

# Santa's On-Line Adventure

Setting: *In front of the curtains, on stage left are 2 computer workstations. Sara and Rob are reading their assignment standing behind the computers. On stage right, in front of the curtains is Santa's computer station. Santa is not on stage yet. See the section "10 Minute Backdrop" for more information on staging.*

*Lights on Sara and Rob.*

Rob: *(stands reading assignment)* "Winter Internet Project - where does Mr Payne *(insert a teachers name)* find these projects?"

Sara: *(standing, assumes a thinking pose)* "He stays up late every night thinking up 20th century ways to torture us! I heard that last year he made the boys do ballet... the Nutcracker no less! Actually, this project sounds like fun. All we have to do is e-mail our key pals in other countries and find out what celebrations they have in Winter. Easy!"

Rob: "Easy for you. You have e-mail pals all over the globe. I just write to this cute girl in California. Does that count?"

Sara: "Well, sort of. But I think our teacher wants us to try and find out about celebrations in places a little farther away - like Denmark, or China or Blackfalds,." *(Insert the name of a small town close to you.)*

Rob: "But the girl in California sounds really nice."

Sara: " You write to Pamela Lee - I'm going to see if I can find a home page for Denmark. Here it is! Check this out Rob."

*Sara and Rob sit. Lights off them, and stage lights on.*

***Curtain opens.***

*The kindergarten children are on stage , ready to perform the Danish Dance of Greeting.*

Danish Children: Welcome to Denmark!

Danish Children dance the Danish Dance of Greeting.  
*(See page 28 for Dance directions)*

***start tape***

Sara: Here is a sound clip of a Danish Christmas song!

**Danish Children sing: Jingle Bells** ***start tape***

*To the Teacher: The words of the chorus are given in Danish the second time through. When our school performed this musical, one of the Kindergarten parents spoke Danish, and taught the*

*children this chorus in Danish. Unless you have a Danish parent, I would use the traditional English words for Jingle Bells, although it would be possible to insert “Bjael-de Klang” instead of Jingle bells the second time thro*

**Danish Children:** Glaedelig Jul! (*Merry Christmas in Danish*)

***Curtain closes***

*Lights on Sara and Rob. Sara and Rob stand.*

**Rob:** “That was cool. Let’s see if Germany has a home page that tells about their Winter Celebrations.”

*Lights go off Sara and Rob. Sara and Rob sit down. Lights go on Santa.*

*A computer station, similar to Sara and Rob’s is set up with a technician in a white lab coat working on the computer. Santa enters, with several long lists in each hand. Label them “Good” and “Bad” with the words facing the audience. Use 10-15 feet long sheets of computer feeder paper to create the idea that Santa’s lists are long, untidy and very confused.*

Santa: Technology, shmology. I like my lists.

Elf Tech: Once you’re on-line Santa, you’ll see how much easier it’s going to be for you. And it’s going to save you a lot of money in long distance phone calls too. Maybe you’ll even get some air miles!

Santa: How much money will I have to spend to save this money? I still like my pencil and paper. All I have to do is look at a computer and it crashes. (*Sound effects - crash!*)

Elf Tech: It’s not hard at all. Let’s just look for a home page to get you started. Why don’t we look up Germany’s home page, and see what they’re doing there for Christmas.

*Santa and the elf sit down, and the lights focus on center stage.*

**German Children:** Welcome to Germany!

Sara: (*standing*) The Christmas tree and all of it’s decorations came from Germany. (*Children carry in a decorated tree and place it at the back of the stage.*)

**German Children sing:** *Oh Christmas Tree while they bring it in.* ***Start Tape***

Sara: The advent calendar, letters to Santa Claus, and many Christmas carols came from Germany.

German Children Sing: *Away in A Manger* ***Start Tape***

Rob: (*standing*) December 6th is the beginning of the Christmas Holidays in Germany. On December 6th St. Nicholas would visit the children and bring gifts to children who had been good.

Sara: Krampus comes with St. Nicholas, bringing a bundle of birch rods to children who were naughty.

Rob: Oh oh! I better switch shoes with my sister or all I'll get is birch rods this year!

*Sara and Rob sit down. Lights off Sara and Rob.*

German children Sing: Jolly Old St. Nicholas *start tape*

**German Children:** Froehliche Weihnachten (*Merry Christmas in German*)

***Curtain Closes***

*Lights on Santa.: Santa stands.*

Santa: That was very nice. But you're forgetting that I've visited Germany in person every year for the past 600 years or so. My lists work just fine.

Elf tech: (*stands*) You lost your Italian list last year Santa.

Santa: (*looking guilty*) I still visited all the children in Italy.

Elf tech: Befano usually leaves coal or switches for the bad children in Italy. According to the latest figures, the use of bad words in Italy increased by 42% last year. That is a direct result of you losing your Italian list, and giving every child - the good ones and the bad ones - presents.

Santa: Let's look at the Italian home page, so I can see for myself.

*Santa and Elf Sit. Lights off Santa.*

***Curtain Opens***

*A manger is set up on stage left. The students who will read the Befana story sit on the floor on stage right. Microphones for the readers are set up on the front of the stage on stage right. Children who are in the nativity do not enter immediately.*

Reader 1: The nativity scene comes to us from Italy. St. Francis of Assisi asked a man of the village to create a manger scene. St. Francis performed mass in front of this Nativity scene, which inspired all who saw it. Today, every family has a *presepio*, or manger scene in their home. Here is the Christmas Story.

*During the readings and singing of the Bagpipers Carol stage the Nativity Scene. Mary, Joseph, 3 wise men, shepherds and angels enter from off stage and create the nativity at the front of stage left. (If this is not acceptable in your teaching situation, omit this part)*

Reader 2: In those days Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole world. Everyone went to register, each to his own town. And so Joseph went to the town of Bethlehem, to register with Mary, his wife.

*(\* Mary and Joseph enter and sit on either side of the manger. Mary has a baby doll under her robes. )*

Reader 3: While they were there She gave birth to her son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

*Mary lays her baby in the Manger and covers Him with blankets)*

Reader 4: There were shepherds in the region, living in the fields and keeping night watch over their flocks. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and they were very much afraid. *(one angel enters)* The angel said to them: “You have nothing to fear! I come to give you good news. This day in David’s city a savior has been born to you. You will find Him in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes.” Suddenly there were many angels praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the Highest and peace to His people on Earth.”

*(Angels enter, and line up in a semicircle behind the manger)*

Reader 5: The shepherds said to one another: “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us”

*(Shepherds enter, dividing so that some are on either side of the manger behind Mary & Joseph)*

Reader 6: As the shepherds hurried off to spread the good news of the Savior’s birth, a star appeared in a far off Eastern land to three very rich Wise Men. They knew that this star would lead them to the Son of God. They gathered together precious gifts, and began their journey.

*(Wise Men Enter )*

**Italian Children Sing:** The Bagpipers Carol

***Start Tape***

Narrator 1: Gifts are not given in Italy until Befana brings them on January 6th. All the children in Italy love the story of Befana. The Three Wise Men journeyed through Italy on their way to Bethlehem. The night was cold, and the snow was piling up in drifts. An old woman named Befana was cleaning her house. *(Befana is sweeping)* The Three Wise Men stopped to talk to her . *(Wise Men go over to*

*Befana and mime a conversation with her)* They asked her to join them in their search for the New born King. But it was late and Befana needed to clean her house.

Narrator 2 : The old men journeyed on to Bethlehem without her. But as Befana sat by her fire, she began to think about the little Baby born in Bethlehem, for she loved all babies. So when it was Morning Befana put on her long cloak, filled her sack with toys and left to find the Baby Jesus. But Befana had forgotten to ask the 3 old men the way to Bethlehem. Up and down the roads she hurried, through woods and fields and towns, saying to all she met, (*Befana picks up her Sack and walks to Stage left*) “I’m going to find the Baby Jesus. Where does he lie? I have some pretty toys for Him.”

Narrator 2: But no one could tell her the way to go and they all said...  
(*Befana walks to Stage Right*)

Italian Children: Farther on, Befana, farther on.

Narrator 2 : So she traveled on, and on, and on for years and years - but she never found the Baby Jesus.

Narrator 3: They say that old Befana is traveling still, looking for Him. Whenever she comes to a house where there is a child, she drops in to see if it might be the Baby Jesus. It never is, but she leaves a gift, anyway.

Italian Children: Farther on, Befana, farther on.

Narrator 3: Befana hurries on, forever searching for the Baby Jesus.

Italian Children: Farther on, Befana, farther on. (*Befana exits*)

**Italian Children Sing: Jesus the Newborn Baby**      *start tape*

### ***Curtain Closes***

*(If you do not have curtains, Nativity scene exits first, followed by singers and readers. Delay the entrance of the Mexican children until Carlos begins reading)*

*Mexican children should enter and take places on stage. They should sit in lines so they can dance La Raspa after the Posada and Pinata scene. Divide your children into Innkeepers and Pilgrims for the Posada scene. If you have a large stage, several groups of children could set up ‘puestos’ or market stalls, around the stage. These children bring on stage goods to sell - poinsettias, sombreros, blankets, pottery and sit on the floor on Mexican blankets. The puestos can be left out if you have a small stage.*

*The Mexican children bring the Pinata with them. At my school we hung the pinata from a child’s portable basketball hoop. We decorated the basketball hoop and backboard with colorful crepe*

*paper. It was light enough to get on stage easily, and was a good height for our grade 2 children to pretend that they were hitting it.*

*ights on Santa: Santa and the Elf stand.*

Santa: Those Italian children looked pretty well behaved to me.

Elf Tech: Well you should see them when they aren't on stage in front of all these people!

*Santa & the Elf Tech sit. Lights off on Santa. Lights on on Sara and Rob. Sara and Rob stand.*

Sara: Those home pages were awesome. I can't find a home page for Mexico. I'm going to voice mail my friend Maria and ask her what they celebrate in Winter.

Dear Maria: We're doing a school project on Winter celebrations around the world. Can you tell us about yours?"

Maria: *(voice from offstage)* Dear Sara.... In December in Mexico we celebrate Christmas! For weeks before Christmas market stalls, called *puestos* are set up in the plazas of every town and city. They *puestos* sell crafts, food and flowers such as orchids and poinsettias, and of course pinatas.

### ***Curtains Open***

Maria: The Christmas celebration in Mexico is called *las Posadas*. In a Posada a family takes part in a pageant acting out the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Friends and family divide into two groups: innkeepers and pilgrims.

*Pilgrims kneel and Innkeepers stand.*

Maria: The pilgrims travel from house to house asking for a shelter and are refused at each until they finally reach the house where an alter and nativity scene have been set up.

Pilgrims: In heaven's name we beg for shelter. Mary can go no further.

**All Mexican Children Sing:** Open These Doors ***Start Tape***

nnkeepers: You look very tired. You may have the stable!  
*Pilgrims stand*

**Mexican Children sing :** Enter Pilgrims ***Start Tape***

Maria: After a traditional prayer, food and drink are served and then children take turns trying to break the pinata.

*Choose a group of children to line up to swing at the pinata. After their turn, pass the bat to the next child and line up in their row for the Raspa dance.*

*All Mexican Children Sing: The Pinata Song during the “breaking” of the pinata. To minimize the possibility of hitting a child accidentally, use a nerf baseball bat and teach the children to pretend to hit the pinata. Make sure that all the waiting children stand back!*

**Maria:** After the pinata is broken we have a party!

*All children move into their lines and dance “La Raspa” Directions on page 28      **start tape***

**All Mexican Children:** Feliz Navidad!      (*Merry Christmas in Spanish*)

### ***Curtain Closes***

*Lights off on Sara & Rob. Sara and Rob sit. Lights on on Santa. Santa stands.*

**Santa:** Ho Ho Ho! Look at this! I found China’s home page - all by myself!

**Elf-Tech:** Another Miracle of Christmas! But Seriously, I thought you were looking for Canada!

**Santa:** My keyboarding isn’t very good yet - I should take some lessons from Mrs. Matheson . (*substitute a teachers name*) She has those Grade 5’s keyboarding at the speed of flying reindeer!

*Santa and Elf-Tech sit. Lights off on Santa      Lights on Sara & Rob      Sara and Rob stand.*

**Sara:** I wonder what kind of celebrations they have in Asia. I’m going to check out China’s home page.

**Rob:** It says here that Chinese New Years is celebrated some time between January 21 and February 20 - it doesn’t have a fixed date on the Western Calendar. It’s the most important family get together of the year, and a time to ensure good luck for the future.

**Sara:** Each year is represented by a different animal. Let’s look up what year we were born in.

**Rob:** 1986 - I’m born in the year of the Tiger. Cool!

**Sara:** On the feast night there is a parade led by the dragon because he is the symbol of goodness and strength. To scare away anything bad, his face is ferocious looking.

**Rob:** I’ve known some teachers who could do that!

Sara: Get serious Rob - we've got an assignment to do. On New Years Day, family visiting begins. Children are given red packets of money called lai-see - lucky money. The children are noisy all night, for the Chinese believe that the longer children stay awake, the longer their parents will live!

Rob: Someone should tell my parents that!

### ***Curtain opens***

*Chinese drummers and cymbal players sit on stage left.*

*Ribbon dancers and singers are on the bottom risers.*

**\*\*\* Sudden loud fireworks.** *Create the sound effects by popping balloons backstage.\*\*\**

Rob: What is all that noise?

Sara: That must be the fireworks for Chinese New Years! Look - it's the dragon dance.

Drummers begin: drum roll, sfz crash, then begin drum pattern

Drums: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ :|

Cymbals: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ :|

To put the dragon to sleep, roll, decrescendo, end

*See Appendix II: Dances, for directions for the Dragon dance*

Sara: There are some sound clips on this home page too - here is a Chinese Folk Song

Rob: Look at this video - it's a Chinese Ribbon Dance.

*Chinese Ribbon dancers come forward and perform the ribbon dance. **Start Tape** See Page 29 for instructions for the Ribbon Dance.*

### ***Curtain Closes***

*All Grade 5's move off stage to wings. Hanukkah performers enter now*

*Sara and Rob sit - lights stay on them now till the end of the play*

*Lights on Santa. Santa and the Elf stand.*

Elf Tech: That was very interesting, but it wasn't Canada.

Santa: I must have spelled Canada wrong. But I bet there are lots of Canadians who celebrate Chinese New Years! Let's look up Finland next.

*Santa & Elf sit. Sara and Rob stand.*

Rob: I'm checking out Israel. I think that in Israel and in all Jewish communities, the celebration at this time of year is Hanukkah.

Sarah: Amazing...You're right Rob.

Rob: I'm always right...well almost always.

Sarah: It says that Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights takes place around the time of the Winter Solstice and lasts for eight days.....

*Sorry - we can't give the ending to the play, or no one would buy it! (Remember - public performance rights are only given to the school when the play is purchased)*

*The teacher guide also includes:*

*\* choreography suggestions*

*\* costume ideas*

*\* piano/vocal scores (Piano accompaniments are interesting, but not too difficult.)*

*The CD for this play is recorded with a full performance, and then with accompaniments only. The accompaniments are fully orchestrated. (not just piano)*