

# Christmas Activity Booklet

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class



Can you write a Christmas story using the vocabulary listed?

Angel

Artificial tree

Bells

Blizzard

Blustery

Boots

Candle

December 25.

Decorate.

Decorations

Eggnog

Elf

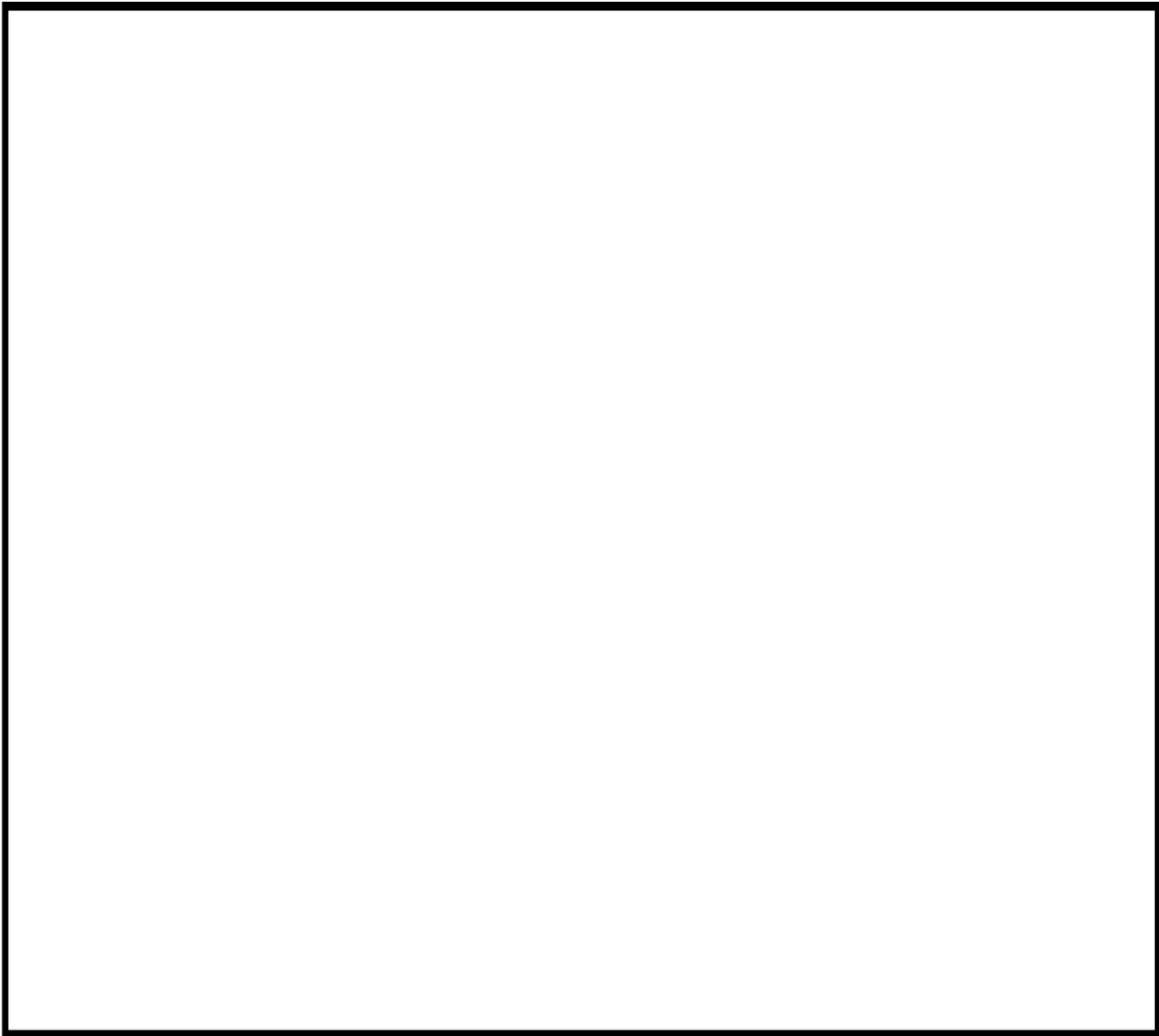
Family

Feast

Gift

Gift-giving

Hope

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features five identical sets of horizontal guidelines spaced evenly down the page. Each set includes three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a structured space for practicing letter formation and alignment.



This is Cracker. He is half penguin and half elf. Santa doesn't believe he is half elf and told him to leave the North Pole. Can you write a letter from Cracker to Santa to persuade Santa to give Cracker his job back?

# *How to make Christmas cookies:*

## *Ingredients:*

What you need:

600g/1lb 6oz Cream Plain Flour

300g/11oz Butter (room  
temperature)

300g/11oz Shamrock Golden  
Caster Sugar

2 medium Eggs (beaten)

1 Teaspoon Goodall's Vanilla  
Essence

Instant Royal Icing

Coloured Writing Icing

Silver/Gold Christmas Balls  
(optional)

Christmas Cutters Stars, Trees,  
Snowmen etc.

# *How to make Christmas cookies:*

## Recipe:

Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Lightly grease large flat baking trays. Beat the butter and sugar together until light and creamy. Add the eggs and vanilla essence and mix well.

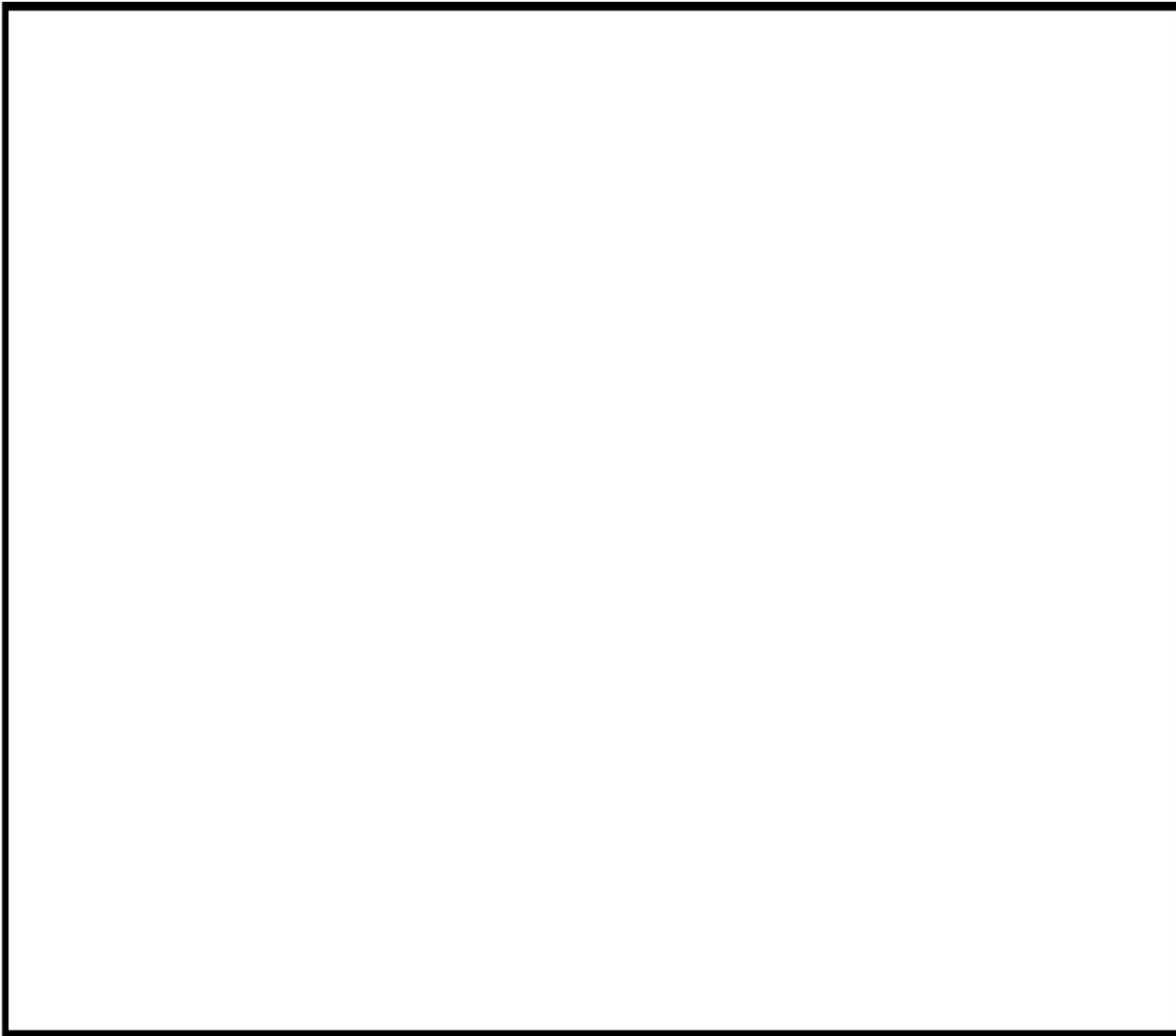
Gradually add the flour and mix until dough is formed. Divide into 2 balls, wrap and chill for 1 hour.

Roll the dough out on a lightly floured board to a thickness of 3-4mm. Cut with cutters of choice. Dip the cutters into flour before each use.

Arrange cookies on prepared tins/trays and bake in a central oven position for about 12 minutes or until firm and golden brown. Leave to cool for 10 minutes then transfer to wire tray to cool.

When cold decorate as you choose!

## This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features ten identical rows of horizontal guidelines. Each row is defined by three lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line. The rows are evenly spaced across the entire page, providing ample space for practicing letter formation and alignment. There is no text or other markings on the page.

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# Christmas in Italy: Comprehension

One of the most important ways of celebrating Christmas in Italy is the nativity crib scene. Using a crib to help tell the Christmas story was made very popular by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223 (Assisi is in mid-Italy). The previous year he had visited Bethlehem and saw where it was thought that Jesus was born. A lot of Italian families have a Nativity crib in their homes.

The city of Naples in Italy is world famous for its cribs and crib making. These are known as 'Presepe Napoletano' (meaning Neapolitan Cribs). The first crib scene in Naples is thought to go back to 1025 and was in the Church of S. Maria del presepe (Saint Mary of the Crib), this was even before St. Francis of Assisi had made cribs very popular!

!

Having cribs in your own home became popular in the 16th century and it's still popular today (before that only churches and monasteries had cribs). Cribs are traditionally put out on the 8th December. But the figure of the baby Jesus isn't put into the crib until the evening/night of December 24<sup>th</sup>.

One old Italian custom is that children go out Carol singing and playing songs on shepherds pipes, wearing shepherds sandals and hats.

On Christmas Eve, it's common that no meat (and also sometimes no dairy) is eaten. Often a light seafood meal is eaten and then people go to the Midnight Mass service. The types of fish and how they are served vary between different regions in Italy.

When people return from Mass, if it's cold, you might have a slice of Italian Christmas Cake called 'Panettone' which is like a dry fruity sponge cake and a cup of hot chocolate!

Epiphany is also important in Italy. On Epiphany night, children believe that an old lady called 'Befana' brings presents for them. The story about Befana bringing presents is very similar to the story of Babushka.

Children put stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill. In parts of northern Italy, the Three Kings might bring you present rather than Befana.

On Christmas day 'Babbo Natale' (Santa Claus) might bring them some small gifts, but the main day for present giving is on Epiphany.

# Questions:

How are traditions in Italy different to traditions in Ireland?

Name three ways in which the Italians celebrate Christmas.

What is the main point in paragraph one?

Can you state three facts about cribs in Italy?

Which part of Italy is famous for making cribs?

What happens on Epiphany?

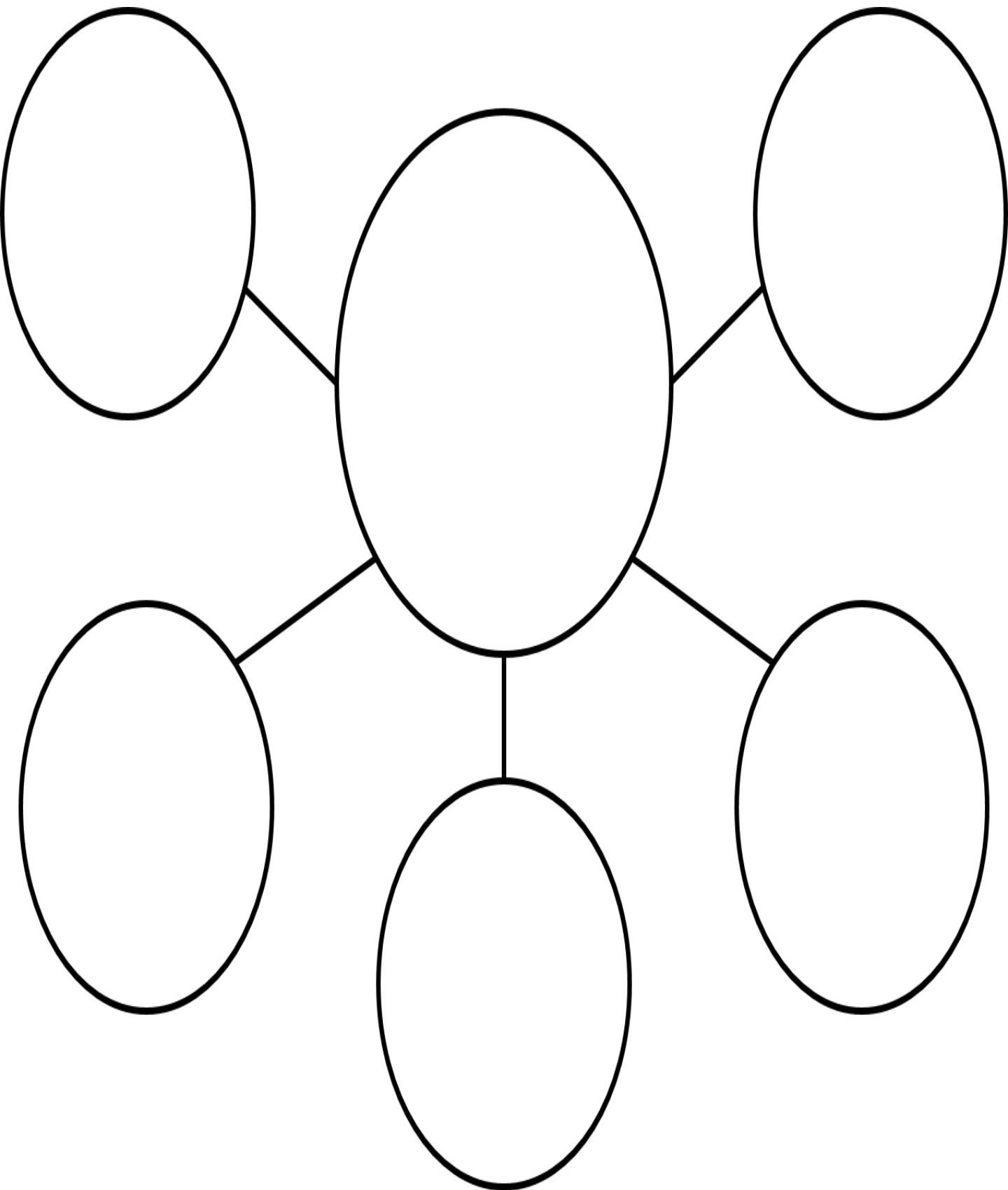
Who brings gifts to the children?

What do people eat and drink at Christmas?

# Christmas in Italy KWL

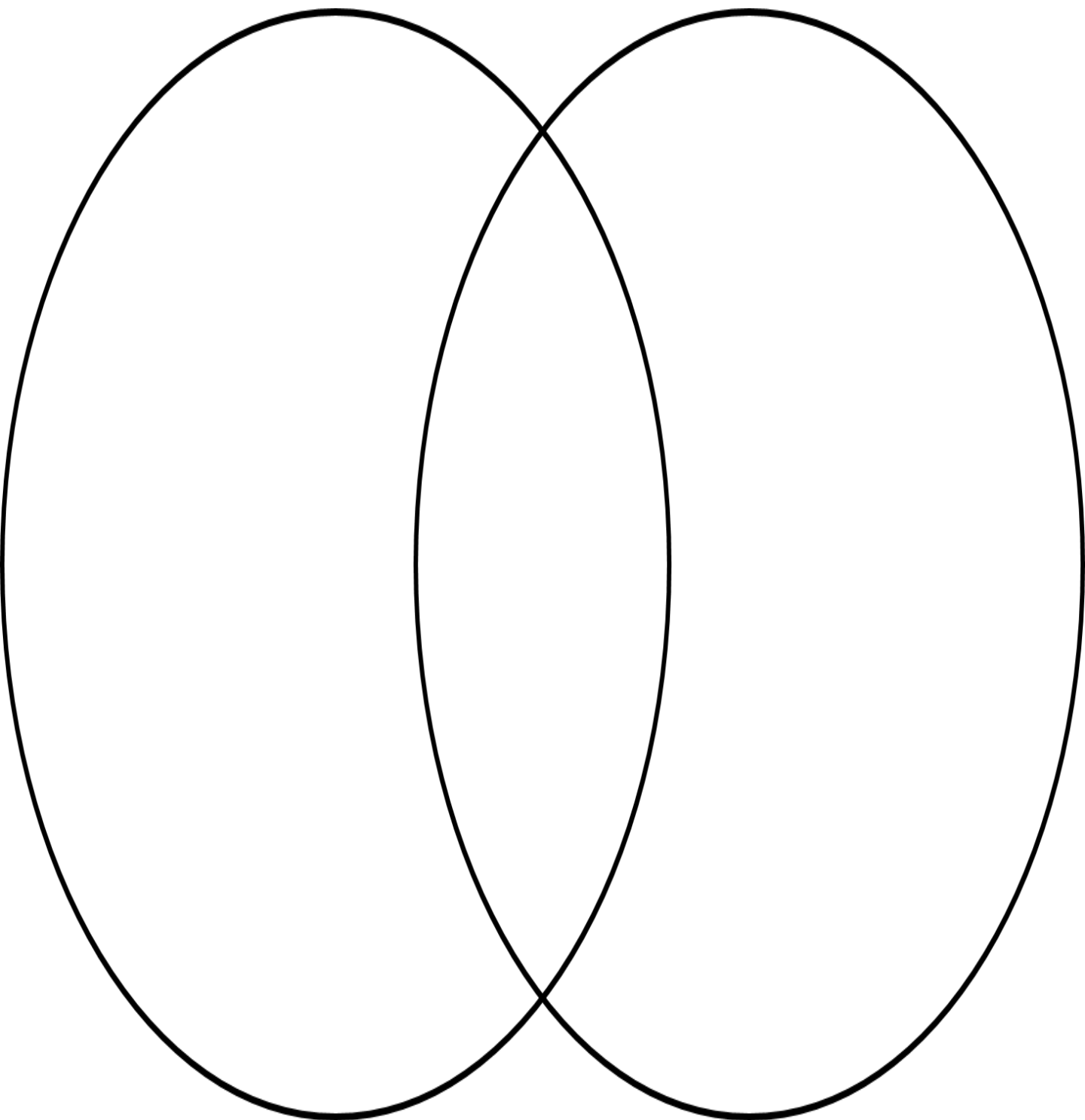
Chart:


# Christmas in Italy Quick Facts Chart:

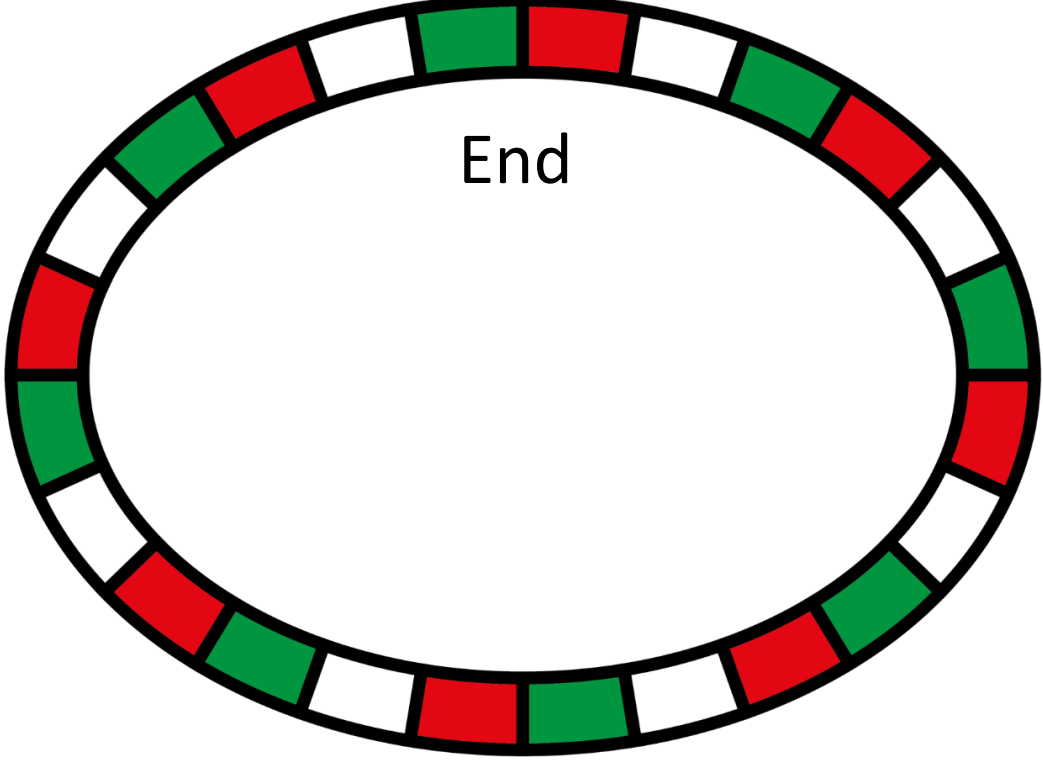
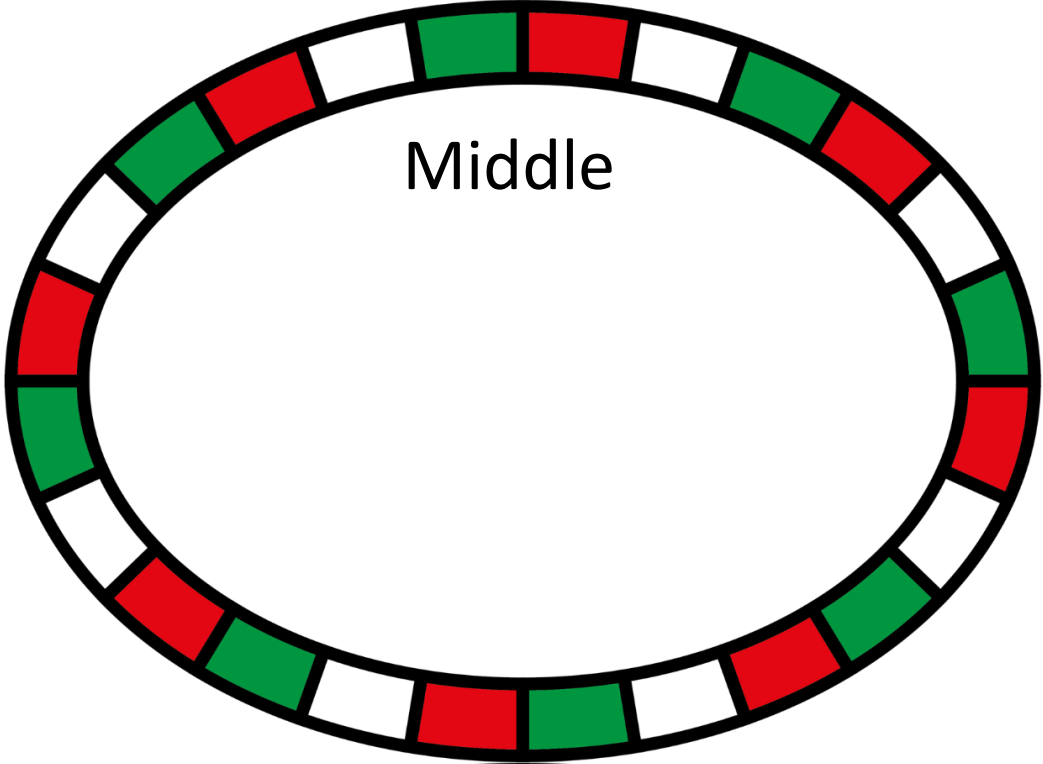
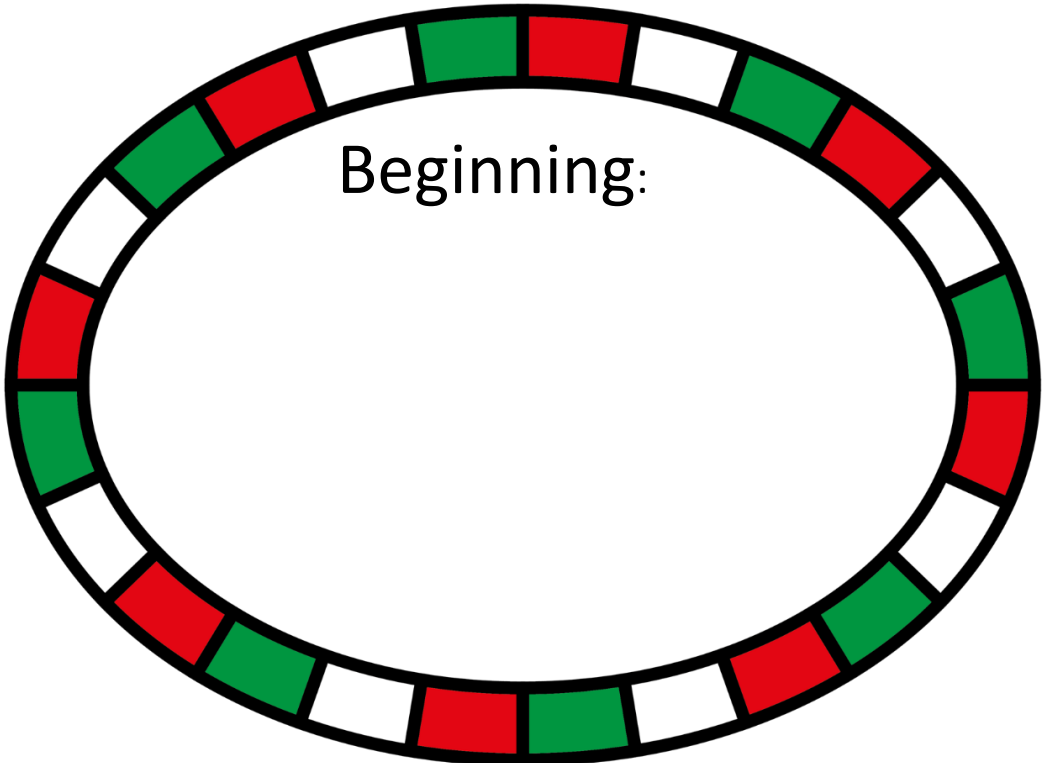


# Compare and Contrast:

Christmas in Italy and  
Christmas in Ireland:

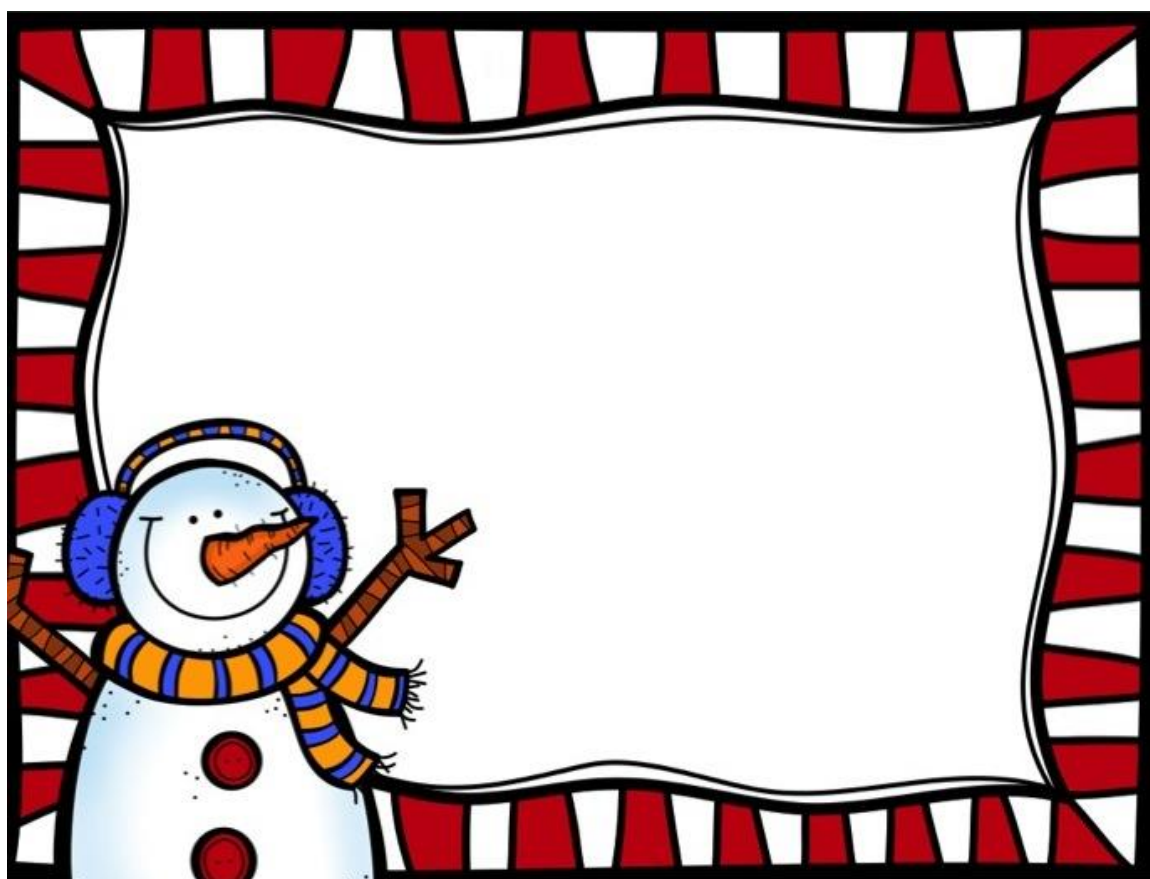
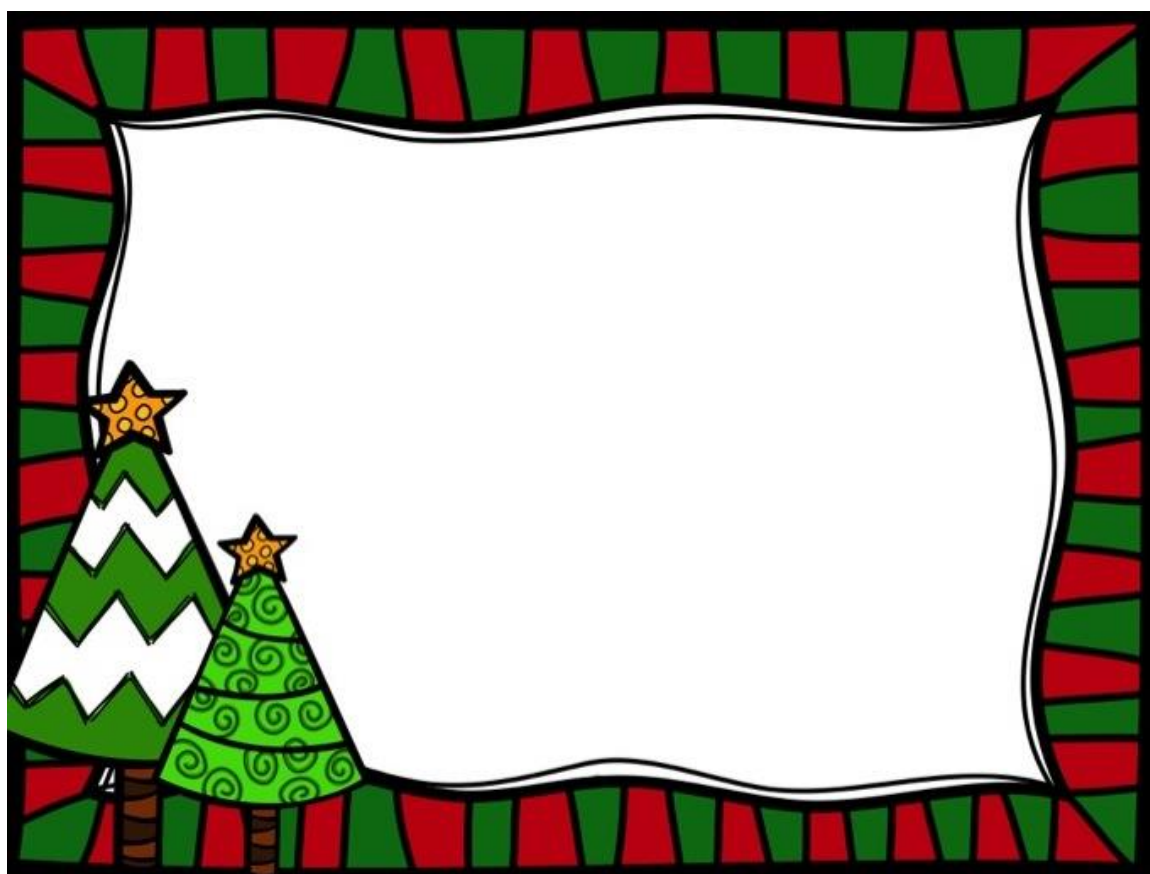


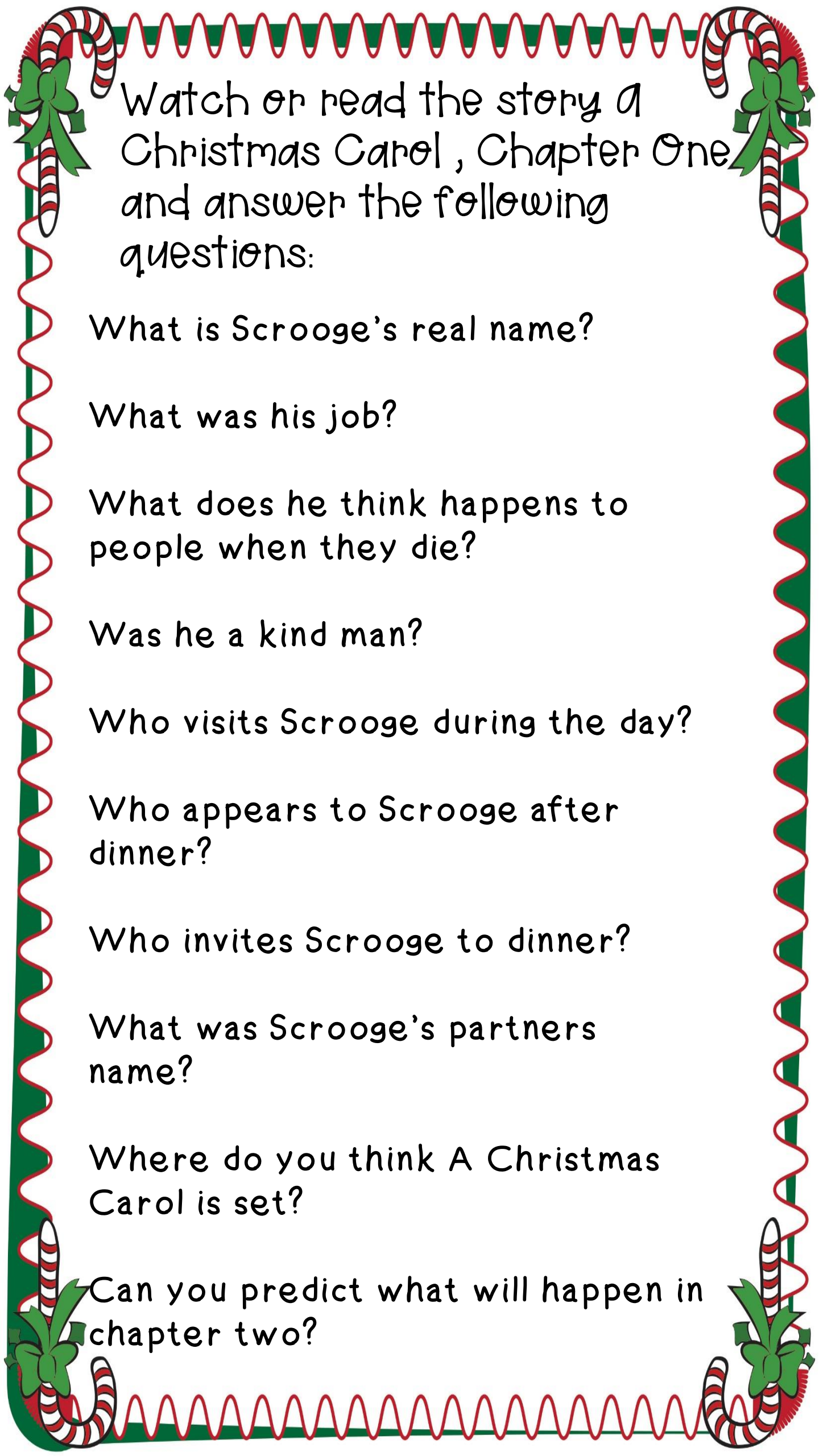
# Christmas Story Builder:





You are spending Christmas in a country of your choice. Write a postcard to your family and one to your best friend detailing how you are spending your time.





Watch or read the story of  
Christmas Carol , Chapter One  
and answer the following  
questions:

What is Scrooge's real name?

What was his job?

What does he think happens to  
people when they die?

Was he a kind man?

Who visits Scrooge during the day?

Who appears to Scrooge after  
dinner?

Who invites Scrooge to dinner?

What was Scrooge's partners  
name?

Where do you think A Christmas  
Carol is set?

Can you predict what will happen in  
chapter two?

# Chapter one in pictures::




My thoughts on a Christmas  
Carol:

