SHOPPING AT CHRISTMAS

I love shopping at Christmas because everyone is happy. The shop windows are wonderful and the streets are full of lights and songs. People buy a lot of presents, glowing stars, Christmas balls and angels to decorate their tree. They also buy food like turkeys for the Christmas table. Many people like giving presents and not taking them. Everyone likes shopping at Christmas just like me.

By Konstantina Zafeiratou

SANTA'S ELVES



They are small magical creatures that help Santa throughout the year. They live in the North Pole with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The elves never get cold. They look funny as they are short and have pointy ears and rosy cheeks .They have many jobs at the North Pole. Many of them work in Santa's workshop, some take care of the reindeer and others bake cookies and make candies. They are all lovely!

Iliana Alexopoulou

THE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION

December is here.

'How nice! It is almost Christmas! 'little Maria said excited. 'Maria, come and help me with the Christmas tree' her mum said. So her mum went up to the attic and brought down the tree. Maria opened one of the boxes with the ornaments and looked at them. 'Oh mum! What nice ornaments we have!' Then they put the garlands around the tree together with the lights. After that they hung a lot of colourful balls, gold, red blue and green .They put some angels and reindeer and other nice things on the branches of the tree. On top of the tree they put a big shining star and under the tree some presents and the Nativity scene.

Little Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the animals of the stable, the magicians, the shepherds. In the end they lit the lights. Little Maria couldn't take her

eyes off the tree. 'Mum, can I sleep here tonight?' she asked.

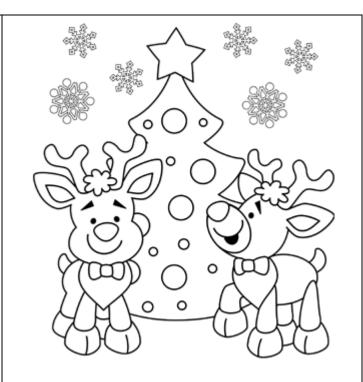
By Denise Nikolopoulou Alexia Malouki Arnela Moulara

THE THREE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS

The story of the famous "Scrooge"

Scrooge was a rich and mean man. One day his nephew invited him to a Christmas party and he begged him to give him some money for his son that had broken his leg. Scrooge didn't care and his nephew left. Later as he was sitting in front of the fireplace his friend Marley, who was a ghost, came down from the chimney. He talked to him and told him:" When you go to bed you will have a nightmare at 1 o'clock" and left. It was 1 o'clock at night and the first ghost visited him. It took him to the house of his assistant. There he saw how difficult life was for him and his family The second ghost came at 2 o'clock and took him back to his childhood. At 3 o'clock the third ghost took him to his grave. Scrooge was shocked and he started thinking. He decided to go to his nephew's party. After that Scrooge was not a mean man anymore, but he became a kind and caring man. He gave the money he had to sick kids. He helped everyone. The Christmas spirits had changed him into a different person.

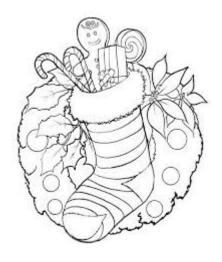
By Chris Tsamis And Angelo Alexakis



Acrostic poem

Children sing the carols in the streets Happy New Year, everyone! I can see Santa's sleigh Stockings are in line on the fireplace The tree is full of lights My best presents ever! Angels sing up in the sky Such a great holiday!

CAROLS



Here in Greece we have a custom. Every Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and the day before Epiphany children sing carols in the streets. Three or four children get together, go from door to door and they sing Christmas songs. People give them sweets or money if they can. Sometimes people don't open the door but it doesn't matter. We are very happy when we go singing carols.

By Arnela Moulara





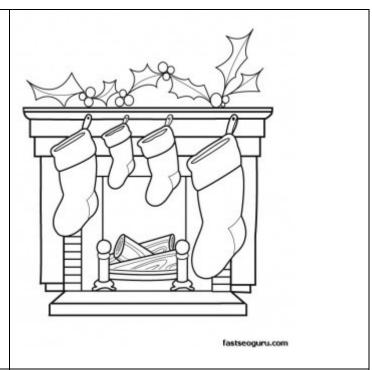
MY LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa Claus,

I know that you are very busy giving a lot of presents all around the world but if you can I would like you to bring me a present too. I would love a small cute teddy bear and a beautiful bike for Christmas. I hope you will bring me my present. Don't forget my brother's too. He will send you another letter. Looking forward to Christmas Eve! Love, Emily

by Iliana Alexopoulou and Konstantina Zafiratou





CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

There are children who live differently than us. Some children live in the streets or in the squares. Some others live in countries with war and some others are orphans or sick These children can't celebrate Christmas as we do. We must all try and help these children who are hungry and cold Maybe some other kids haven't got presents and they haven't got tables with rich foods. They have a simple food but sometimes these children are the happiest children in the world because they have love in their family.

Theodore Liatsos

WHAT HAPPENS ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

This happens every year on Christmas Eve. Late at night kids are sleeping and everything is quiet. Many stories say that he comes to houses with his big sleigh and his reindeer and some other stories say that he comes on his small and old donkey but the first story is true. He always wears a red hat, a red jacket and black boots. He gets into the house through the chimney and he puts the presents under the tree only if the child is good. He doesn't give the bad kids any present but he writes them a card that says "If you want to take the present that you like for Christmas you should be a good child and you also must listen to your parents". When the naughty children read this card they suddenly become the best children in the world. You must know that if you try a lot you can do a lot.

Konstantina Zafiratou Iliana Alexopoulou

CHRISTMAS FOOD

At Christmas, people eat special food. Women start making sweets a month before Christmas comes. They make special pies and special cookies. The most famous are made of honey and nuts and called "Melomakarona". "Kourabiedes" is another favorite kind of sweet made with almonds and sugar. Some ladies make "diples" in the frying pan and then they put honey and nuts on them. They're delicious!

On New Year's Eve, every house has its own "vasilopita". It is a special cake with a coin inside. The person that finds the coin is lucky for the whole year.

On Christmas Day people usually eat **roast turkey** or **chicken soup** and on New Year's Eve they have a variety of food and drinks.

Konstantina Karampela Eriketi Pagania

PATRAS AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a bright festival. Christmas in Patras is a very nice time. The atmosphere is exciting as everyone goes shopping for presents. The streets are crowded, the town is full of decorations ,lights and Christmas trees.

The children are waiting for Santa Claus to bring them presents. Bands play in the streets and the kids sing the Christmas carols. Everyone is happy at Christmas.

Konstantina Karampela

Eriketi Pagania



NEW YEAR'S EVE

People in Greece always celebrate New Year's Eve. On New Year's Eve people invite their relatives to their homes and they cook very delicious foods, they open their best wines and they put their best plates on the table. Before 12 o'clock the countdown starts.

At 12 o'clock we have fireworks, people kiss each other and then we sometimes play cards. We also cut **vasilopita** a special New Year's cake. The lucky person of the year finds a coin in his piece. A lot of people take New Year resolutions. Most of the times people go to bed early in the morning

Happy New Year, everyone!

Theodore Liatsos Antony Triantopoulos

Santa's List



Every year Santa makes a list to see who is naughty and who is nice. Santa leaves presents for the nice kids under the tree and gives the naughty kids a lump of coal. Help Santa decide who is naughty and nice.



| Mike did his chores every week. | nice |
|--|---------|
| Jenny kicked her little brother. | naughty |
| Ben stole some candy from the store. | |
| George helped his sister with her homework. | |
| Peter cleaned the blackboards at school. | |
| Rosa cheated on her test at school. | |
| Fred threw a rock at another boy. | |
| Bob helped his friends steal a bike. | |
| Megan lied to her parents about her grades. | |
| John did his homework every day. | |
| Greg gave his allowance to help poor children. | |
| Brenda swore at her friends. | |
| Mary ran errands for her mother. | |
| Eddie was caught smoking at school. | |
| Nick volunteered at the library. | |
| Ivan teased the younger kids at school. | |
| Heidi shared her snacks with her friends. | |
| Joseph fought with his classmates. | |
| Maria took care of her brother after school. | |
| Stephen was a bully at school. | |
| Dana taught her little brother how to read. | |

CHRISTMAS HABITS AND CUSTOMS IN GREECE



At **Christmas** people in Greece decorate their houses. We decorate the Christmas tree, we put a lot of Christmas balls and Christmas lights. We also decorate the streets and the schools so everything is beautiful. On **Christmas Day** we go to church and then we enjoy family lunch and dinner. We cook turkey, soup and special pies. We dance and we are all happy. We give and take a lot of presets. We visit relatives and many people have their name day.

The children write a letter to Santa Claus and ask for their presents. They put special cookies and a glass of milk. on the fireplace for him. The children on **New year's Eve** go from door to door and sing the carols and people give them money or sweets. At midnight people enjoy themselves and welcome the New Year with fireworks. The sky is getting bright and everything is very nice. Some people break a pomegranate in their front door for good luck

The next special Day is **Epiphany**. People go to church and then they all head for the marina. There, the priest of the area throws a silver coin in the water. A lot of people fall in the water to catch the silver cross. The one who catches the cross is blessed for the New Year break. Children enjoy Christmas holidays because school is closed.

Christmas is the best holiday ever! S not street the best holiday ever! S not street the street street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street that street is street to street the street street the street that street is street to street the street that street the street street that street the street the street that street the street that street the street the street that street the street

by Nikoletta Vandorou and Denia Koureta