**The Origins of Christmas Worksheet Origins of Christmas | History:** [**o-rozewicz.pl/christmas-origins**](https://o-rozewicz.pl/christmas-origins)

**Before the movie:**

1. **When you think about Christmas, what comes to your mind first?
 Fill in the mind map alone or with your deskmate. Add more lines if necessary.  - **

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Picture adapted from [https://pixabay.com/pl/vectors/święty-mikołaj-kapelusz-43847/](https://pixabay.com/pl/vectors/%C5%9Bwi%C4%99ty-miko%C5%82aj-kapelusz-43847/)

1. **Translate these words into your own language. Ask your friends or use the dictionary to help you.**

** - **

origins – geneza, początki

norse - nordycki

evergreens – wiecznie zielone

logs – kłody, bale

solstice - przesilenie

to celebrate – celebrować, świętować

holy - święty

pagan - pogański

a mystery – zagadka

to theorise - teoretyzować

to outlaw - zakazać

to reimagine – wyobrazić sobie na nowo

a reindeer - renifer

a cheer - radość

jolly – radosny, wesoły

*If you need English definitions you can look them up in OALD* 😊 [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com) 

**Don’t forget to mark the words you didn’t know before with a star**

**During the movie: **

1. **What were people doing during Yule and Saturnalia? Describe the activities… or draw them.**
2. **Yule**

****

no drawing, sorry 😊

Around 21st Dec. (the Winter Solstice) fathers and sons dragged evergreens indoors as reminders of life and set logs on fire as a promise of good fortune.

1. **Saturnalia**

no drawing, sorry 😊

One week before the Winter Solstice, Romans celebrated an orgy of food and drink (called Saturnalia).

1. **Does the Bible mention exactly when Christ was born?**
2. Yes. b) No. c) I don’t know.
3. **In which century was 25th XII adopted as the feast day of the nativity - later known as Christmas?**
4. **What was the symbolic meaning of evergreens decorated with apples?**

They symbolized the garden of Eden.

Pictures adapted from
[https://pixabay.com/pl/photos/apple-żywności-owoców-1834639](https://pixabay.com/pl/photos/apple-%C5%BCywno%C5%9Bci-owoc%C3%B3w-1834639) and <https://pixabay.com/pl/vectors/kolorowy-evergreen-iglastych-natura-1297806/>

1. **Which century marks the beginning of the Santa Claus story?**
2. **What’s the story described in a poem “The Night before Christmas”, published in 1822?**

“Good natured saint called Santa Claus (…) was pulled by a group of reindeer and came down the chimney on Christmas Eve. Like Saint Nicolas, Santa Claus spread good cheer and gave gifts to children.”

1. **Who’s responsible for the current-day look of Santa Claus?**

In 1863, Thomas Nast
a cartoonist for Harper’s Weekly, created his version of the Christian saint.

Picture adapted from [https://pixabay.com/pl/illustrations/santa-claus-boże-narodzenie-nicholas-1614994](https://pixabay.com/pl/illustrations/santa-claus-bo%C5%BCe-narodzenie-nicholas-1614994/)

**After the movie:**

1. **Work in pairs or in groups. Create a short Christmas story.**  - 

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**A Christmas song & carol:**

**Jingle Bells original with lyrics:** [**o-rozewicz.pl/jingle-bells**](https://o-rozewicz.pl/jingle-bells)

1. **Listen to the Christmas songs and try to fill in the gaps in it, using the words provided below.** 

song / song / snow / ride / fun / fun / back / sleigh / sleigh / ring / laughed / story / horse / bank / white

*chorus*

A day or two ago

The 10 story I must tell

I went out on the snow

And on my 11 back I fell;

A gent was riding by

In a one-horse open sleigh

He 12 laughed as there I sprawling lie

But quickly drove away.

*chorus*

Now the ground is 13 white

Go it while you're young,

Take the girls tonight

And sing this sleighing 14 song

Just get a bob-tailed bay,

Two-forty for his speed,

Then hitch him to an open 15 sleigh

And crack! You'll take the lead.

Dashing through the 1 snow

In a one-horse open 2 sleigh

O'er the fields we go

Laughing all the way.

Bells on bob-tail 3 ring

Making spirits bright

What fun it is to ride and sing

A sleighing 4 song tonight.

*chorus:*

 *Jingle bells, jingle bells*

 *Jingle all the way,*

 *Oh what 5* fun *it is to ride*

 *In a one-horse open sleigh,*

 *Jingle bells, jingle bells*

 *Jingle all the way,*

 *Oh what 6* fun *it is to ride*

 *In a one-horse open sleigh.*

A day or two ago

I thought I'd take a 7 ride

And soon Miss Fanny Bright

Was seated by my side;

The 8 horse was lean and lank

Misfortune seemed his lot,

We got into a drifted 9 bank

And there we got upsot.

Lyrics: public domain – <https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Jingle_Bells>

1. **Sing the Christmas song together with your groupmates!**  **+**

** Michael Bublé - Silent Night:** [**o-rozewicz.pl/silent-night-buble**](https://o-rozewicz.pl/silent-night-buble)

1. **Listen to the Christmas carol and try to fill in the gaps in it, using some of the words provided below.** 

child / heavenly / Saviour / holy / holy / bright / birth / heavenly / heaven / Saviour / God / birth / holy / grace

Silent night, 1 holy night,

All is calm, all is 2 bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and 3 Child

Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in 4 heavenly peace.

Sleep in 5 heavenly peace.

Silent night, 6 holy night,

Son of 7 God love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy Holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming 8 grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy 9 birth

Jesus, Lord, at Thy 10 birth

Lyrics: public domain – [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Silent\_Night\_(unsourced)](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Silent_Night_%28unsourced%29)

1. **Sing the Christmas carol together with your groupmates!**  **+**