



Christmas in Other Cultures

NB: These activities are designed to follow on from the stories told in Snail Tales' Christmas in Other Cultures programme. For more details, visit www.snailtales.org/book

Craft Ideas

- **Make a Littlest Camel stocking.** You will need to cut the stocking shape out of felt and give two shapes to each child to be sewn together. It is fairly easy for even a small child to sew around the edge of the shape using a big needle, wool and a large running stitch, especially if evenly spaced dots are put on the felt to show where to put the needle in; but if sewing is too chaotic in a large class, glue or staples make a good second best! Stick a camel shape to the side of the stocking and decorate with sequins, gemstones and shiny ribbon. A big version could be filled with presents, and a little version could be used as a tree decoration or given as a gift with a chocolate inside - and hopefully, a retelling of the story from the giver!
- **Make Baboushka gift boxes.** Introduce the children to the idea and designs of Russian dolls (these are often based on Baboushka). Some templates have been provided along with an instruction sheet for the children, but this would also make a good numeracy lesson for older children if they made the nets for the boxes themselves, using squared paper and measuring to make sure that the boxes will fit inside each other.

When it comes to decorating the doll figures, show the children some examples on the internet, and suggest that they think of a way to make their dolls look like Baboushka from the story (the examples in the worksheet are carrying presents.) A basic shape is given on the templates. Challenge the children to make all three dolls look exactly the same!

- **Make tinsel spider webs to hang on the tree** using metallic pipe-cleaners. Children could design the webs first using dotted paper or pegboards and wool, then work out how to twist the pipe-cleaners together to make the same shapes.

Literacy Idea

- **Write to the Littlest Camel** as an alternative to letters to Santa.

Numeracy Idea

- **Use Russian dolls to talk about comparing sizes.** (See Baboushka Boxes craft activity above.) With a reception class, arrange them in order of size; make paper templates for the children to decorate and arrange. With older children, find ways to measure the dolls and make graphs of the measurements eg height, weight, circumference of the middle, head and neck.

To give your school a magical Christmas treat, visit www.snailtales.org/book and check out our Christmas In Other Cultures programme.



Make Baboushka Gift Boxes

These boxes fit inside each other just like the traditional Russian dolls. What surprise gift will you put in the smallest box?

You will need: Coloured card, a pencil, a ruler, scissors, glue or sticky tape, colouring pens or pencils, the two template sheets.

Step one: Make the three flat nets for the boxes by carefully cutting out the templates and drawing around them onto coloured card.

Step two: Cut out and fold the nets. Watch out - the biggest one folds in a slightly different way, you may have to think extra hard! Use glue or sticky tape to fix the tabs on the boxes, but be careful not to stick the lid of the box down.

Step three: Colour in and decorate the three doll shapes, then carefully cut them out.

Step four: Match the doll shapes to the correct box sizes, so that the smallest doll is with the smallest box. Glue the doll to the front of the box so that the tab on the box lid slots down behind it to close the box. Do the same for all the boxes.





