

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

We hope you find these lessons a valuable resource and asset to your classroom instruction. Please do not forget to print the last page and bring with you to the performance. Thank you for your continued support.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer has undoubtedly become a classic Christmas story that young children and grown-ups look forward to during the winter holidays. Veiled in its simplicity are important positive messages we can share and discuss with the children.

****Everyone near and far (meaning in our immediate family and community, and around the world) is special, unique and deserves love, encouragement and acceptance. In doing this we help others reach their fullest potential and the world is a better place for all.**

****Everyone makes mistakes, judges others unfairly at one point or another, but we can try to do better each day. Even Santa Claus was wrong about Rudolph's red glowing nose at first, right? This story becomes more and more significant as children grow and we, as parents, caregivers and educators can help to reinforce these powerful messages by exploring the story in memorable ways.**

Activity #1: Online Story time and activities

Visit and review the [Reindeer Barn](#) at northpole.com and find the hidden stories. Discuss the stories and activities and messages at your discretion.

* [Letter R is for Reindeer](#)

Present letter R reindeer materials of your choice.

Incorporate all the r's in the the name Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. If possible write all the letter R's in a separate bright color to draw attention to them as shown.

Rudolph, Red, Reindeer. Point to the R's in those three words.

Learning Activities:

Review possible discussion questions for a particular animal you choose to discuss below -- the answers can be obtain from the resources above.

Write your choice of questions on cards. Make sure all are discussed and answered first. Then play a Simon says game variation. Pull a question card from a bag or basket. Have the children line up and place a covered surprise (cupcakes, cookies, see below a recipes). Place the surprise six to eight steps away -- this would be snack time when game is completed. Pull a question from the basket and read. Allow the children to discuss among themselves what they will answer as group. One leader gives the right answer. When answered correctly the children can move forward one step. Continue until all are answered - limit to about 4 to 6 questions. **Ideas:** Snack time could be at this point, surprise the children with Reindeer Treat Cup Cakes (or call them any name of animal that is discussed) recipe below.

Reindeer Theme Treat Cup Cakes:

1. Prepare your favorite cup cake recipe
2. Prepare or buy frosting/ icing and color it brown with food coloring

Decorate

1. Antlers: break pretzels in half for two antlers and insert on either side of the cup cake
2. Nose: Half a maraschino cherry
3. Eyes: Small Hershey kisses or other small candy (M&M's) for eyes

Simon Says Questions

1. What type of animal is a _____?
2. What does the _____ eat?
3. Where and in what type of climate/environment does the _____ live?
- *4. If focusing on the reindeer. What is a close relative of the reindeer called in North America?
5. What is the correct name for the _____ "horns"? Antlers.
6. Do both male and female _____ have antlers and what do they use them for?
7. Most of these animals shed and grow back their antlers, which doesn't.

Reindeer Crafts

ART:

Reindeer Puzzle Pin

Materials (for each pin):

- 3 Small puzzle pieces
- Brown, green and red acrylic paint
- Googly eyes
- Pin back
- Glue (tacky or hot)

Directions:

3 small puzzle pieces painted brown. One piece is the face, the other 2 glued behind like antlers. Googly eyes and red nose painted on tip of face piece. Little holly leaves and berries on one of the antler pieces. Pin glued on back.

Candy Cane Reindeer

Materials (for each reindeer):

- 1 candy cane
- 1 brown pipe cleaner
- 1 small red pompom
- 2 "googly" eyes
- Hot glue gun
- Optional: gold cord

Directions:

Wrap the pipe cleaner around the candy cane where it curves down at the top, shape to form antlers. Hot glue the eyes on and the red pompom on (this is the nose). As an option, you could hot glue some gold cord on (near the antlers) in a loop to use as an ornament hanger.

Hot glue gun should be operated by an adult or under adult supervision.

Crafts Continued...

Paper - Bag Reindeer Puppet

Materials:

- Small brown paper lunch bags(one per person)- the type with fold over bottom
- Pencil
- Glue (tacky works best)
- Scissors
- Crayons or felt markers
- Construction paper
- White paper (for eyes and nose)
- Red pompoms, if desired, for nose

Directions:

Suitable for ages 5 to 7 years.

Have each child trace their hand (to the wrist) twice on construction paper (one color). Cut the hand shapes out. These are glued to the back of the bag at the upper corners of the fold over portion which is placed face up to be used for the face. Add facial features - eyes (from white paper with black pupils), a red nose circle (or red pompom, if desired). Once dry, insert hand into the bag and the head can be made to move. A CUTE decoration.

Construction Paper Reindeer

Materials:

- Construction paper
- Scissors, glue stick (or other glue)
- Felt markers, crayons

Directions:

Suitable for ages 5 to 7 years.

Have each person trace one foot. Or have the girls work in pairs, and each girl will trace her partner's foot. Next, using another color, each person will trace two hand prints.

Cut the tracings out.

Glue the handprints behind the wider part of the foot (toe area). On the heel area, create eyes (black or brown) and a nose (red or black). These reindeer are cute and fun to make.

SPECIAL NOTE: A glue stick works best for this project- less mess and fuss!

PRETZEL REINDEERS

Lay traditional (heart-shaped) curled pretzels on wax paper.

Fill open areas with melted white chocolate.

Put two matching (usually brown) M&M's in two largest filled areas (for eyes).

Put one red M&M in smallest filled area (for "Rudolph's" nose).

Break straight stick type pretzels in half and insert at a slant (broken and down) above eyes to form antlers.

E-Resources

Bear Country USA:Reindeer

http://www.bearcountryusa.com/animals/animal_info.php?id=15

Learn about two types of reindeer: wild and domesticated. Find out about their distinctive antlers, their habitats, and diet. Click on the "Photo Gallery" to see a picture.

Reindeer Trivia

<http://www.asij.ac.jp/elementary/projects/3-s/webgame/tamaki/start.htm>

Take this 6-question quiz created by a student to test your knowledge of reindeer.

Santa Claus Reindeer Barn

<http://www.claus.com/reindeer/index.php>

Read funny biographies of each reindeer in Santa's sleigh. NOTE: The site includes ads

Most Frequently Asked Questions about Santa's reindeer

<http://petcaretips.net/santas-reindeer.html>

Find answers on many questions about Santa's reindeer and learn their names, find out whether they are males or females, what makes them fly, and where they live.

Reindeer Photographs

<http://www.reindeer.ws/photos.htm>

Here are photographs of reindeer, with photos of reindeer babies.

Reindeer and Caribou

http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/caribou_reindeer.html

This page has extensive information about caribou and reindeer, their population, habitats, and ecological concerns. NOTE: The reading level is for older students.

Brookfield Zoo: Field Guide: Reindeer

http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/pagegen/htm/fix/fg/fg_body.asp?sAnimal=Reindeer

Learn the difference between horns and reindeer antlers.

Animal Planet: Reindeer/Caribou

<http://animal.discovery.com/guides/mammals/habitat/tundra/caribou.html>

Find out about wild species of reindeer: caribou. Click on the photograph to enlarge it. NOTE: The site includes ads.



Dear Santa,

Love Always,

(School Name)

(Grade)

**Santa wants to hear from
you, so please remember to
bring your letters to Santa to
the Performance. Santa's
elves will be waiting!**



















