

Carols and Christmas Activities

Six well-loved carols (all words out of copyright),
plus puzzles and activities for **KS1 and KS2**

Inside

1. Words to six carols: Away in a Manger, Good King Wenceslas, Deck the Hall, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Jingle Bells, The Holly and the Ivy
2. Carol word search
3. Missing words
4. The Twelve Days of Christmas maths challenge
5. Write your own carol verse
6. Answers

The carol words in this pack are all in the public domain, so you can print, sing and perform them freely. The source and date for each are printed under its title.

Free Christmas stories, games and printables at christmastales.co.uk

Away in a Manger

Words: anonymous, verses 1–2 published 1885, verse 3 by 1892. Public domain.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet
head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from
the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender
care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee
there.

Good King Wenceslas

Words: John Mason Neale, 1853. Public domain. (First three verses.)

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither,
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together,
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Deck the Hall

Words: Thomas Oliphant, 1862 (Welsh tune 'Nos Galan'). Public domain.

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Words: traditional English (West Country). Public domain.

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year.

Oh, bring us a figgy pudding,
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding,
Oh, bring us a figgy pudding,
And bring it out here!

We won't go until we get some,
We won't go until we get some,
We won't go until we get some,
So bring some out here!

Jingle Bells

Words and music: James Lord Pierpont, 1857. Public domain. (Verse 1 and chorus.)

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright;
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!

The Holly and the Ivy

Words: traditional English, collected by Cecil Sharp, 1909 (printed much earlier). Public domain. (Verses 1–3.)

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

Chorus: The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

Carol word search

Find these words from the carols. They go across, down or diagonally.

**MANGER · HOLLY · IVY · SLEIGH · BELLS · CAROL · STAR · SNOW · WENCESLAS ·
PUDDING · CHOIR · ANGEL**

L	J	L	P	P	O	O	A	W	N	O	M	W
L	R	S	T	A	R	S	D	N	I	N	K	E
A	Y	T	S	C	U	H	L	T	G	A	F	N
U	I	R	N	A	D	I	T	E	B	E	B	C
M	R	F	O	R	Y	B	I	F	I	U	L	E
A	K	C	W	O	D	N	W	U	Y	G	V	S
N	B	E	L	L	S	C	H	O	I	R	H	L
G	E	S	L	E	I	C	T	I	C	Y	T	A
E	G	H	S	Y	V	F	C	C	V	U	A	S
R	K	O	Y	F	R	H	I	C	Y	Y	C	Y
D	J	L	A	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	O	U
J	L	L	J	I	I	B	F	I	N	B	R	J
A	J	Y	C	U	E	K	P	B	H	P	O	L

Missing words

Fill in the missing word. Look back at the carols if you need to.

1. Away in a manger, no _____ for a bed
2. Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of _____
3. Deck the hall with boughs of _____
4. Oh, bring us a _____ pudding
5. Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open _____
6. The holly bears a berry as _____ as any blood
7. When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and _____
8. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he _____

The Twelve Days of Christmas maths challenge

In the carol, a true love gives: 1 partridge on day 1; on day 2, 2 turtle doves and another partridge; on day 3, 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and another partridge ... and so on, adding one new kind of gift every day up to 12 drummers drumming on day 12.

1. How many gifts arrive on day 3? (KS1)
2. How many gifts arrive on day 12 on its own? (Lower KS2)
3. How many gifts arrive altogether, over all twelve days? Show your working. (Upper KS2)
4. Which gift does the true love receive the most of in total? (Challenge)

Write your own carol verse

Write a new verse for **Deck the Hall**. Keep the "Fa la la" lines, and make the other lines rhyme in pairs, like *holly / jolly* and *apparel / carol*.

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

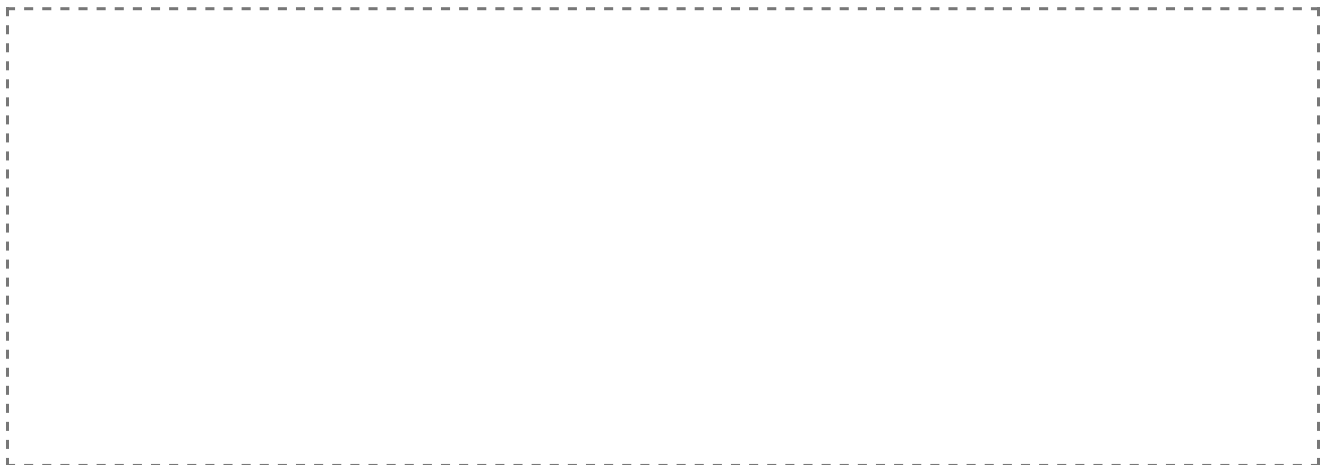
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fa la la, la la la, la la la.

Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Rhyme ideas: snow / glow · tree / three · bright / night · cheer / year · sing / ring · lights / nights

Design a lantern for the carol singers



Answers

Missing words: 1. crib, 2. Stephen, 3. holly, 4. figgy, 5. sleigh, 6. red, 7. even, 8. lay.

Twelve Days: 1. 6 gifts ($3 + 2 + 1$). 2. 78 gifts ($1 + 2 + \dots + 12$). 3. 364 gifts altogether. 4. Geese a-laying and swans a-swimming tie: 42 each (6×7 and 7×6).

Word search solution:

.	.	.	.	.	.	.	A	.	.	.	.	W
.	.	S	T	A	R	S	.	N	.	.	.	E
.	.	.	S	C	.	.	L	.	G	.	.	N
.	.	.	N	A	.	.	.	E	.	E	.	C
M	.	.	O	R	.	.	.	.	I	.	L	E
A	.	.	W	O	.	.	.	.	.	G	.	S
N	B	E	L	L	S	C	H	O	I	R	H	L
G	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	I	.	.	.	A
E	.	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	V	.	.	S
R	.	O	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Y	.	.
.	.	L	.	P	U	D	D	I	N	G	.	.
.	.	L	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	Y	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.