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**December Holidays Lesson:  
'Twas the Night Before Christmas**

**Subject: Arts & Humanities**

**Grade: K-2, 3-5**

**Brief Description**

Students learn about the history of Santa Claus in different countries and dramatize Clement C. Moore's famous poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

**Objectives:**

**Students**

- learn background information about the history of Santa Claus in different countries
- learn about Clement Moore
- discuss and dramatize the poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas."

**Keywords:** December, holidays, Christmas, St. Nicholas, poem, Santa Claus, Clement Moore

**Materials Needed:**

Teacher-selected Santa Claus resources or printouts from the sites listed in the lesson, student-created props and/or costumes

**Lesson Plan Suggestion:** This lesson might be covered over several days.

**Day One**

**Ask students to share what they know about Santa Claus. Read and discuss with students background information about Santa Claus from teacher-selected resources or from one or more of these Web sites:**

**Day Two**

**For younger students, read the poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" to the class. For elementary students, have students read the poem aloud from teacher-selected resources or from a printout of [The Night Before Christmas](#). Explain that a man named Clement Moore wrote the poem. Read background information about Moore to students from [this brief bio of the author](#).**

## **Day Three and Beyond**

**Tell students they are going to dramatize the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Let students work together to develop characters, a narrator, props, and costumes. Have students rehearse and perform the poem.**

Assessment - Evaluate students' participation, performance, and cooperative-learning skills.

Lesson Plan Source - Education World

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National Standards

[Language Arts:](#)

[NL-ENG.K-12.1](#)

[NL-ENG.K-12.4](#)

[NL-ENG.K-12.6](#)

[NL-ENG.K-12.9](#)

[Theatre:](#)

[NA-T.K-4.2](#)

[NA-T.K-4.3](#)

[NA-T.K-4.4](#)

[NA-T.5-8.2](#)

[NA-T.5-8.3](#)

[NA-T.5-8.4](#)