

The Christmas stocking game

by Lindsay Clandfield

Teachers notes



Warmer

Draw a picture of a Christmas stocking on the board. Ask students "What is this?" Explain the difference between a sock and a stocking. Tell the students about the English Christmas tradition of stockings (traditionally stockings are hung above the fireplace, and Father Christmas leaves gifts inside them; if you get left a piece of coal it means you were bad this year). Ask students if they have any similar kind of tradition where they come from.

Play the Game

Tell the students that in this class they are going to talk about different aspects of the Christmas season. Divide the class into groups of three or four and give each group a board and a coin. Give them a copy of the instructions (above) and let them start' to 'Choose one of the game options and explain the rules to your students. Monitor and help where necessary.

The Stocking Squares – Two options

If you are playing with a very small class (and maybe have only two games going at the same time), here's a nice activity you can do using the stocking and a series of small, everyday objects (pen, calculator, mobile phone, cassette, piece of clothing etc.). Every time somebody lands on a stocking square, they must try to guess what is in the stocking (so you have to slip the object in the stocking without students seeing you!). Tell them to use language of speculation and sensations when they do this e.g. It might be...

It could be... It must be... It feels (adj)... It feels like a (noun)...





Prepare a series of revision questions on little pieces of paper (taken from your course). Every time someone lands on a stocking square, they must answer a revision question correctly. Another variant on this would be to have the students make their own revision questions and put them all in the stocking.

Another possibility that is compatible with the two above is to have a little Christmas treat for each time someone answers a stocking question correctly. This involves the teacher buying a bag of sweets for the class though!

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Boardgame

START	In your opinion, what's the best thing about the holiday season?				Do you think that Christmas is too commercial these days? Do people waste a lot of money?
When was the first time you spent an important holiday away from home? What happened?	What was the last "perfect" gift you gave someone? The last one you received?		If you could spend New Year's with anyone and anywhere, what would you do?	During your holidays, what will you do to pass the time?	Who do you spend Christmas with? What are some of your family Christmas traditions?
Make three words with the letter: CHRISTMAS	What three events from the past year are most memorable for you?		Make three words with the letter: MISTLETOE	What is your favourite holiday song? What is your favourite holiday movie?	FINISH