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## Classroom christmas games

The holiday season kids get really excited and...well, let's say... energized. Revisiting classroom community building activities is a good idea. The days leading up to the holiday break are a time to implement some fun team building Christmas games for the classroom. First, you will want to make groups of about three students for each of these activities. Play just for fun or make it more of a competition and keep score for each event. You can assign different point values for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place groups in each event. For example, the group that comes in first place gets two points, and the group that comes in second place gets one point. At the end, you can tally up the points to see which group is the winner. In order to avoid having to spend your own money on supplies, you may want to create a donation list or an Amazon wishlist to share with parents and community members. (This post contains Amazon Affiliate links which means that if you decide to purchase something through a link, Amazon will throw a few pennies my way at no additional cost to you.) Classroom Christmas Game #1: Build a Christmas Tree Challenge The object of the Christmas Tree Challenge is to make the tallest tree. Materials Needed: Dots Gumdrops Candy rounded toothpicks yardstick Make sure to give every group the same amount of gumdrops and rounded toothpicks. Set a timer for as long as you'd like to give them. Once the timer is up, have students place their hands behind their backs. Walk around and measure each group's tree. Any tree that topple over are disqualified. The group with the tallest tree wins. Classroom Christmas Game #2: No Hands, Stacking Cups Christmas Tree Challenge The object is to see which group can stack all the cups into a pyramid formation first, creating the look of a Christmas Tree. Materials Needed: green plastic or paper cups rubberbands yarn or string Tie three strings of the same length to a rubber band as in the picture. Then, give each group 6 cups and the rubber band device. Next, explain to the students that they are to stack the cups into a pyramid with three cups on the bottom, two in the middle, and one on top. They are not to touch the cups with any of their body parts. They can only use the device to maneuver the cups. The first group to create the pyramid wins. You can watch this YouTube video for a better understanding of how the challenge works. Classroom Christmas Game #3: Snow Shoveling Challenge The object is to transfer all the ping pong balls to the bucket using a spoon. Materials Needed: ping pong balls plastic container plastic spoons Start by placing the plastic containers against the walls in the classroom or take them outside. Next, mark a line on the ground about 10 - 12 feet away from the plastic container. Make sure every group has the same distance and the same amount of balls. Have the students in each group take turns transferring the ping pong balls from one container to another using only a spoon. The first group to successfully get all their ping pong balls in wins the challenge. Classroom Game #4: Trim the Tree with Garland The object is to wrap a team member up with a streamer in the fastest time. Materials Needed: To begin, give each group one streamer. Next, explain to the students that they are to wrap one of the students with the streamer as if they were trimming a tree with garland. Explain that they are to work as quickly as possible without ripping the streamer. Once everyone understands, count to three and have them begin. See which group can wrap their team member up the fastest. Want to make it even more challenging? Tell groups that the toilet paper can not rip as they mummify their partner. If it does, they will be disqualified. Classroom Game #5: Build a Candy Cane The object of this challenge is to see which group can thread the most beads through a pipe cleaner alternating red and white beads. Materials Needed: pipe cleaners white beads red beads Give each group a pipe cleaner, white beads, and red beads. Set a timer to one minute. Have the groups thread the pipe cleaner alternating the red and white beads. When the timer goes off, have students stop and count how many beads they were able to incorporate into their "candy cane." The group that used the most beads wins. Classroom Game #6: Puzzle Challenge The object of this challenge is to see which group can complete a Christmas-themed puzzle the fastest. Materials Needed: Christmas Word Search or Crossword Puzzle (find some ready-made here: Christmas Puzzles) pencils Begin by giving each group a different Christmas-themed puzzle, such as a word search or crossword. You can use a resource that provides both, allowing you to mix and match activities. Set a timer and have each group race to solve their puzzle. For an added challenge, consider setting a rule that each student in the group must solve at least one word or clue. The first group to complete their puzzle correctly wins! Wrapping It Up Hopefully these fun, team building Christmas games for the classroom help you and your students enjoy the day while also helping foster classroom community. If you are looking for ELA Christmas Activities for the Classroom, you can find several ideas on the blog too. Every year, without fail, the holidays come around and both students and teachers seriously need a break. Some traditionalist teachers may balk at the idea of play in the classroom, but the pedagogy of play is not something to be dismissed. What better way to get into the holiday spirit than playing some Christmas games in your classroom? These games can be educational or purely fun – something we should never take for granted. Read on for some Reindeer games to share with your students this season. 1. Santa says Simon who? All kids know that they need to be good to get what's on their Christmas lists, and what better way to behave than by doing exactly what Santa says? In this holiday version of Simon Says, students will need to listen carefully – either to you or to a classmate playing Santa – and follow instructions. You won't need any materials for this simple festivity! 2. Twenty questions – holiday edition This classic game is a favorite among all ages. Mix it up by secretly assigning a student a holiday-themed person, place, or thing. Project the answer on the board behind them, and instruct the student to ask their peers yes or no questions to uncover the answer. To get to the right answer, students will need to use deductive reasoning, critical thinking skills, and come up with strategic questions. 3. Pin the nose on Rudolph You may be familiar with the classic children's birthday party game Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Here's a festive take on the classic! Your students can work in pairs or as a team to guide a blindfolded classmate to their target. Team-building, trust, and fine motor skills are all conditioned with this game. You'll need a large picture of a reindeer, a red nose, and something sticky to get the nose to stay. 4. Christmas charades Who doesn't love charades? Kinesthetic learners will especially appreciate the opportunity to get up and move their bodies while their peers use context clues to figure out who or what is being imitated. As a bonus, themed charades can be a fantastic way to review vocabulary words, historic figures, and events! 5. Merry musical chairs A huge part of the holidays is the music! Bring some of that festive caroling into your classroom by adding a twist to the classic game of musical chairs. You may need to substitute desks for chairs, but the concept remains the same. Conflict resolution and patience are tested in this winner-takes-all challenge – just make sure to go over some ground rules first to keep everybody safe. 6. Twinkling tongue twisters Silly, challenging, and no materials required! Verbalize or write out some holiday-themed tongue twisters for your students to try their hands at. They'll be so busy laughing at themselves, they won't even realize that they're practicing pronunciation and vocabulary. Here are some funny ones to try out: Blitzen bobbles a billion brilliant bells. Crazy kids claim for candy canes and Christmas cookies. Pretty packages perfectly packed in paper. Santa's super sleigh slips so swiftly through the snow. Ten tiny toy socks tucked with twenty toy teddy bears. When I was in elementary school, a class favorite was always Heads Down, Seven Up. Now that I'm older I've come to realize that our teachers let us play it so often not only because we loved it, but because it gave them some peace and quiet! If you're not familiar with the premise, here's a quick outline: The teacher picks a few students (it was seven in our case) to go up to the front of the class and be "pickers", and everyone else puts their heads down on their desks with one of their thumbs pointing up – no peeping! The pickers then go around and silently tap one student's thumb each. When all pickers have chosen, they go back up to the front, and those who were tapped have to guess who chose them. For a festive twist on this quiet game, instruct your students to place their hands on the top of their heads like reindeer antlers, instead of sticking their thumb up! 8. Christmas crosswords Here's another quiet option, and one that's particularly good for independent work, and as a time-filler when students have finished an assignment. Use this crossword puzzle creator to make a unique puzzle for your students. Studies have shown that completing crossword puzzles regularly may help improve one's memory, vocabulary, and critical thinking. 9. Winter wonderland word search If you're looking for something a little simpler, a word search is always fun! Word searches do not require a strong grasp of the English language, so it's a fun and easy way for ELL's and students of all levels to play with words. Use this word search generator to create a worksheet that reflects a winter wonderland. 10. Blitzen bingo If you're really loving creating worksheets, here's one for bingo! This is another opportunity to play with seasonal vocabulary and test your student's listening skills and ability to focus. Add some Christmas cheer by using holiday themed stamps or candy as bingo markers. 11. Christmas cards Perhaps less of a game and more of a craft, but your artsy students will love getting the chance to make custom holiday cards for friends and family. Your students' fine motor skills will benefit from this easy activity, and fine motor skills will benefit from this easy lesson! 12. White elephant What could possibly be better than a prize? A fun spin on the traditional Secret Santa, a White Elephant gift exchange requires budget-friendly gifts with no specific recipient in mind. You can ask your students to each bring in a gift, or shell out for the prizes yourself. To play, all of the wrapped gifts are placed in one area, and one student chooses a gift to unwrap. The second student to go can either choose a new gift to unwrap, or take the gift from the first student. The turns continue until all of the gifts are unwrapped and every student has a prize! Just make sure your students are equipped to handle the possibility of losing a particular gift to avoid any possible temper tantrums. 13. Frosty freeze dance This is a festive twist on a game that I used to play all the time in my elementary gym class. Our teacher would play a song, and all of us would dance to it. When the teacher paused the song, everybody had to freeze. Anyone who was caught moving after the song stopped was out. This is very easy to do in a classroom with Christmas music! Just make sure you have an open space suitable for a dance party. 14. Elf, Elf, Santa Want even more movement? Try this alternative to Duck, Duck Goose. Students sit in a circle while one goes around naming the rest. The student chosen as Santa is the Goose and must tag the one who picked them before their spot in the circle is stolen! 15. Oh, Christmas tree Test your students' decorative skills by having them work together to decorate a Christmas tree! Using construction paper, tape a paper tree to your wall and ask your students to create ornaments to place on the tree. They'll love seeing the finished work! 16. Sit down, stand up Here's another simple game that will get your students up and moving. Simply call out a yes or no phrase for students to agree or disagree with. If their answer is yes, they should stand up - if no, they remain sitting. Here are some examples to make this more holiday-esque: I like playing in the snow I enjoy baking Christmas cookies I can name all of Santa's reindeer I like listening to holiday music We have a real tree in our house This easy activity will promote some physical activity in an otherwise long day spent sitting at a desk, and as a bonus, it's a great way for you and your class to get to know each other better! 17. Winter word scramble Word scrambles are an easy way to get your preschoolers concentrating on vocabulary words while boosting their cognition skills. Here are some fun scrambles of popular Christmas words: mcsshlar - christmas ohlday - holiday rmedeir - reindeer sanat - santa aneorntm - ornament genrgndieah - gingerbread lphrud - rudolph emry - merry ongg - eggnog pensret - present Whether your students celebrate Christmas in their homes or just in your classroom, any one of these games will be a holiday treat. Looking for more secular holiday fun? Almost all of these games can be made most inclusive by swapping out the word "Christmas" for "holiday" or "winter". Santa and the elves can easily be swapped for Frosty the Snowman and his friends! If you are looking for more holiday themed ideas, check out these holiday themed topics from ClickView - Christmas and Hanukkah. The halls are decked with boughs of holly, and the holiday spirit is in the air. Planning engaging Christmas games for kids at school adds an extra layer of joy to the festive season. From spirited challenges to creative crafts, let's explore an array of activities that will turn the school into a winter wonderland. To make Christmas games entertaining, consider incorporating themes like Santa's workshop or Winter Wonderland. Use colorful decorations, play festive music, and ensure the games are age-appropriate and engaging. Incorporate teamwork and friendly competition to keep the excitement alive. Ensure you have a variety of supplies such as craft materials (colored paper, glue, scissors), festive decorations, small prizes or treats, and any specific items required for the chosen games. Don't forget to have enough Santa hats or reindeer antlers to add a touch of holiday spirit. Celebrating Christmas with preschoolers can be delightful. Plan activities like making simple ornaments, singing festive songs, and reading holiday-themed stories. Organize a mini "reindeer parade" where children can dress up as reindeer or other Christmas characters. Keep activities short, colorful, and age-appropriate to maintain their attention. Classic Christmas games that work well for school events include: "Santa Says" (a Christmas-themed version of Simon Says) Christmas-themed scavenger hunts Pin the nose on Rudolph Ornament decorating stations Christmas bingo with holiday-themed images and words Encourage parents to participate in Christmas celebrations by inviting them to volunteer for organizing and supervising activities, contributing supplies, or even sharing their cultural holiday traditions with the class. Consider hosting a holiday showcase where students can display their crafts and parents can attend. Adapt Christmas games by providing options for different skill levels. For example, if playing a scavenger hunt, create picture clues for younger children and written clues for older ones. Ensure that all children can participate and feel successful, fostering inclusivity and a positive experience for everyone. The Jingle Bell Toss Challenge is the perfect way to spark some friendly competition. Set up a designated area with different point zones and let the kids take turns tossing jingle bells. This game not only enhances hand-eye coordination but also fills the air with the cheerful sound of holiday bells. Turn your school into a snowy paradise with the Snowman Scavenger Hunt. Hide snowmen around the premises, each holding a clue to the next. This collaborative activity promotes teamwork and problem-solving while immersing the kids in the enchantment of Christmas. Transform a corner of the classroom into Santa's Workshop Craft Station, complete with various art supplies and materials. From decorating ornaments to crafting personalized stockings, this activity allows kids to unleash their creativity while immersing themselves in the enchanting world of Christmas. Christmas Carol Charades adds a musical twist to the traditional game of charades. Write down popular Christmas carols on slips of paper, and have students act them out without speaking while their classmates guess the tune. It's a fun and festive way to celebrate the season while promoting teamwork and creativity. Host a Gingerbread House Decorating Contest where students can unleash their inner architects and designers. Provide pre-assembled gingerbread houses and an array of colorful candies and icing. Let the kids' imaginations run wild as they create their edible masterpieces. To add an extra layer of excitement, invite teachers or staff members to judge the entries and award prizes for categories like "Most Creative" or "Best Use of Candy." Organize a Christmas Trivia Challenge to engage students' minds while spreading holiday cheer. Create a list of festive trivia questions covering a range of topics, from holiday traditions to historical events. Divide the class into teams and let the friendly competition begin. This game not only adds an educational element to the festivities but also encourages teamwork and critical thinking. These printable Christmas Bingo Game Cards are perfect for classroom Christmas parties, and more - simply print and play! Image by brfx on Freepik Engage kids in a game of freeze tag with a frosty twist. When tagged, players must freeze in a snowman pose until unfrozen by a teammate. Create a holiday-themed memory match game with cards featuring festive images like snowflakes, presents, and reindeer. Create a grid with a number of Christmas-related statements. Tell your class that they must mingle as a group to ask each other questions to identify who matches each statement. For example: Would prefer a white Christmas this year Can make a traditional Christmas meal Hasn't bought any Christmas presents yet Has never spent Christmas away from their family Loves Christmas carols Has an unusual family Christmas tradition Is not very "Christmassy" How adept will your students be at creating a sculpture behind their own backs? Players attempt to form Christmas trees behind their backs with playdough. Put a Christmas spin on the classic Simon Says game. Santa gives commands, and kids must follow only if Santa says so. Set up mini Christmas trees and have kids toss rings onto them. Assign different point values for added excitement. Play Rudolph Race Off this Christmas for a hilarious minute-to-win style game that is easy to prepare for and fun for everyone. Fill stockings with small toys and treats, then hide them around the school for a festive scavenger hunt. Play a holiday version of limbo using this candy cane limbo set! How low can the kids go without touching the candy cane? Have kids toss "snowballs" (small cotton balls) into cups with varying point values. The more accurate the toss, the higher the score. Draw or get a hopscotch board with holiday-themed numbers and have kids hop their way through the game while jingling bells. Create a Christmas-themed scavenger hunt around the school. Provide preschoolers with a list of holiday items or clues to find, such as a candy cane, an ornament, or a stuffed reindeer. This activity encourages exploration and problem-solving while adding excitement to the holiday season. Set up a crafting station with colored paper, markers, stickers, and holiday-themed decorations. Set up a fun and safe game where your preschooler can "toss" soft, lightweight ornaments (made of fabric or foam) into a decorated Christmas tree target. Assign point values to different parts of the tree and encourage your child to improve their aiming skills. It's a festive and active way to enjoy the holiday spirit. Related Post: Felt Christmas Tree Activity for Toddlers Organize a Christmas dress-up parade in your classroom. Provide holiday-themed costumes or accessories like Santa hats, reindeer antlers, and jingle bells. The Minty Match Color Matching game will be a hit with your preschoolers! Let kids showcase their artistic skills by playing a holiday-themed round of Pictionary with festive words and phrases. Design a festive obstacle course with challenges like "don't ring the bell!" Write different holiday activities on slips of paper, place them inside balloons, and have kids pop the balloons to reveal the activities they'll participate in. Play a classic game of musical chairs with a holiday twist by using festive music and Santa hats as props. These Christmas games for kids at school are sure to bring laughter and holiday cheer to your school. Whether it's a scavenger hunt or a lively game of Santa Says, these activities are designed to make this season memorable for the little ones. May your school be filled with the joyous sounds of children celebrating the magic of Christmas! Two Jersey Moms, a pediatric occupational therapist & elementary school teacher, providing fun and simple activities to get your little ones learning through play. Discover 25 fun and engaging Christmas classroom activities that will excite your students while making learning festive and memorable. Christmas is the perfect time to bring festive cheer into your classroom. Christmas-themed activities create a fun, engaging environment, helping students build language skills, develop creativity, and work collaboratively. From playing word games to doing Christmas crafts, each of these 25 activities brings a bit of holiday magic into the lesson plan, keeping students motivated and excited to participate. So, incorporate these Christmas activities into your classroom to encourage meaningful learning and celebrate the season in style! Here are 25 engaging Christmas classroom activities to make this Christmas memorable for your class. These fun activities will engage students, build holiday spirit, and even incorporate valuable English language lessons! Create bingo cards filled with Christmas-themed words like "sleigh," "reindeer," and "chimney." Call out words and have students mark their cards until someone gets "Bingo!" This activity helps build holiday vocabulary in a fun way. How to Play: Prepare bingo cards with a list of Christmas-themed vocabulary to inspire students. Offer extra time for brainstorming or pre-writing activities. Benefits: Encourages creativity and enhances writing skills. Builds confidence as students share their ideas and stories. Host a spelling bee using Christmas words. Include words of varying difficulty, so all levels feel challenged. This game strengthens spelling skills and builds confidence in a fun, competitive setting. How to Play: Prepare a list of Christmas words at different difficulty levels. Call out words for students to spell aloud. Students who spell correctly stay in the game until only one "Spelling Bee Champion" remains. Tips: Create a supportive environment by making it a team competition. Celebrate all participants to keep motivation high. Benefits: Strengthens spelling skills in a fun, challenging way. Builds confidence in public speaking and spelling. Have students write a letter to Santa, listing what they hope for this Christmas. This is a great way for younger students to practice letter-writing and use polite requests in English. How to Play: Provide students with paper and envelopes to write letters to Santa. Encourage them to list their holiday wishes and politely make their requests. Collect the letters or let them take them home as a keepsake. Tips: Offer sentence starters for students who need help getting started. Use this activity to introduce letter-writing etiquette, like greetings and closings. Benefits: Teaches formal letter-writing structure and polite request forms. Encourages self-expression and creativity. Create a list of Christmas-themed items for students to find around the classroom. Use images or descriptions like "find a reindeer." This game encourages conversation and lets students practice expressing preferences. How to Play: Prepare a list of holiday-themed "Would You Rather?" questions, such as "Would you rather build a snowman or decorate a tree?" Read each question aloud and have students vote or explain their choice. Discuss the answers as a class to encourage conversation. Tips: Create visual prompts for younger students. Encourage follow-up questions to deepen the discussion. Benefits: Helps students practice expressing preferences and reasoning. Builds confidence in speaking and sharing opinions. Teach students common English idioms related to Christmas, like "cold shoulder" or "deck the halls." Discuss each idiom's meaning and ask students to use them in sentences. How to Play: Teach a few holiday-related idioms, like "deck the halls" or "cold shoulder." Discuss the meanings and have students create sentences using each idiom. Students can share their sentences or act them out in skits. Tips: Show visual examples to explain idioms more clearly. Encourage students to identify idioms they've heard in songs or movies. Benefits: Builds cultural awareness of language and expressions. Enhances vocabulary and comprehension of figurative language. A vocabulary-building game where each word starts with the last letter of the previous word. Start with a Christmas word, and have each student think of a word that starts with the last letter of the previous one (e.g., "snow" → "bread"). This game builds vocabulary and keeps students thinking on their feet! How to Play: Start with a holiday word like "Santa." Each student must think of a Christmas word beginning with the last letter of the previous word (e.g., "Santa" → "angel" → "lights"). Continue around the circle without repeating words until someone can't think of one. Tips: Set a timer to increase the challenge. Allow students to work in pairs for support. Benefits: Expands vocabulary and helps students think quickly. Strengthens connections between word sounds and letters. Have students write an acrostic poem for "Christmas" or "Holiday." Each line should begin with one of the letters from the word and relate to the season. This activity encourages creativity and expands vocabulary. How to Play: Choose a holiday word, and write each letter vertically on the board. Have students create a phrase or sentence that begins with each letter. Share poems aloud or display them in the classroom. Tips: Provide example poems for inspiration. Allow students to decorate their poems with holiday illustrations. Benefits: Encourages creative thinking and expression. Reinforces vocabulary related to the holiday. Have students imagine a gift they'd give to a classmate. They describe the gift without naming it, and others guess. This encourages descriptive writing and builds excitement in the classroom. How to Play: Have each student think of a gift they'd give a friend or family member. They write a description of the gift without saying what it is. Read the descriptions aloud, and let classmates guess the gift. Tips: Provide sentence starters to guide descriptions. Offer small prizes for correct guesses. Benefits: Develops descriptive writing skills and builds anticipation. Promotes creativity and language use. Show clips from family-friendly Christmas movies and lead a short discussion on each scene. Ask students to share what they think will happen next or discuss how they would react in the scene. This activity helps improve listening comprehension and critical thinking. How to Play: Show short clips from family-friendly Christmas movies, pausing after each scene. Ask students questions like, "What do you think will happen next?" or "How would you feel in this situation?" Lead a group discussion on the themes and characters. Tips: Choose age-appropriate clips with clear storylines. Encourage students to share movie recommendations with each other. Benefits: Improves listening skills and critical thinking. Provides cultural context for holiday customs and stories. Share classic British or American Christmas traditions, like decorating a tree or hanging stockings. Ask students to share similar or different customs in their culture. This discussion builds cultural awareness and vocabulary. How to Play: Share traditions like decorating a tree, hanging stockings, or having a Christmas dinner. Have students discuss similar or different customs in their own cultures. Let students ask questions about each other's traditions to build cross-cultural understanding. Tips: Prepare visuals or photos to illustrate each tradition. Encourage students to bring items or photos from their own holiday traditions. Benefits: Builds awareness of cultural diversity and fosters respect. Expands vocabulary related to holiday customs. Create a festive word wall by letting students write new holiday words they learn on decorative paper. Display these around the classroom to create a visual reminder of holiday vocabulary. How to Play: Ask each student to write a new Christmas-related word they've learned on a piece of decorative paper. Display the words on a classroom bulletin board or wall. Encourage students to review and use the words in sentences throughout the season. Tips: Use colorful paper to make the word wall visually appealing. Review the words daily as part of a quick vocabulary check. Benefits: Provides a visual aid for learning and remembering holiday vocabulary. Creates a sense of classroom community. Each of these Christmas classroom activities brings the holiday spirit to learning, combining fun with skill-building in creative ways. Whether it's teamwork, vocabulary building, or cultural understanding, these activities keep students engaged and make the holiday season a time for joyful learning. Integrating these holiday-themed games and discussions will create a festive atmosphere, foster teamwork, and encourage language development, making this Christmas season both fun and educational for everyone involved.