

# Christmaths

## Christmas Board Games. Maths/Design Technology

You will need:

Some simple board games                      a piece of card                      pencil                      coloured  
pencils                      pens

\*The card can already have the squares marked out or older children would do this themselves as a measurement activity.

### Method

Look at simple board games like Snakes and Ladders with your class. The children could bring ones from home and, in groups, play a game. Ask what types of instructions they can see on the boards and write some of their responses on a white board.

Tell them that they are going to make a Christmas board game and ask them for themes, for example; Santa's workshop, Santa and the reindeers delivering presents around the world, the story 'A Christmas Carol.'

Next, ask for ideas to write on the board, for example; Santa got stuck in the chimney miss a go, Fog in England made Rudolph lose his way go back 5 spaces.

In pairs design your board game and write a list of instructions that you intend to use. Once you know what your design will be like draw the design on the card and write out the instructions. Play the game to test that it works.

\*You could incorporate literacy by asking the children to write a report about their game; how they planned it, what worked well and what they would change.

## Map Making 1- Map for Santa to get to our school

You will need:

Paper                  ruler                  pencil                  coloured pens or pencils

Tell the children that Santa intends to visit school this year but needs directions so we need to draw a map for him. Explain that he will need to park his sleigh at a certain place close to the school and walk. You can then decide where this will be according to the age of the children and the level of difficulty. If possible, take the children out and do the walk asking them to note things like landmarks, street names etc.

The maps, which they then design, can be as simple or sophisticated as you like according to their age: it could be a line with buildings drawn in along the way; it could include street names, compass directions, to scale etc.

## Map Making 2- Santa's Map

You will need:

Paper                  tea bags/coffee                  pencil                  coloured pens or pencils  
maps                  atlases

Put the paper to soak for a couple of minutes in water with dissolved tea or coffee. Remove and leave it to dry.

Again, this idea can be as simple or sophisticated as you like. The idea is that Santa has lost his map and needs a new one for Christmas Eve; it could be to find his way across the World, across your country, state/county, or town. You could use maps to help you draw a rough map to help him and illustrations or symbols and a key. In addition you could ask older children to draw x and y axes and give coordinates for different countries, towns or buildings

