

STUDY GUIDE



SANTA'S ENCHANTED WORKSHOP

Book, lyrics, and music
by Richard Giersch
Additional lyrics by Bruce C. Miller

AT THE LIBRARY

How the Grinch Stole Christmas!
by Dr. Seuss

Santa's Reindeer
by Rod Green

*The Legend of St. Nicholas:
A Story of Christmas Giving*
by Dandi Daley Mackall

The Polar Express
by Chris Van Allsburg

*The Real Santa Claus:
Legends of Saint Nicholas*
by Marianna Mayer

ON THE WEB

History of Santa Claus
history.com/topics/christmas/santa-claus

National Geographic Kids:
Winter Celebrations
kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/winter-celebrations/#WH-hanukkah.jpg



PLAY SYNOPSIS

In Virginia Rep's production of *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*, Stanley and his sister SuSu embark on a journey to the North Pole in search of Santa. Stanley doubts his existence, and young SuSu is disturbed by the notion that Santa may not exist. But when a blizzard causes them to lose their way, they find shelter in an old gas station building. It's there that they meet Old Nick, who convinces them that the old gas station is really *Santa's Enchanted Workshop* and that he, himself, is Santa.

Stanley and SuSu learn that, with a little imagination, Christmas magic can light up even an old garage. With Nick's help, Stanley's faith is restored and the children are reminded that it's not the gifts of Christmas that are important, but simple faith that keeps life magical: "Now we believe, and now we see that all the magic things in life are ours for free. We'll open our eyes before time flies by. This old world's brighter than we thought a world could be."

Sequencing a Story

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All stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. In the beginning, we meet the characters and a problem or conflict arises. The action rises throughout the story. Toward the end, the characters find a solution to the problem or conflict.

1. Read these events from *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*.
2. Cut them out and put them in time (chronological) order.
3. Glue the events onto a large piece of paper and draw a picture for each.



The old service station becomes
Santa's Enchanted Workshop #63

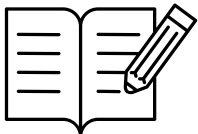
SuSu and Stanley get lost in the snow

SuSu asks Stanley to tell her a story

The policeman finds SuSu and Stanley

SuSu and Stanley try to find
the North Pole and Santa Claus

Stanley tells SuSu that he doesn't believe in Santa



JOURNAL SHARE

If you could change an event from *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*, what would it be? Explain how you would make the story different.

Using Maps

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In *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*, Stanley and SuSu decide to travel to the North Pole to find Santa.

Use the map below to answer the following:

1. To travel to the North Pole from your home, in which direction would you travel?
2. What would you expect to see in the North Pole?
3. What makes this map view of the world different than most? Explain.

4. Color the land green and the water blue in the map below. Then label continents, oceans, and the North Pole.

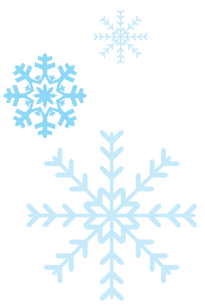
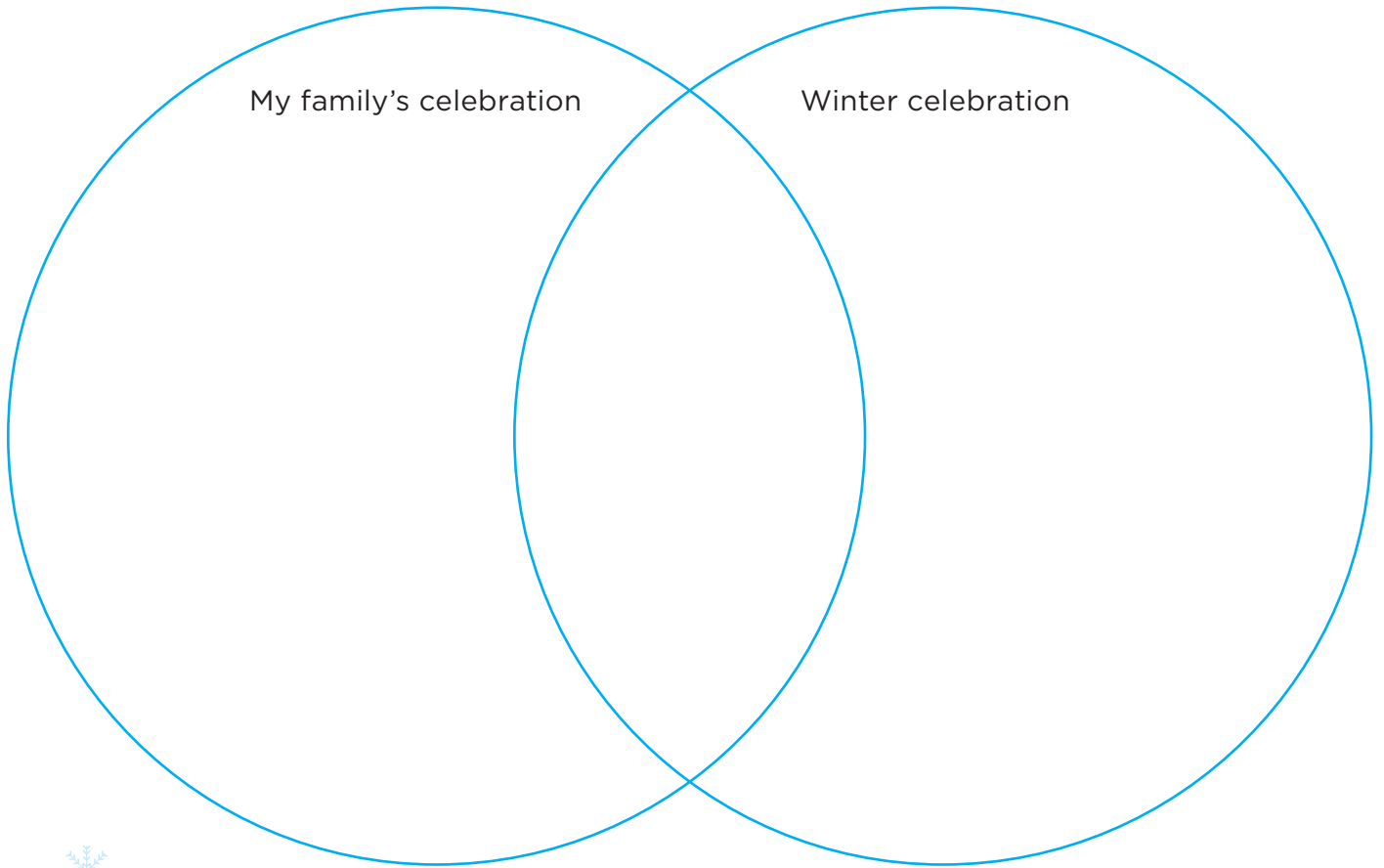


Map courtesy of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook

Celebrations Around the World

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Each country - and each family - has their own traditions and celebrations. Visit the *National Geographic Kids* website on Winter Celebrations, and choose one winter celebration to learn more about. Then use the chart below to compare the celebration you learned about with your family's winter celebration. kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/winter-celebrations/#WH-hanukkah.jpg

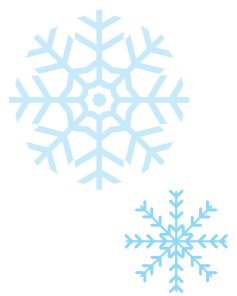


WHAT DID YOU NOTICE?

1. Why do you think people celebrate in different ways?

2. What is your favorite celebration?

3. If you were to begin a new celebration, what would it be? How would you celebrate? What time of year would you celebrate?



Rhyme: The Lyrical Miracle

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A little bit, A little bit of imagination.
A little bit, A little bit of imagination.
A little bit of imagination

That's all it takes these days.
Just sit down there and be patient,
Let your imagination lead the way.

You can turn a hubcap into a boat,
Or a trunk into a car.
Just add a couple wheels or whatever
you feel, and voila! There you are.

Then you hop into your car and away you fly,
To anywhere with the greatest speed...
A little bit of imagination is all you really need.

A little bit, a little bit of imagination.
A little bit, a little bit of imagination.

A little bit of imagination.
With a little bit of imagination,
you can do anything!

TERMS TO KNOW

Rhyme (noun): a repetition of similar sounds in two or more different words; most often used in poetry

Lyrics (noun): words of a song

Repetition (noun): when words or themes in a story or poem are used more than once

DIRECTIONS

1. Many songs contain words that rhyme. Read the lyrics to the left from *Santa's Enchanted Workshop*. Use different colored pencils to circle pairs of words that rhyme.
2. Why do you think song writers, poets, and playwrights use repetition? Discuss.
3. Use the space below to write a poem about your favorite holiday. Use rhyme and repetition. Use the back of the sheet if you need to.

Cues at the Theatre

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VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

Phil Whiteway
Managing Director

VIRGINIA REP ON TOUR

Amber Martinez
Arts in Education Manager
amartinez@virginiarep.org

Gordon Bass
Tour Manager

Eric Williams
Director of Tour Operations

Virginia Repertory Theatre
114 W. Broad St.
Richmond, Virginia 23220

800.235.8687

VIRGINIAREP.ORG

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