





e're excited to share the Holiday Activity Guide with you as a part of our *Homeschooling Today* family. We want to walk alongside you and give you the encouragement and practical help you need for this homeschooling journey.

This guide is made exclusively for you, our subscribers, in order to do that second part—give you *practical help!*

With it, you can take advantage of the holiday season to make learning both meaningful and fun! The printables, ideas, and hands-on activities you'll find in this guide will benefit your kids in several ways:

Educationally. The more kids see the connection between what they are learning and the real world, the more they understand. By relating the things they are doing with the season they are in, learning will be more impactful.

Relationally. By doing hands-on activities together you are building more than knowledge. You're also building relationships! Quality time together is one of the reasons you probably chose to homeschool. That's why we want to encourage you to do these activities alongside your children. Not only will this benefit your kids, *you'll have more fun homeschooling too!*

In our Holiday Activity Guide you'll find:

- A very grinchy activity. We're sharing everything green and grinchy for your holiday season. It's full of fun resources including links to snacks for a movie night, conversation starters, links to the best arts and crafts, and ideas for fun writing activities.
- A holiday bucket list printable. Discover some ideas for building family relationships this holiday season and create your own bucket list.
- An excerpt from Profiles from History. History will come alive as students read interesting facts about Squanto and do fun activities.
- A chalk pastel project from our friends at YOU ARE AN ARTIST. Nana will show your kids how to use chalk pastels to create a picture of the Star of Bethlehem. It's the perfect project for kids of all ages!
- An excerpt from the Christmas Unit Study by Amanda Bennett. We've selected a section from one of our favorite unit studies, Christmas, to share with you. And there are two levels, so you can enjoy doing it with all of your students.
- Group games perfect for your holiday gatherings. What better way to really get to know your family and friends than through group games? Let's face it... games showcase personalities like nothing else! And we are sharing some of our fun favorites.
- A chance to slow down and enjoy some poetry. Poetry teatimes give you the chance to slow down, enjoy one another, and find a love of poetry together. We'll share how!
- Activity sheets and puzzles. You'll find puzzles and activity sheets including a Christmas Photo Scavenger Hunt the whole family can enjoy.
- Story starters and coloring sheets. You children can create stories on their own or as a group. We also give you a variety of holiday themed coloring sheets. They are a great way to bring kids of all ages together around the table.
- A devotional for your family to do together during the holiday season. Focus on a few verses each week and gather around the table to talk about them with our conversation starters.

We hope this Holiday Activity Guide is a valuable resource for you as you homeschool boldly!

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A Christmas Poetry Teatime Poetry and family

togetherness!

O Holy Night

An excerpt from the Christmas Unit Study Adventure[™] by Amanda Bennett

Holiday Bucket List

Ideas to help you create your own list of things to do this holiday season

A Grinchy Christmas Seussical activities you can enjoy as a family

Story Starters & Coloring Pages Silly story starters and coloring pages for all ages

Activity Pages A "look & find" activity for your littlest learners and puzzles for your older ones.

A Profile of: Squanto

An excerpt from *Profiles from History* Volume 1 by Ashley Wiggers

Star of Bethlehem Chalk Art Tutorial

A great art activity for every age by Nana & Tricia Hodges

Group Games for Holiday Fun

Some of our favorite group games to make you laugh together

What I'm Thankful For A project about gratitude for young learners

Gather Around the Table Devotional

Weekly Scripture focuses and conversation starters to remember why we celebrate

A CHRISTMAS

by Kay Chance

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POETRY. The word strikes real to hearts of many moms whose experiences were less than enjoyable. However, poetry can be both a fun and creative outlet for kids, especially when it's associated with good memories. So take some time this holiday season to enjoy poetry with a Christmas Poetry Teatime.

We began doing poetry teatimes when my children were in elementary school after I read about the idea from Julie Bogart of Brave Writer fame. It quickly became one of my boys' favorite activities.

Getting Ready

For your Christmas-inspired poetry teatime, begin by baking some favorite Christmas cookies together. We love Molasses-Spice Crinkles! (Recipe here) If you don't have time for homemade cookies, festive store-bought cookies or slice-and-bake ones work just fine!

Let your kids decorate the table. This is a great time to get out the "fine china" or Christmas dishes that are rarely used or simply grab holiday-themed paper plates. Don't let the word teatime make you think you have to serve tea, although my oldest developed a love for mint teas through our teatimes. Whether you serve milk or hot chocolate or spiced tea (instant spiced tea recipe), poetry teatime isn't really about the food or the drink. It's about creating memories and helping your kids associate poetry with joy.

Enjoying Poetry During Teatime

As you sit around the table enjoying your special treats, begin by reading some Christmas poetry. Click below to view the suggestions listed:

• 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

• The Twelve Days of Christmas

Little Tree

For Christmas Day: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

After reading the poems together, write your own poetry. If you have studied and written poetry before, you may want to let your kids choose the type of poetry they will write. However, if this is something new, a pattern poem might be the best choice.

Writing Pattern Poetry

The Acrostic Poem

When writing an acrostic poem, choose a word or short phrase to write vertically down the page. According to the ages and abilities of your students, they can either write a word or phrases for each letter that relates to the acrostic word itself. Older students may even form entire sentences or verses and use rhyme in their poems. Below are some examples of both simple and more advanced versions using the word LIGHT.

Simple Versions

- Little bulbs Inky night **G**limmering candles Hearts aglow Twinkling star
- Lights Illumine and Glow with a Holiday inspired Twinkle.

More Advanced Versions

Little bulbs on Christmas trees Inky night with stars alight Glimmering candles in windowsills Hearts aglow with Jesus' love Twinkling star leading wise men from afar The darkness dispelled the first Christmas night

Little baby lies In a manger while Good news is Heralded by angels:

Tips

• Brainstorm words together that are related to the word you've chosen for the poem.

- Have a dictionary and thesaurus handy.
- Talk about ideas together as a family. When someone gets stuck, encourage them to ask for help.
- Make it a group project by having the whole family collaborate on a poem.

The Diamante Poem

A diamante poem is a seven-line poem that forms the shape of a diamond. It's a great way to practice using some of the most common parts of speech too!

The Pattern

The first and last line of the poem each have one word—a noun (the name of a person, place, thing, or idea)

The second and sixth lines each have two words—adjectives (describing words)

The third and fifth lines have three words verbs (words that show action)

The forth line contains four words—nouns

You can think of it this way:

Line 1: Noun Line2: Adjective, Adjective Line 3: Verb, Verb, Verb Line 4: Noun, Noun, Noun, Noun Line 5: Verb, Verb, Verb Line 6: Adjective, Adjective Line 7: Noun

Possible words or phrases to use for your Acrostic poems

Light Advent Christmas Holiday Baby Jesus Manger Bethlehem Angels Cookies Snowman Hot Chocolate Winter

"Poetry can be both a fun and creative outlet for kids, especially when it's associated with good memories."

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Traditionally, the first and last words are either synonyms (similar words) or antonyms (opposite words). But you could even choose words that are simply related to one another around the Christmas theme. For example, it might look something like this:

Shepherds

Lowly, Humble Wait, Watch, Wonder Flocks, Night, Appearance, Light Assure, Announce, Praise Heavenly, Awe-inspiring Angels

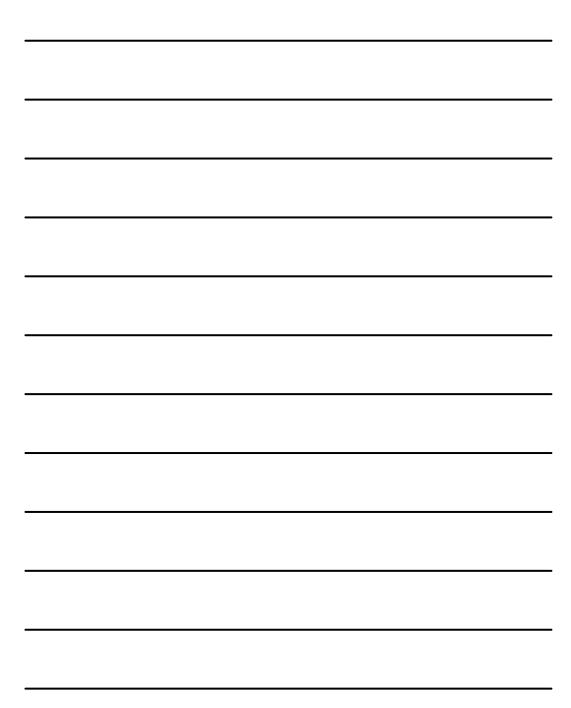
Once again, take time to brainstorm words for the poems. Begin by listing holiday or winter-type words that are synonyms, antonyms, or simply related. Then list words that are adjectives, verbs, and nouns to go with each of those words. Have a dictionary available so your kids can look up what part of speech a word is, if needed.

Have Fun

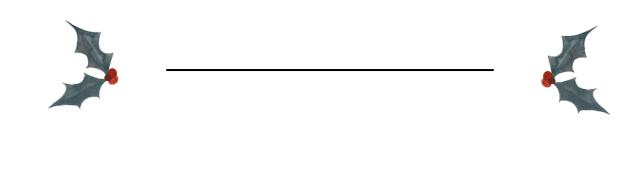
Yes, your kids may learn to appreciate poetry and write some of their own. The best part of a Christmas poetry teatime, though, is the chance to enjoy and encourage one another around a shared activity.

ay Chance homeschooled her children for fifteen years. While teaching them, she discovered a passion for writing and developing curriculum resources. She loves sharing natural learning methods and creative lesson ideas with other homeschooling parents. Kay is the co-executive editor of *Homeschooling Today* magazine and the author of the older extensions for the *Trail Guide to Learning* series. She makes her home in Texas with her husband Brian.















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O Holy Night



Celebrating the Savior

Enjoy the following excerpt from *Christmas* by Amanda Bennett and <u>UnitStudy.com</u>

Christmas is a special time of rejoicing as we celebrate the birth of the Son of God, the Messiah. In this Christmas unit study, learn what the world was like at the time of Christ's birth and understand the significance the coming Savior had for so many people. Read about the prophecies that were fulfilled by His birth, and begin to clearly see God's hand in history since the very beginning of time.

In this Excerpt ...

Christmas can be such a fun time full of treats, decorations, gifts, and parties. But in all the festivities, it's easy to lose sight of why we celebrate Christmas in the first place. In this excerpt, your children will turn their focus back to the reason for the season and think about what it looks like in your family.

Book Suggestions to Learn More

Jotham's Journey: A Storybook for Advent by Arnold Ytreeide ISBN: 0825441749

The Christmas Child: A Story of Coming Home

by Max Lucado ISBN: 0849917689

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson ISBN: 9780064402750





Learning Objectives:

- Recognizing the celebration of Christmas and what it means to the student.
- Learning more about the story of Christ's birth—specifically Mary and the events that occurred prior to Jesus' birth.
- Becoming familiar with the geography of the Middle East at the time of Jesus' birth.
- Developing an understanding of the observation of the Advent celebration.



Christmas: Week One — Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today we are going to begin our study of Christmas by looking at the student's thoughts about Christmas.

Take Me There

Video: "That's What Christmas is All About, Charlie Brown"

Video: Kids Sing Christmas Songs

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Christmas Journal:

"In him was life; and that life was the light of all mankind."

(John 1:4)

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Christmas Journal. **Website suggestions**: <u>Word Central</u> and <u>Webster's 1828 Dictionary</u>

Christ Lord find	
wait	-

Interesting People and Places

Using your Bible, or the Internet site shown below, look up **Jesus**. Who was He, and who were His earthly parents? Write or narrate the answers for your journal. **Website suggestion**: <u>Jesus' Story</u>

Read and Discover

Using your Bible, books, or the Internet sites shown below, read the following questions and find the answers. Write or narrate your answers for your journal.

- 1. When we celebrate Thanksgiving, we are giving thanks for God's blessings. What do we celebrate at Christmas? When your family celebrates Christmas, what are they celebrating?
- 2. What does your family do to celebrate this holiday? Write or narrate a story about Christmas at your house, including your favorite parts of the celebration!

Internet Resources

Keeping Christ in Christmas for Children The Real Story



Christmas: Week One — Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Take Me There Video: Kids Sing "Mary Did You Know?"

Video: Apollo 8's Christmas Eve Message

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Christmas Journal:

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—"

(John 1:10–12)

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Christmas Journal. **Website suggestions**: <u>Webster's 1828 Dictionary</u> and <u>Dictionary.com</u>

prophecy foretold advent carpenter

Interesting People and Places

Using your Bible or the Internet sites shown below, look up **Jesus**. Who was he? Summarize your answer in your journal. **Website suggestions**: <u>Jesus</u> and <u>The Ministry of Jesus</u>

Read and Discover

Using your Bible, books, or Internet site shown below, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your journal along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

- 1. How does your family celebrate Christmas? Write at least two paragraphs that describe your favorite Christmas holiday memory in your journal.
- 2. What does "messiah" mean, as it is used in the Bible? Here is a **website suggestion**: <u>Easton's Bible Dictionary</u>
- 3. What does Christmas mean to you—what does it represent? Write a paragraph that explains your idea of what Christmas is about to you personally in your journal.



Family Holiday Bucket List

Brainstorm ideas of the things you as a family want to do this holiday season. Be sure to add both big and small things!

Ideas	
 Create a "thankful tree" to add leaves to with what we are thankful for 	
 Watch the Macy's Day parade together while have a picnic breakfast 	
 Bake cookies together to take to neighbors 	
 Have another family over for a holiday themed group game night 	
 Serve somewhere in the community 	
 Make Christmas cards Have a Christmas movie marathon day 	
 Sing carols with a group of friends around the 	
neighborhoodRead an advent devotional each night	
 Go on a winter nature walk 	

Have each member of the family choose one thing from the list that is their top priority (parent approved, of course!). Write those down below.

Our Family Holiday Bucket List

Write your finalized bucket list below and then hang it somewhere the whole family can see. Check off each item as you do it. Note: *Be sure to schedule activities in your planner to make sure they happen!*

	•



The Book

Read the book by Dr. Seuss or watch it read on YouTube: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas - Read Aloud Picture Book | Brightly Storytime*

What to Watch

How the Grinch Stole Christmas!—The original 1966 version is airing on NBC: Friday, November 27, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. ET. *And* on November 1 it will be available on the streaming service Peacock.

You may also want to check out this fun adaptation: *Illumination Presents Dr. Seuss' The Grinch.* You can find it on Amazon and Google Play.

Snacks for Movie Night

- Grinch Fruit Kabobs
- Easy Grinch Cookie Recipe with M&Ms for Christmas
- Grinch Popcorn
- Grinch Float
- Whoville Cookies (Christmas Pinwheel Cookies Recipe)

Conversation Starters

- Describe the Grinch—what he looks like and how he acts.
- When you hear the name Grinch, what characteristics do you think of? (Characteristics can be things like happy or sad, grumpy or pleasant, angry or kind.)
- Who was your favorite character in the story and why?
- If you could *be* one character, who would it be and why?
- What was your favorite "scene" in either the book or movie? Why?
- What was the best gift you've ever been given?
- What was the best gift you have given someone else?
- What made the Grinch change his ways?
- What was he like after that?
- Tell about a time something happened that changed the way you thought about things or helped you change a behavior.
- What do you think the true meaning of Christmas is?
- Does gift giving have a place in our celebration of Christmas? Why or why not?



Arts & Crafts

We love our partners at YOU ARE AN ARTIST, and they share one of their chalk pastel projects in this guide—the Star of Bethlehem. They also have a FREE lesson that teaches how to draw the Grinch <u>here</u>!

- The Grinch Christmas Ornament Craft for Kids
- Grinch Paper Plate Craft
- Christmas Slime Recipe (There's a cute Grinch version!)
- Grinch Playdough
- Easy How to Draw the Grinch Tutorial and Grinch Coloring Page
- How To Draw The Grinch | Art for Kids Hub
- How To Draw Max From The Grinch | Art for Kids Hub

Writing Projects

Poetry. Check out how to write both acrostic and diamante poems in our Christmas Poetry Teatime article. Choose one of those patterns to write a poem about a character from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Descriptions. A descriptive paragraph can be so fun to write! Look at a scene in the book or movie and write a description of it. There's an activity sheet with questions and prompts to help your children do this project.

Stories. Write a story based on *How the Grinch Stole Christmas.* Here are a few ideas:

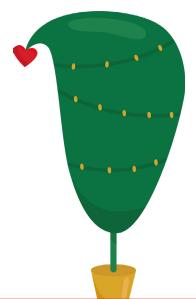
- A story that happened before or after this one
- The backstory of one of the characters
- Another "tale" from Whoville
- An alternate ending to this story

More writing ideas.

- A graphic novel version of a scene from the book or movie
- A newsletter or blog post written as one of the characters
- A "How to Train Your Dog" manual by the Grinch
- A short story written in rhyme like Dr. Seuss's books









Descriptive writing can be so much fun! Here are some things to think about as you write.

Your senses. Imagine being in the part of the story you are describing. Think through the senses as you write. Use words that help people see, hear, taste, touch, and smell—as if they are there. You might not be able to describe each of these every time, but see what you can come up with!

For example, if you were describing the Grinch, stop and **imagine** what it would be like to be around him. What does he look like? What color of green is he? (Grab a box of crayons if you need help with a creative name!) Is he spinach green or grassy green? How big is he? Do you imagine his coat to be rough or like that of a big old poodle? What might he sound like when he talks? Does he have a high or low voice? Does it sound gruff? If you were to sniff him, what do you think he might smell like? Do you think he smells good or bad?

Use those questions to write some notes about the Grinch below. Or choose another character and ask yourself the same types of questions.



Imagery. Imagery is *visually descriptive or figurative language.* Using imagery as you write will help your reader to "see" what you see. The exercise you just did with thinking through your senses is one way to do that. Another way is to use literary techniques such as similes. metaphors, and personification.

Similes compare two similar things using like or as. The Grinch was *like* a sneaky cat slinking his way through the house.

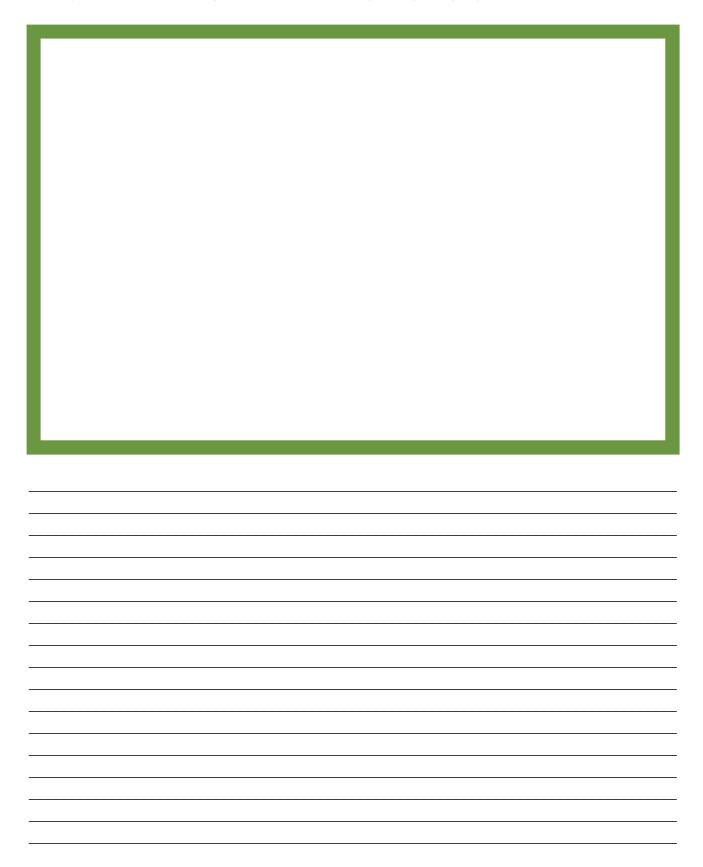
Metaphors compare two similar things *without* using the words like or as.

The Grinch was a sneaky cat slinking his way through the house.

Personification is when an idea or thing is given human characteristics.

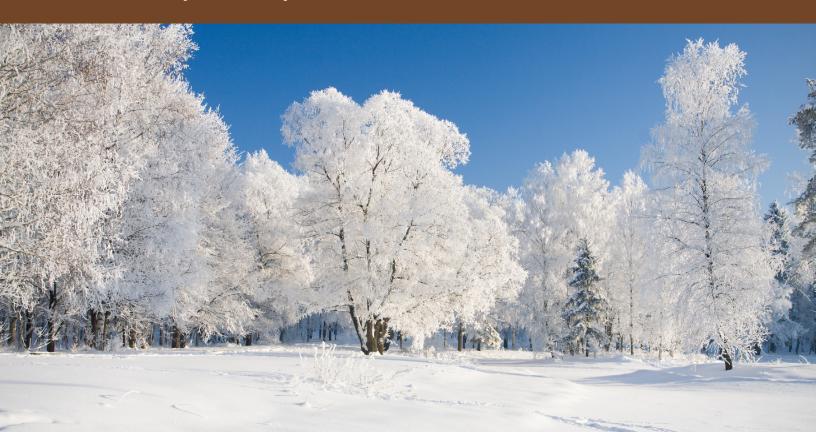
The gift **sat** in silence, unaware it was about to be stolen away from its home beneath the tree.

Write examples of similes and metaphors for a character or scene in the book. Then use personification in a sentence based on the same character or scene. Now read over your descriptive notes and imagery. Draw a picture below of what you are describing and write a descriptive paragraph below it.





Holiday Story Starters & Coloring Pages



Hey! My name is Fred and I was hoping someone could give me a ride out of here! It's getting close to Thanksgiving, and the people in this town have been looking at me *differently* lately...





You've heard the story of Goldlilocks and the Three Bears, but Goldie didn't stop when she was kicked out of their house. How do we know? We're the three snowmen, and she decided to come to our place next...





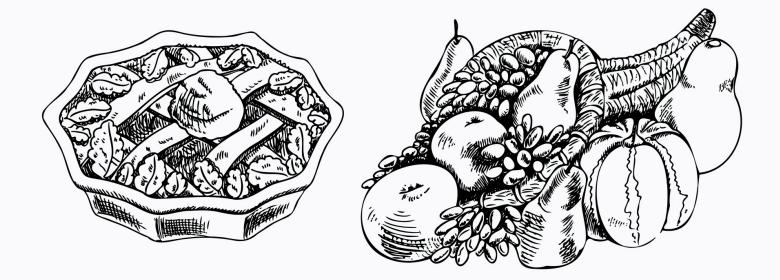


When you are a part of an elf family, your life looks a little different than most...





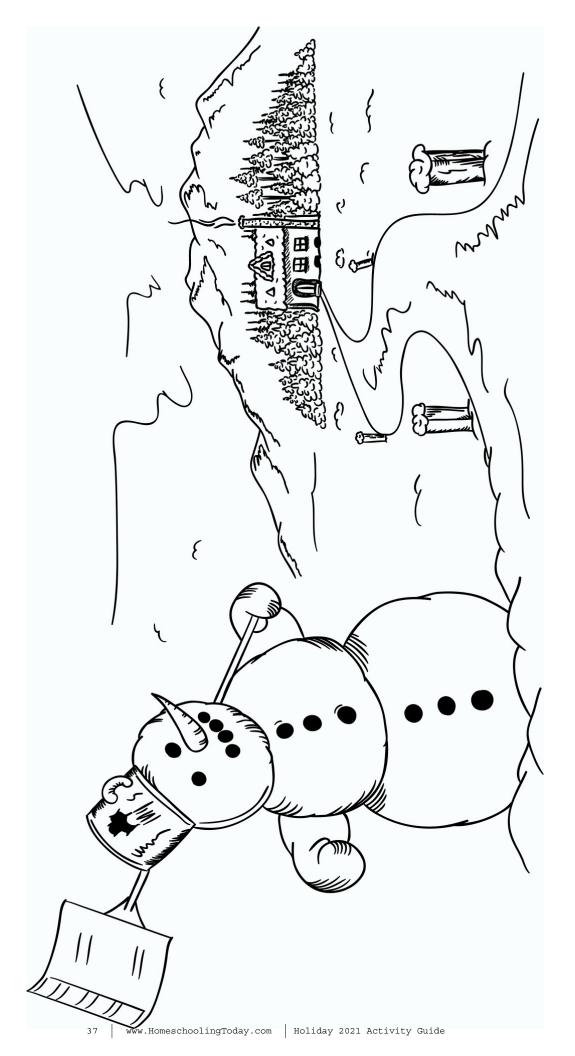




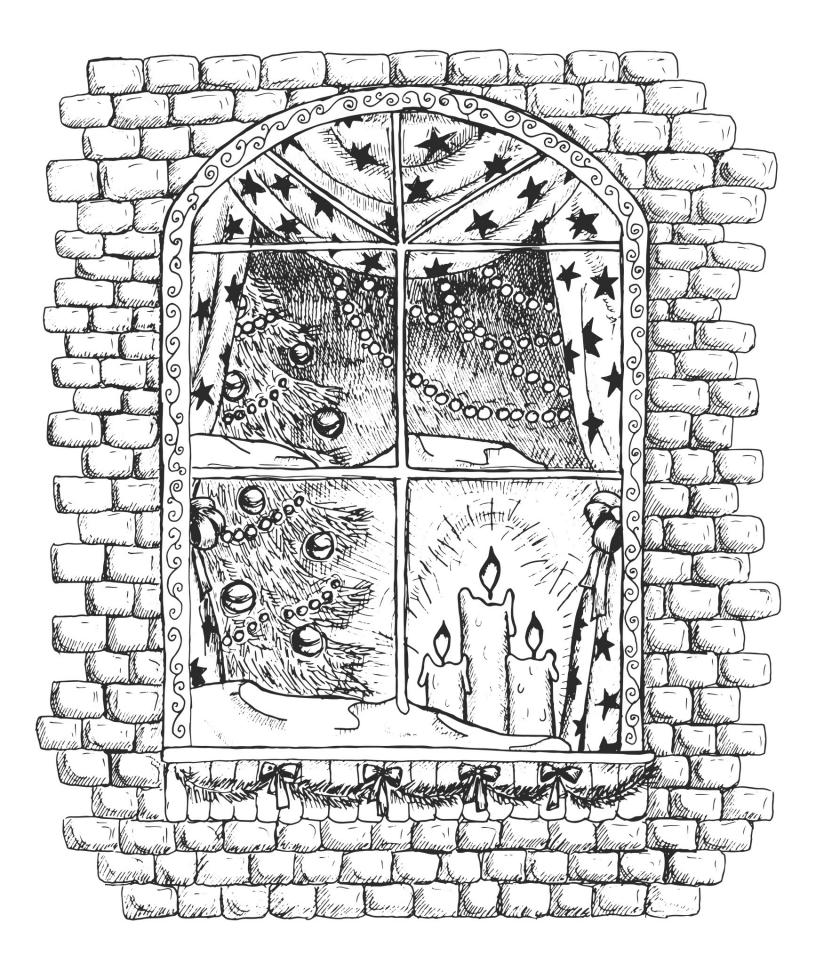
Thanksgiving Day





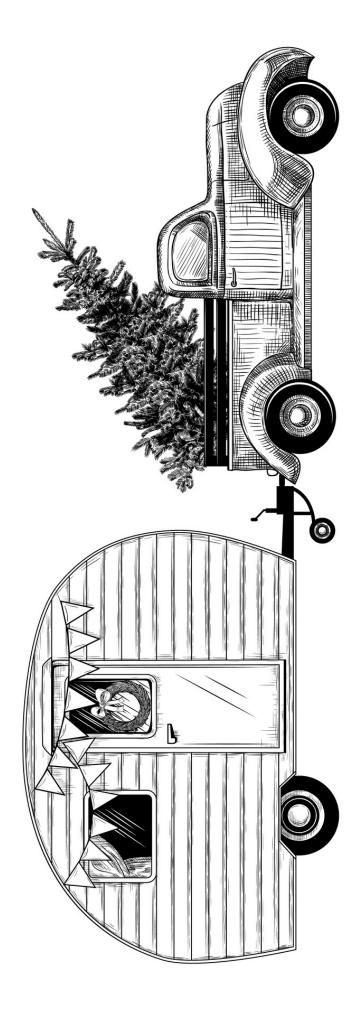














Christmas Look & Find

Circle each item you see during the season!



Christmas Photo Scavenger Hunt

Take photos of the following items. Print your favorites out and make a Christmas scrapbook. Include the photos, quotes, recipes... anything you want to celebrate the season! (Older students can also do the second row of more "abstract" subjects to hunt.)

- Christmas tree
- Ornament
- Nativity
- Christmas lights
- Snow
- Mittens
- Ski hat
- Coat
- Boot
- Star
- Pie
- Christmas card
- Santa Clause
- Hot chocolate
- Fire
- Cookies
- Someone baking
- Wrapping paper

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- Bow
- Gift
- Singing
- Church

- Reflection
- Light
- Serving
- Natural
- Man-made
- Worship
- Triangular
- Circular
- Photographer's Choice



Thanksgiving Word Search

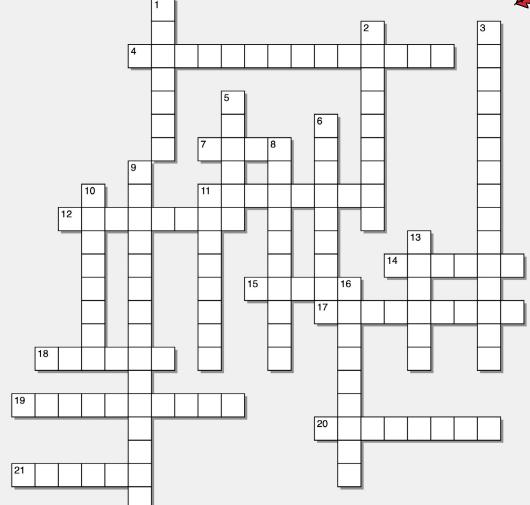
G U L R A Ζ К S К L N E Ν A F G V Y A W F U N U R B К J В Μ A A U Т U Μ N Ρ B S Ι F Т В A Е J R W N 0 Y 0 0 L L 0 Μ U К A С V A Y S К В D W Μ В С A A Μ F G Q A Т Ρ R Ε Ι S R Y Ζ U Ι В Ζ Ρ Т Y U Y R M W Ε G S F Ε Ι Μ Y L К W J К U A W M V Κ 0 V Т D A V B К A P Q Ρ J N Ι L Ι R Т A E Ι S Ε R F Ε Ι B Q Ι S J R D D 0 N K M С A Y С Е Η R J L A Т G Ρ Ε Т Ρ U D L W Ε Y R G E Ι A M Х Η A N Μ Ρ A D L Y U A R Ε В 0 С U Т S G R Y Q Y Q A R E Т N D Ε R F R В Y V Ι F E 0 S F Μ Т Ζ Т V W U Ι S S D Ι Ι Ρ Е R E С С L L V M Х M WA R С F A Μ Ι L Y Ι F С С S Y A Μ S L S G 0 A A J J Х Ρ К F A V К Ρ Т С Μ В R Ι U F R В Ε R R С Ε N L С A Ν Y S A U U 0 W Q V К Ζ Ρ Y 0 U Т В S S D Μ L Μ D L Μ Η S G Ι Ι G J S Х L Т Η A N Κ V Ν D A Y Y Т Κ В S Q Ι Ι Κ F D N 0 J Ε 0 L Η G Х P L V J 0 Ρ Ε С A N Ρ Ι Е A В A K Ι N J G **AUTUMN** GRATITUDE **PLYMOUTH** BAKING HARVEST PUMPKIN PIE BREAD **SCARECROWS** MAYFLOWER **CRANBERRY SAUCE** NATIVE AMERICANS THANKSGIVING DAY DRUMSTICK **NOVEMBER** TRAVEL FAMILY PECAN PIE TURKEY FOOTBALL PILGRIMS WAMPANOAG YAMS

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Across

4) red side made of tart berries served at Thanksgiving

7) another name for sweet potatoes

11) popular Thanksgiving dessert made with a type of nut

12) the sport played on Thanksgiving Day on

television and in backyards across America

14) the type of cooking for cakes, cookies, and pies

15) flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked

17) quality of being thankful

18) big bird we eat at Thanksgiving

19) popular Thanksgiving Day dessert made from a big orange gourd

20) sailed on the Mayflower and founded the colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620

- 21) the third second of the wear
- 21) the third season of the year

Down

1) the time of gathering in the crops

2) ship that brought the Pilgrims to America

3) a day set aside to give thanks and

commemorate a harvest festival celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621

5) going somewhere else usually in a car or plane

6) this tribe of Native Americans helped the Pilgrims survive their their first year in the new world

8) they frighten birds away from cornfields

9) the first people to live in America

10) the 11th month of the year

11) site in 1620 of the landing of the Pilgrims

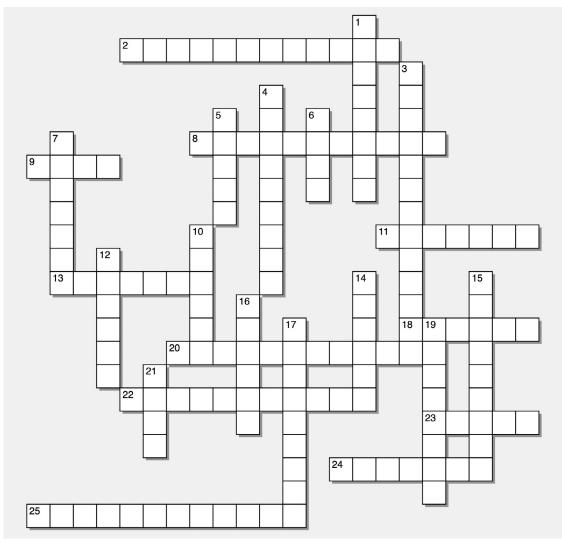
13) people related to one another

16) turkey leg

Christmas Word Search

B D 0 K E S F X E U G F Х Ζ С 0 Ι J С Q Ι Ι D S A G Ι К R Ι L Η M D С Y Y L Т W Ι В S Q С Ι G S R К Y U 0 J V W L A К Ν B В P R Ι Ε Ρ L Ι S N Η K N U U Μ N G G W S Ρ Η G Y S A L S A E J 0 E D U К W L D Х Ε Н S 0 D G 0 L D Q D A Ι G E С Т Ι С Т B G Η 0 Т С Η 0 0 L A E N Е A L Μ N R 0 P F Y U U С B Ε R S С 0 G E D V A Т В Ε Ι Μ В Ε Ε 0 S N A н Μ Κ G E Х G V L Y N Ε F M L N Ι R Y С R Ι Y Ν Х L L D Ι G Ε S E S Ι С G Ρ Ρ A L 0 N S D A Μ Ν A Ι В R Y Η Ν Y E 0 S Ρ Ε G Х N Y Η К D U Ζ S A V R Ε U Ρ К К L L Q A Ζ Ι G P 0 L Ε R R В E Q A R A V F R L M U Η Μ L Т L G E R V A Ζ Η Ρ N Η D Μ A N W Ι С S Т A B 0 F Ι Ι F Т S Ν B Т Η X Η E 0 Ε Ν S L Ε S С Ε Ι J U S Т 0 Κ Ι Ν G S J Κ Ν Ζ W D B Μ A R Y Μ К S Ν 0 Μ A N Q E S S Q W R С В E Ζ G 0 D E E Μ R W F Ν M Ι V A D U R R Ι Т Т Ε N S F A Х WΙ N Т E R Ζ M **MITTENS** ADVENT GIFT ANGELS GOLD MYRRH CAROLING HOT CHOCOLATE SAINT NICHOLAS JESUS CHRISTMAS DAY SCROOGE COOKIES JOSEPH **SHEPHERDS** DECEMBER JINGLE BELLS **SNOWMAN** DECORATIONS MANGER **STOCKINGS FIREPLACE** MARY WINTER FRANKINCENSE





Across

2) December 25th

8) tinsel, garland, and wreaths... just to name a few

9) a shiny gift the wise men brought to baby Jesus

11) a character known for his greed (but changes his ways after three visitors)

13) Frosty the _

18) time, beginning four Sundays before

Christmas, when Christians look forward to

celebrating Christ's birth on Christmas Day

20) one of the gifts the wise men brought to baby Jesus

22) a song that rings

23) one of the gifts the wise men brought to baby Jesus

24) keeps your hands warm when you build a snowman

25) a drink that tastes like dessert and is better with marshmallows on top

Down

1) singing Christmas songs to neighbors

3) Christian saint known for giving gifts

4) hung by the chimney with care in hope that

St. Nicholas soon would be there

5) came as a baby to save the world

6) the mother of Jesus

7) delicious holiday dessert that a blue Sesame Street monster loves

10) the season that begins on December 21st

12) the earthly father of Jesus

14) announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds

15) watched their flock by night

16) where baby Jesus was laid because there was no room for Him in the inn

17) a great place to warm up or even make s'mores

19) the 12th month of the year

21) a present for someone else

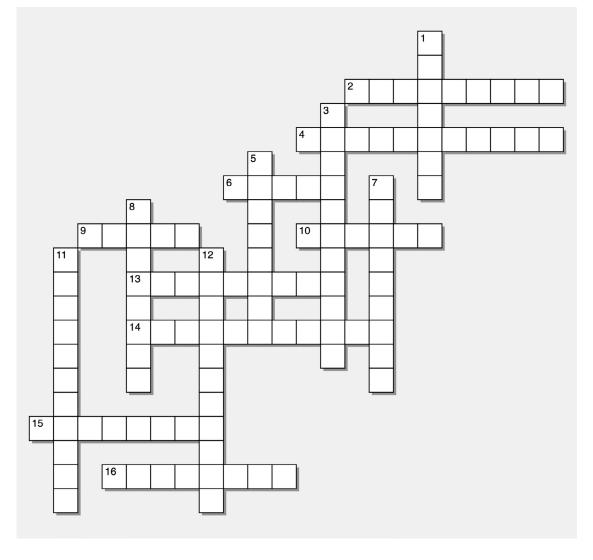
New Year's Word Search

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BALLOONS CALENDAR CELEBRATING CLOCK CONFETTI COUNTDOWN FIREWORKS JANUARY MIDNIGHT NEW YEARS DAY NEW YEARS EVE PARADE PARTY RESOLUTIONS SPARKLERS TIMES SQUARE

0





Across

2) counting backward to zero usually to show when something is about to happen

4) December 31

6) a celebration with other people (and it often has food)

9) keeps time

10) includes marching bands and floats

13) colorful lights in the sky that make a big bang14) in New York City where the New Year's ball is

dropped at midnight 15) 12:00 AM even though it occurs in the middle of the night

16) a chart or series of pages that shows all the days and months of the year

Down

1) first month of the year

3) January 1

5) colorful decorations full of air

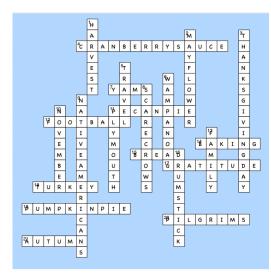
7) handheld fireworks that shower sparks from a stick

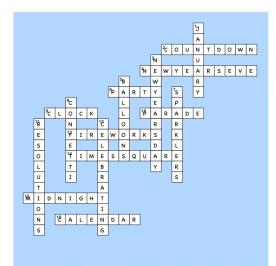
8) colorful, small bits of paper thrown during a celebration

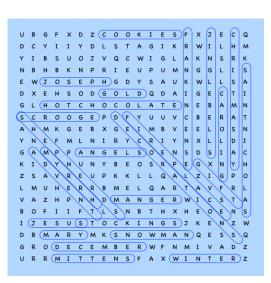
11) people often set these goals on New Year's Day

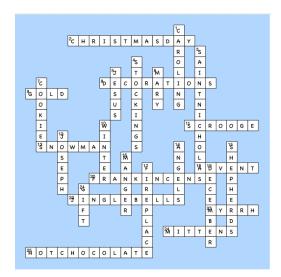
12) marking a significant day with a gathering of people or enjoyable activity

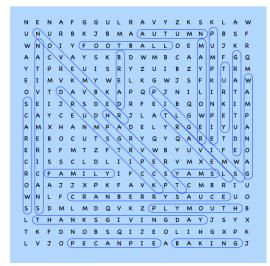
Answers

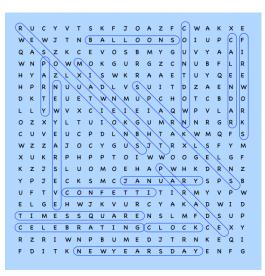














The following is an excerpt from the first volume of the three volume series entitled *Profiles from History* by Ashley Wiggers. History will come alive as students read interesting facts about Squanto, answer thoughtful discussion questions and do fun activities.

Ashley M. Wiggers

Profiles from History Series by Ashley Wiggers



Looking for a way to help your students connect with history?

The *Profiles from History* series is dedicated to telling the stories of people whose lives are worth remembering. Whether they made a discovery, led heroically in a war, created a masterpiece through music or art, used a pen to change the world, or impacted humanity with their bravery, **they made a difference**! Activities and discussion questions help students recognize the effect these individuals have had on history.

> Be ready to change your mind about history with the *Profiles from History* series!

www.ProfilesFromHistory.com

Squanto

There have been many different accounts of the life of Squanto, or Tisquantum, which was his original name. Squanto was a Native American who was born around the 1590's. His home was in America, almost at the exact spot where the Plymouth Pilgrims eventually landed. Squanto lived during an age of exploration. This was a time when many people of the world wanted freedom from the lives and unjust governments they had been born into.

Some people believe that Squanto was a deceptive and selfish person; others think he was a man of great honor. We will never have the chance to know Squanto's true nature, but from the main events of his life we can get an idea about his character. There is one thing we do know however: if it wasn't for Squanto's help, the Pilgrims might not have lived through their second winter in the New World.

Squanto was born in a place called Patuxet, which later became known as Plymouth. When he was still a young boy, he met his first white man. Soon there were many white men who were sent to the New World to see what natural resources could be found and to explore the surrounding areas. These men came from a far off place, carrying shiny trinkets, and they interested Squanto very much. The captain of the voyage that brought them, George Weymouth, invited Squanto to travel back to England on his ship. Squanto was excited to go, and left his family and everything that was familiar to him. He wanted adventure, and probably got more than he bargained for!

During his time with the Englishmen, Squanto learned their language and customs. Try to imagine the adventures he must have had! It would have been interesting to see the look on his face when he arrived in England for the first time. How hard it must have been for him to adjust to such a modern lifestyle.

Years later, John Smith was captain of one of a pair of ships sailing from England to the New World. Squanto's chance to return home had finally come. Although he had to work while sailing with John Smith, Smith did take Squanto home during the journey.

While Smith was exploring the eastern coast of America, he arrived in the region where Squanto was born. It had been nearly ten years since Squanto had seen his home and his family, and he was surely very eager to get back. After Smith landed at Plymouth, he left Squanto there and headed northeast to carry on with his business. But before Squanto got a chance to see his home, Thomas Hunt (captain of the second ship that had sailed with them) kidnapped him along with several other Patuxet Indians. He took the captives to Malaga, Spain to sell them as slaves. Fortunately, a group of monks from a local monastery discovered what Captain Hunt was doing and took the remaining Indians from him. Squanto stayed with the monks for about a year, and then he went back to England. He did not return to his birthplace in America until 1619, when he traveled back to the New World with Captain Thomas Dermer.

For Squanto however, it was no longer home. His family was gone, his town was gone, and all that he remembered of home was lost. He learned that since his last visit, every member of the Patuxet tribe had died of a horrible disease. It is unknown exactly what sickness the Patuxet Indians died from, but some historians believe that it was smallpox. Because of Squanto's great loss he decided to stay with Captain Dermer for a time, and they explored the coast together. On many outings, Squanto acted as interpreter for the explorers. They visited the Pokanoket country where a great chief, Sachem Massasoit, lived. Squanto must have really liked the Pokanokets, because after his visit he chose to stay with them.

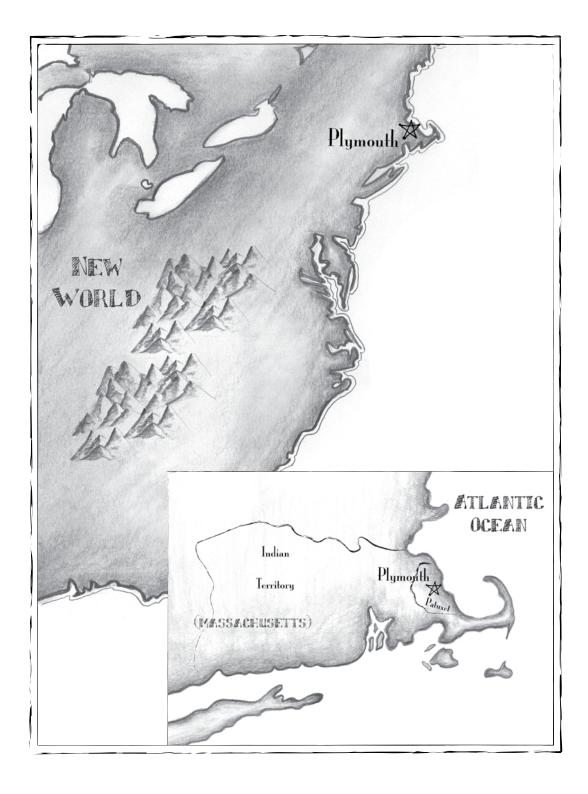
After Captain Dermer left Squanto at his new home he continued with his explorations. On one of his journeys, the captain was captured by the Nauset Indians. When Squanto heard about his captured friend, he came to his aid as quickly as possible. Squanto bargained for Captain Dermer's safe release. He did not come to the captain's aid for any profit of his own, but because he knew he could help. Squanto stayed with Massasoit and the Pokanokets for about a year. Then one day, his friend Samoset told him of a ship that was full of English men and women. He took Squanto to visit the colonists, because Samoset knew that his friend could speak their language. He also spoke English, but not as well as Squanto. After Squanto's first visit with the Pilgrims that day, he never left them.

Squanto helped the English have peace with Massasoit and his tribe. The Indians and the Pilgrims kept that peace in the region for fifty years. The Pilgrims were having great difficulty growing enough crops to feed their entire colony, and Squanto showed them how to fertilize the soil so that their crops could grow well. He taught them the best places to fish and hunt, how to catch eels, and which berries were good to eat. Whenever the Pilgrims traveled, Squanto acted as their interpreter and guide. During his time in the colony, he lived with Governor William Bradford. Bradford and Squanto had great respect for each other. After Squanto's death, Bradford said that he was "a special instrument sent by God for their good, beyond their expectation."

Although Squanto served the Pilgrims for only two years, that time is his greatest legacy. He died from a fever with William Bradford by his side while acting as interpreter on one of their many voyages. The Pilgrims suffered a great loss that day, but they would always remember what their friend Squanto had done for them, and they remained forever grateful.

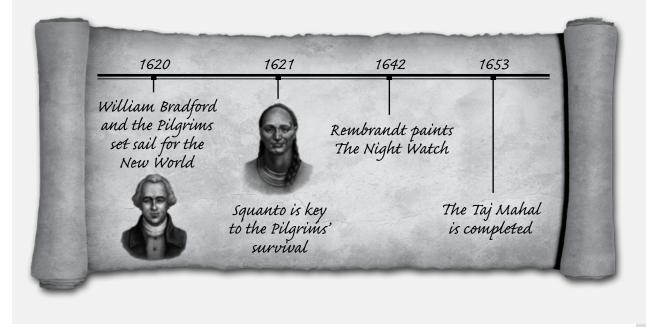
Discussion

- 1. Do you think Squanto liked the easier way of life in England, or do you think he might have longed for home?
- 2. Many unexpected things happened to Squanto, and he endured many trials. After reading this profile, tell what you admire most about him.



Timeline Review

Put things in perspective. Place Squanto's figure on the timeline in the year 1621, which was when he was key to the Pilgrims' survival in the New World. Look at the other events before, during and after this year.



Activity

Pretend you are going on a long journey to a new place to live. Make a list of things you would take with you to remind you of home. Now look at your list and choose the three most important things to you and tell why.

Wordscramble

Here is a list of scrambled words that relate to the profile you read about Squanto. Unscramble the letters and write the words correctly.

1. nqaisuTumt	6. aeslvs
2. crcatrahe	7. nmoks
3. uePaxtt	8. aosllpmx
4. aterdenvu	9. nrerepttire
5. ryueojn	10. eaecp

Sequencing

After reading the profile about Squanto, put the following events in order. Use the numbers 1–5.

- A. _____ Many white men came to the New World to find natural resources and explore.
- B. _____ Squanto was born in Patuxet.
- C. _____ Captain Weymouth invited Squanto to travel to England.
- D. _____ Squanto was very interested in the men who came from far away.
- E. _____ Squanto left his family and everything that was familiar to him.

Cloze

After reading the profile, try to fill in the blanks with words that make sense about Squanto. When you are finished, look at the story to find the words that were used in the passage.

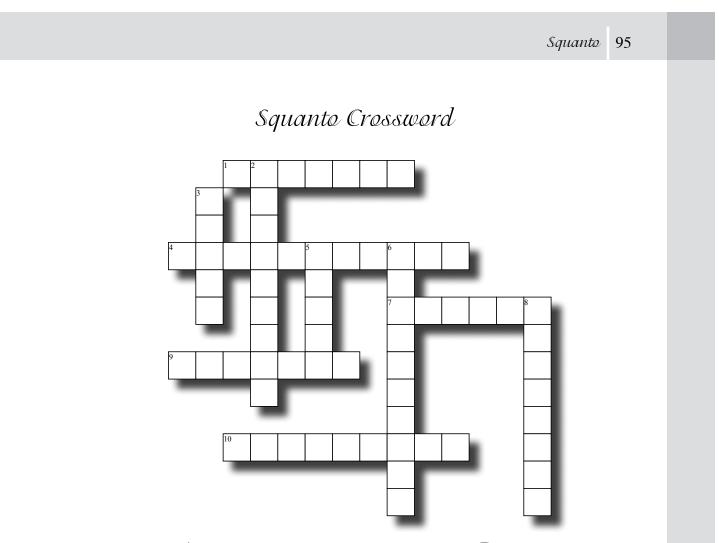
Squanto helped the English have ______ with Massasoit and his tribe. The Indians and the Pilgrims kept that peace in the region for fifty years. The Pilgrims were having great difficulty growing enough crops to feed their entire colony, and Squanto showed them how to ______ the soil so that their crops could grow well. He taught them the best places to fish and hunt, how to catch eels, and which berries were good to eat. Whenever the Pilgrims traveled, Squanto acted as their ______ and _____. During his time in the colony, he lived with Governor William Bradford. Bradford and Squanto had great ______ for each other. After Squanto's death, Bradford said that he was "a special instrument sent by ______ for their good, beyond their expectation." Squanto Word Search

Р	G	V	K	D	Q	U	Ι	S	Μ	A	L	L	Р	0	X	N	F	G
Ε	X	U	J	L	Z	Q	N	R	G	С	Y	J	Р	X	Ν	H	G	V
Р	J	E	J	M	D	S	Т	S	Y	B	Ι	Q	Т	Q	Z	С	Т	E
E	0	E	B	H	Q	Y	E	E	E	R	Т	0	Q	R	J	H	H	K
Α	D	V	E	N	Т	U	R	E	S	L	A	V	E	S	Т	H	Q	Р
С	U	Μ	Р	B	С	E	Р	A	L	L	Q	J	W	Y	A	V	S	E
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Т	K	Р	X	E	K	Q	E	Μ	G	Μ	0	N	K	S	V	0	N	Т
J	V	Р	E	V	E	0	R	Z	Ι	Z	V	E	Z	D	0	G	K	Ν
Ε	Ι	E	Т	G	Ι	Z	G	X	G	Μ	X	Y	X	J	V	J	F	A
B	Т	V	A	Q	R	H	Р	F	N	Y	0	B	B	F	B	Q	Ι	J
Y	X	Q	Р	Т	R	Ι	N	Y	С	E	F	Y	Т	Z	F	Z	R	Ι
V	D	Т	Y	Y	С	Η	A	R	Α	С	Т	E	R	Ι	Р	J	U	U

Word Bank

Tisquantum character Patuxet adventure journey

slaves monks smallpox interpreter peace



Across

- 1. Place where Squanto was born
- 4. One of the jobs that Squanto did for the Pilgrims
- 7. Squanto and his friends were kidnapped and taken to Spain to be sold as these
- 9. Word that means a long trip
- 10. A word that refers to a person's true nature

Down

- 2. Something Squanto wanted that caused him to leave home and sail to England
- 3. The group of people from a monastery who rescued Squanto from the slave market
- 5. The thing that Squanto helped the Pilgrims have with Massasoit and his tribe
- 6. Squanto's original name
- 8. The disease that many people believe killed Squanto's tribe

Chalk Pastel art Tutorial

othe he

by Tricia Hodges

A Video Art Lesson with Nana of *You ARE an ARTiST*

you know that Phillips Brooks wrote Oh Little Town of Bethlehem for the children at his church to sing for Christmas? He was inspired by a trip he had taken to Bethlehem. He shared this with the children,

The

Over

Sta

Learn more about the history of this beautiful Christmas hymn here.

"I remember especially on Christmas Eve, when I was standing in the old church in Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with the splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices I knew well, telling each other of the 'wonderful night' of the Savior's birth." by Phillips Brooks (1868)

little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing—let "Glory!" ring with peace to all on earth!

How silently, bow silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heav'ns. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

> O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

> > Holid

Guide



Chalk pastel supplies needed:

- A starter set of chalk pastels. Our favorites are <u>here</u>.
- Construction paper
- Nana's video art lesson
- **Optional:** You may want to have a damp cloth or baby wipes for chalky fingers and easy clean up

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch!

Want more Christmas art fun?

- Check out the <u>Ultimate List of Christmas</u> <u>Homeschool Art Lessons</u>.
- <u>Draw the Grinch</u> and do the Grinchy Christmas Activity in this guide.

We hope you'll enjoy the holiday season together as you gather around the table with art! ucia Hames, best known as Nana, first taught her five grandchildren around her daughter's kitchen table back in 2008. Since then, Nana and her daughter, Tricia Hodges, have shared art lessons for homeschool families, teaching all ages that You ARE an ARTIST! Find Nana and over 700 of her video art lessons in the You ARE an ARTIST Clubhouse at www.ChalkPastel.com.



Group Games for Holiday Fun

FAMILY & FRIENDS TRIVIA GAME

As people arrive at your holiday gathering, have them write their names and a littleknown fact about themselves on index cards. At the dinner table or while sitting around the living room, read the facts aloud and let the rest of the group guess who each card is about.

FISH BOWL

- Players sit in a circle around the room.
- Each person gets three slips of paper.
- On each slip of paper, players write down a word—a person, a place, and a thing.
- Players fold the slips of paper in half and put in a bowl.
- Count-off "one, two" around the circle to form two teams.

Round 1

- 1. Set a timer for one minute. Each person on Team One takes a slip of paper and describes it to the other players on his or her team without saying the word. (No saying "It rhymes with..." either!)
- 2. Team One gets one point for each word they are able to guess before the timer goes off.
- 3. Team Two now does steps one and two.
- 4. Everyone returns the words to the bowl.

Round 2

Play is the same as Round 1, BUT instead of describing the word, the team has to guess what the word is based on a one word clue. At the end, everyone returns their slips of paper to the bowl for a final round.

Round 3

During Round 3, words are acted out by players. After both teams have had their turns, the winner is the team with the most points.

Holiday variation: If it's Thanksgiving Day, ask people to choose words based on your Thanksgiving Day celebration or the autumn season. If it's Christmas Day, have players choose words relating to Christmas and winter.

Unwrapping Games

The rules for both of these are the same, but *how & what* you unwrap is different.

<u>Set Up</u>

Wrap a gift *really well* with multiple layers of Christmas paper, lots of tape, and boxes that nest in one another. The last box should contain a gift. Candy, a card game, or a small toy work well.

Or, using plastic wrap, make a large ball with little gifts like candy or small toys tucked in the layers. Be sure to wrap it tightly and go in different directions. And make it BIG!

You'll also need two dice.

<u>Play</u>

Have your family and friends sit in a circle. Each person will try to "unwrap" the boxes or ball while the player to that person's left tries to roll a double with the dice. Once the person rolls a double, the dice pass to the player on their left and the gift or plastic wrap ball will pass to the dice roller. Keep going around until the gift box or plastic ball is completely unwrapped revealing the prize at the center.

Notes: With the wrapped gifts, have players wear oven mitts as they try to unwrap them for more fun! If you play the plastic wrap version, let players keep the prizes they unwrap as they go. Prizes should get better as the ball is unwrapped.



What I'm Thankful For

Write something you are thankful for on each of the ornaments and cut them out. Then glue them on the tree.







It's easy to forget what the holidays are really about! Focusing on your relationships though—with God, family, and others—will help you to simplify and be refreshed during this holiday season. For each week, we're sharing a simple way to focus on Christ and connect with one another. The best part... you can do it around the dinner table or before bed.

Read the Scripture focus the first night of the week and talk about what it means. Commit to memorizing it and then practice it together each night. Next **use one or two of the conversation starters** each night to think about the Scripture and connect with one another throughout the week.

For the first two weeks, your family will focus on giving thanks. This is the perfect time to start a gratitude journal as individuals or as a family. Whether you do it weekly or daily, writing down what you are thankful for will help you all to recognize the blessings of God in your life. It will also be something you can look back on and remember... to see how He has worked in your lives.

The following weeks will focus on the shepherds in the Christmas story. Begin by reading Luke 2:1–20. You can reread it at the beginning of each week as well if you feel it would benefit your family to do so.

It might also be helpful to learn more about shepherds and what they did during the time of Christ. Look up verses about shepherds in a concordance or online and list the things you learn about them. Find more information in Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and other study tools. Often study Bibles will include great information to help you understand the culture and times of the Bible.





Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! —1 Chronicles 16:34, ESV

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- What does the word "good" mean? What does the word "steadfast" mean?
- What are some things you think of when you hear the word good?
- How have you seen God's goodness in your life?
- What picture can you think of that helps illustrate what steadfast looks like? For example, I think of videos I've seen of weathermen standing during hurricane force winds. Their feet are planted on the ground even though they may sway in the wind!
- What evidence do you see of God's steadfast love?
- What does giving thanks do for us in our hearts?
- What are some other characteristics of God?
- What do you want to tell God "thank you" for today?
- What characteristics do you want people to say they see in your life? Why?

Week of November 21

SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.—1 *Thessalonians 5:16–18, ESV*

- What is joy? Is it the same as being happy? If not, what is the difference?
- What does it look like to rejoice in our daily lives?
- What is prayer? How can we do that "without ceasing"?
- What does "thanks" mean? What types of circumstances can we give thanks in? Does that mean every circumstance in and of itself is good?
- What can we give thanks for during hard times?
- What does "the will of God" mean? How can we know what His will is?
- What are some of the things that Scripture teaches is God's will for us?
- Why do you think rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks is God's will for us? What happens when we don't do these things? What difference does it make in our lives when we make each of these a habit?
- How might practicing God's will as revealed in the Bible change your attitudes and behaviors?

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.—Luke 2:8–9, ESV

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- What did shepherds do? What was required of a shepherd?
- Why were the shepherds keeping watch at night?
- Have you ever had to do something other people didn't want to do or something that was really hard? What was that like?
- According to Daniel Darling, "...[God] sent the host of Heaven to a common field outside Bethlehem. And the people he chose as his spokesmen were unpolished, sweaty, uncouth shepherds." Why do you think God chose to announce the birth of His Son to this "lowly" group of people?
- In Psalm 23, David says that the Lord is his Shepherd. Read it and talk about all the ways God acted as David's shepherd.
- How are angels described in the Bible? What did they do?
- What do you think it looked like when the glory of the Lord shone around them?
- Why do you think the shepherds were afraid when they saw the angel of the Lord?
- Describe a time you felt afraid.

Week of **December 5**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2:10–11, ESV

- What is the first thing the angel said? Why didn't they need to be afraid?
- Why is the birth of Jesus "good news"?
- Why is that good news considered "of great joy"?
- Think about the phrase "for all the people." Who are some of the people you see regularly? What groups of people do you see on television or other forms of media? Who have you learned about in your studies? So what does it mean to say the good news is for *all* people? Is it just for people like us or people we think are good or likable?
- What was Jesus sent to save the people from? What does it mean that He is a Savior?
- Jesus is referred to as Christ the Lord. What does Christ mean? What does Lord mean?
- How does it make you feel to know that God would send a savior for YOU?

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"—Luke 2:13–14, ESV

- Wow, first the angel of the Lord appeared and now there's a "multitude of the heavenly host" present too! What might you have been thinking if you were a shepherd? How do you think you would respond?
- What was the host of angels doing?
- What does it mean to praise God? Take the time now to say your own praises aloud to one another.
- What does the phrase "glory to God" mean? How can you give glory to God?
- What does the word "peace" mean? Is it a feeling? Is it something that happens inside of us? Is it something that happens outside of us?
- Who was God pleased with? How do you know?
- What do you think it means to please God today? Is it an action? Is it an attitude? Is it both?
- How did God show His pleasure this first Christmas night? How does God show His pleasure today?



When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.—Luke 2:15–16, ESV

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- Where did the angels go after this time of praise? What do you think heaven might be like?
- How did the shepherds react to this announcement by the angel? What does this tell you about what they thought about the message they had been given? Do you think they were excited? Curious?
- Why does it say "that the Lord has made known to us" when angels were the ones who made the announcement?
- Has someone ever told you some sort of special "news"? How did it make you feel to know something new or unexpected?
- What did the shepherds do next?
- Imagine what it might have looked and felt like to search for Mary and Joseph. Is there a time you've had to look for something? Describe what that was like.
- What do you think it was like to find Mary and Joseph and the baby *in a manger*? Do you think that's what they expected?
- Describe a time you expected one thing, but something else happened or was true.

Week of **December 26**

SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. —Luke 2:20, ESV

- What did the shepherds do after seeing this wonder? Where did they return to?
- What did they *do*?
- How do you think you would have reacted? How might this experience have changed your life as a shepherd?
- Why do you think God chose to make the announcement of His Son's birth to shepherds? (You may have talked about this the first week of December, but do it again now that you've been thinking about it for a few weeks.)
- What does this good news of great joy mean to you? What will your response be?
- As you begin the new year, how can *you* keep your focus on glorifying and praising God in the coming year?
- How can you as a family glorify and praise God in the coming year?