs were common - Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, etc.
 - Do an artist study or a comparative study of two different artists.
 - Have the students try to paint in the style of the artist shared, and then have students create their own style of painting.

12. Cold is the Morning

- Discuss love, joy, peace, and goodwill qualities that people talk about at Christmas time.
 - Have students come up with examples they’ve seen of people demonstrating these qualities.
 - Have students write one thing they can do in the next week that would demonstrate one or more of these qualities.

13. Sleigh Ride

- Have the students listen to the music and draw or paint to the rhythm of the song.
- Use during writing times or during transitions.

14. Oh Christmas Tree

- Have students decorate a Christmas tree or create one out of paper.
- Read picture books about the origin of the Christmas tree.
- Bring in small branches (with needles) from several different types of Christmas trees. Have the students compare and contrast them, creating a chart or diagram.

15. Feliz Navidad

- In small groups, have the students research the Christmas customs and traditions from the different parts of Latin America. Then have the groups compare and contrast the traditions from Spain and Central and South America.

For more information on Fred Koch’s *Tis the Season*, visit www.bestchildrensmusic.com (under Holiday Music)

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