

Christmas

This jolly poster showing a range of Christmas objects will add to the children's growing excitement as they anticipate the magic of Christmas

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Cut out and laminate the individual poster images to form eight different cards. Invite the children to sit around a large hoop and arrange the cards inside it. Play 'Kim's Game'. Ask the children to close their eyes while you remove one card, and then open them to guess which one you have taken away.
- Look at the image of the present on the poster. Talk about giving presents to people we love at Christmas. Recall the Nativity story, focusing on the presents that Baby Jesus received. Invite the children to take turns to describe the presents that they would like to give to special people in their lives.

Communication, Language and Literacy

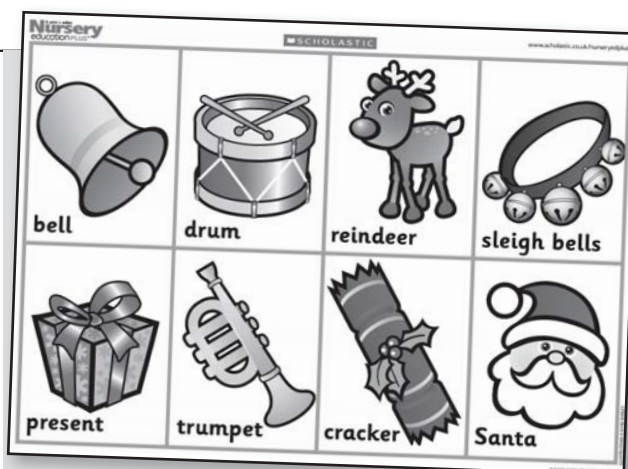
- Look at the poster and read the words aloud. Talk about how the objects are associated with Christmas, for example, church bells ringing or shaking sleigh bells, and sing an appropriate song, such as 'Jingle Bells'.
- Provide large pieces of paper divided into eight sections. Invite the children to make their own posters, drawing objects and writing labels.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Talk about how the poster is divided into boxes, one for each object. Cut out eight card rectangles the same size as the boxes. Invite the children to count the boxes. Encourage the children to take turns to cover the objects on the poster with a card rectangle, then count how many are left. Pose questions involving adding and taking away, for example, 'If we have eight objects and cover three, how many can we still see?'.
- Invite the children to find examples of circles on each image on the poster. Which images have no circles? Find circles on other 2D images, for example, in books and on posters.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Gather objects to match those on the poster as closely as possible (the reindeer and Santa could be soft toys). Invite the children to choose an object, name it and discuss its properties. Pose questions to encourage sensory exploration, for example, 'How does it feel/look/sound/smell?'. Identify similarities and differences between the real objects and poster images.
- Talk about the image of the cracker on the poster. Do the children know when we pull crackers? Invite a confident child to pull a cracker with you, or if there are children in your group who would be distressed by the bang, carefully open a cracker without pulling it and talk about how it is made. Provide materials, such as cardboard tubes and crêpe paper, for children to make their own crackers.



How to use the poster

Vary the position of the poster on low display boards throughout your setting to stimulate discussion and child-initiated activity. For example, hang it in the home or creative area to motivate play and creativity with a Christmas theme.

Make cards from the individual images on the poster and use them to play games. For example, hide them around the setting, then invite the children to go on a 'card hunt'.

Visit www.scholastic.co.uk/nurseryedplus to play the 'Christmas sounds' game, where you can click on each of the images and hear the sounds they make.



Physical Development

- Explore the image of the church bell on the poster and talk about the tradition of ringing bells at Christmas. Explain to the children how bell ringers pull long ropes to make the bells ring. Pretend to be bell ringers, stretching up to pull an imaginary rope downwards.
- Look at the images of musical instruments on the poster. Provide the children with a selection of bells and drums to accompany Christmas songs.

Creative Development

- Look at the poster together and talk about the noises that the objects might make. Provide examples of the objects, putting an interesting 'noisy' filling in the present. Let the children take turns to choose something to make a noise with. Which object makes the loudest/quietest sound?
- Explore the image of the drum on the poster and sing 'The Little Drummer Boy' (www.christmas-lyrics.org). Invite the children to listen to the words and re-enact the story, choosing someone to be the little drummer boy and others to play the Nativity characters.

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