

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

(for students 5 to 8 years old)

### Let's decorate the Christmas/New Year Tree

#### Material:

- flashcards fir tree, decorations, shiny balls, bells, stars, diamonds, hearts, fairy lights, presents, bow
- some thin cardboard
- coloured paper
- glue
- paper clips
- scissors
- a thick needle or a toothpick

#### Preparation:

If students are younger and less confident with scissors, teacher should cut out the shapes students will use during the activity.

If students are old enough and can use scissors, cutting the shapes can be left to them but teacher should prepare drawings which will be traced and eventually cut during the lesson. In order to make more colourful decorations, two or three sets of drawings should be prepared in advance by photocopying the same patterns on sheets of different colours.

Similarly, words to be traced, which can label different, above mentioned objects, should be prepared, possibly on adhesive labels (these can be found in stationary shops).

Memory game cards can be prepared by sticking the same pictures on the thin cardboard. The pictures, drawn or downloaded can be photocopied and then printed and cut out.

It is necessary to prepare two memory cards for each item. It might be useful to prepare two, three or more sets of cards so students divided in groups can simultaneously play the game.

## ACTIVITIES

Teacher presents the vocabulary:

**fir tree, decorations, shiny balls, bells, stars, diamonds, hearts, fairy lights, presents, bow** using flashcards or drawings on a board.

#### Tracing pictures

Students are given the drawings (on the coloured paper) presenting the vocabulary - students should trace objects in the pictures and cut them. If students know the alphabet, they can trace letters or write the words to label the objects.

Playing the **Memory Game** can help students easily memorise presented vocabulary.

**What's missing?** Teacher spreads pictures of the objects (one picture per item) on a table. Students are invited to observe them carefully and to say aloud, in chorus, the words. After a couple of repetitions, teacher asks the students to close their eyes. Then he/she hides one of the pictures and tells students to open their eyes. Students should guess what object is missing. This game can enable students to memorise vocabulary quickly and in an amusing way.

Though students may find it inspiring to draw themselves the above mentioned objects, I would not recommend that at the initial stage when they learn the vocabulary for the first time. The reason for that is that at early age children's drawing skills are such that sometimes a drawing of an object could be quite clear to the "artist" but unrecognisable to other students

### **Decorating tree**

If students can safely use scissors, they can cut the shapes of objects they have traced in the previous activity. When they have finished cutting, their teacher helps them make fir trees according to the instruction sent in the attachment. Later, they use a needle/toothpick to make holes in the shapes so they can insert paper clips. The paper clips are necessary to attach decorations to the fir trees.

**N.B.** All the activities with scissors and needles should be carefully monitored.

Younger students should be given shapes and trees which have been prepared in advance (according to the same instructions). Optionally, they can be given paper clips to insert them in previously made holes.

The act of decorating trees can be done as follows:

Teacher tells students what objects/decorations to use thus checking how successfully students have learned new vocabulary.

OR

Students themselves decorate their trees and upon finishing decoration of the trees, they are supposed to say what shapes/objects they have chosen.

To allow more students to work at the same time, there should be a tree per group. It is possible to prepare a larger tree which more students can decorate but they would be able to contribute fewer decorations and the whole process would require more time and students' patience. Therefore, I would recommend the former option.

HAVE A GOOD TIME!

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