

Christmas Memories



About this topic - *The aim of this session is for the children and older people to share their Christmas memories and for everyone to think about the similarities and differences between Christmases now and in the past. There are also two memory games with a Christmas theme.*

Resources for this topic

- Suggested session plan
- Our Christmas Memories – Topics for discussion
- Kim's Game – Christmas style
- Father Christmas's Sack Game
- Suggestions for games for Virtual Projects

We are happy for you to use the material in this Toolkit exactly as it is or to modify it as required for your purposes. We do however ask that you always acknowledge its source as follows:

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Suggested session plan (one and a half hours approx.)

Whilst the plan below has been developed for face to face meetings, all the activities can be modified for use in Virtual meetings too. Instead of working in pairs or small groups the children and adults could take turns to share their special Christmas memories. Suggested modifications for Kim's Game and Father Christmas's sack game are included at the end of this module.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. For this activity it is ideal for one child to work with one adult.
3. If this is not possible because of uneven numbers, then divide the adults and children into small groups.
4. Hand out a **Christmas Memories Discussion Sheet** to each pair or small group. The children and older people should take it in turns to read out loud and ask one another the questions.
5. Refreshments and whole group discussion about everyone's **Christmas Memories**. What are the differences and similarities between different people's experiences?
6. **Kim's Game – Christmas style** and/or **Father Christmas's sack game** (depending how much time you have)
7. Thankyous and goodbyes – Before the children and older people leave you may wish to say something about the topic you have planned for the next session. This gives everyone the opportunity to be more prepared and, if appropriate, perhaps to bring photographs or other memorabilia.

Christmas Memories

Either working in pairs or small groups the aim is for everyone to find out about one another's special Christmas memories and experiences. Ask one another the questions below and write down the answers. These are some suggestions – there may be other questions you also want to ask. Think about the differences and similarities in your experiences.

1. What is your earliest childhood memory of waking up on Christmas morning? Can you remember what presents you received? Can you remember how you felt?
2. What do you remember about Christmas Day when you were very young? What did you enjoy doing? Who did you spend the day with? As you got older how did it change?

3. What are your favourite things to eat at Christmas time?

4. Is there some traditional Christmas food that you don't like?

5. What do you like best about Christmas now?

6. Do you have a favourite Christmas Carol? Can you sing it?

Father's Christmas's Sack Game

This is just a variation on "I packed my bag and in it I put"

Everyone sits in a circle. One person is chosen to start and says "Father Christmas packed his sack and in it he put...", followed by an object which has some connection with Christmas such as something that could be a present or an item of food for example.

The next person then says "Father Christmas packed his sack and in it he put...", followed by the original suggestion, and adding their own object.

Play continues around the circle. Players can challenge one another if they think someone's suggestion does not have a connection with Christmas. If all the other players agree with the challenge then the player who made the suggestion is disqualified.

A player is also disqualified if they forget one of the previously occurring items or cannot think of a new item to add to the sack.

The game continues until only one person remains (alternatively you may need to set a time limit).



Kim's Game – Christmas style

For this activity it is ideal for one child to work with one adult. If this is not possible because of uneven numbers, then divide the adults and children into small groups.

Find 15 small objects that have an association with Christmas and arrange them on a tray - it could be things like a small toy, an orange, a cracker etc.

Keep the tray covered with a cloth until you are ready to play the game. When you are ready to play remove the cloth and ask everyone to look carefully at the objects for about thirty seconds.

Then take the tray away and working in pairs or small groups ask them to write down everything they can remember. Another way of playing the game is to cover the things whilst you take one thing away and then ask people to spot what is missing.



Suggestions for Christmas Games for Virtual Projects

Father's Christmas's Sack Game

This is a variation on "I packed my bag and in it I put" and modified for Zoom!

For this game each child is partnered with one adult. One child is chosen to start and says "Father Christmas packed his sack and in it he put...", followed by an object which their partner suggests which has some connection with Christmas such as something that could be a present or an item of food for example.

The next child then says "Father Christmas packed his sack and in it he put...", followed by the original suggestion, and adding their own object which has been suggested by their partner.

Play continues around the group. A child can ask their partner for help if they cannot remember an object in the list. Adults can challenge one another if they think someone's suggestion does not have a connection with Christmas. If all the other players agree with the challenge then the adult who made the suggestion and their partner is disqualified.

A pair are also disqualified if they forget one of the previously occurring items or cannot think of a new item to add to the sack.

The game continues until only one pair remains (alternatively you may need to set a time limit).



Kim's Game – Christmas style – for Virtual Projects

Preparation – for copyright reasons we are not able to share the resources we created for this game but it is very easy to make your own version – we used Christmas Clip Art images.

Create a Word document

On the internet find 15 small images of Christmas items e.g.
Mince pie, Christmas bauble, Christmas tree, Christmas Cracker, Turkey, Christmas Present, Christmas stocking, Holly etc.

Copy the images of the 15 items onto the first page of the document.

On the second page put a large question mark

On the third page list all the items

On the fourth page copy 14 of the images

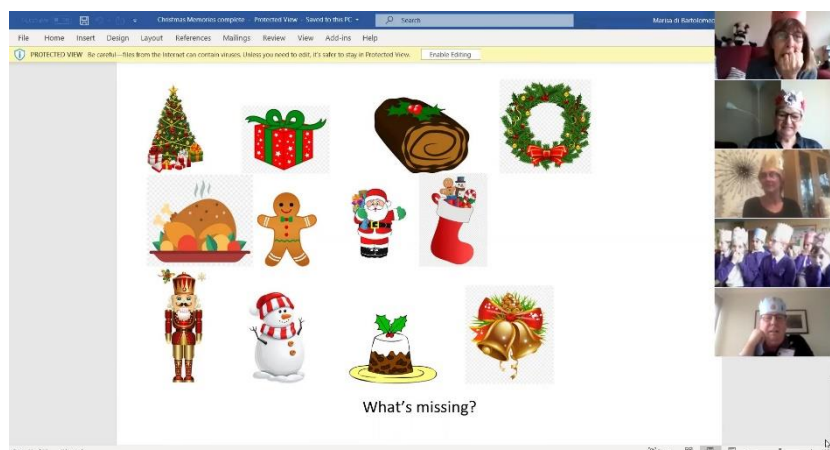
On the fifth page put a large question mark

On the sixth page write the name of the item that is missing

And so on.....

How to play - Ask everyone to look carefully at the objects on Page 1 for about thirty seconds. Then move onto Page 2 with the question mark

Everyone should then write down everything they can remember. The winner/s is the person who remembers the most



Move onto Page 4 and ask people to spot what is missing – they should put their hands up when they think they know the answer. And so on..... You can add as many rounds as you like!