

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BLENDED LEARNING LESSON

Was There Ever a Real Santa Claus?

Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. go online | <u>E</u> | A. having magic powers |
| 2. google | _____ | B. an old way of doing something |
| 3. indeed | _____ | C. used to make the meaning of a statement stronger |
| 4. Christian | _____ | D. a picture of someone or something |
| 5. tradition | _____ | E. to use the internet |
| 6. image | _____ | F. a person who believes in the teachings of Jesus |
| 7. magical | _____ | G. the mind, feelings, and character of a person |
| 8. spirit | _____ | H. to use the internet to look for information |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Use plural forms and past tense when necessary.

1. Exchanging gifts at Christmas is a tradition in many countries.
2. My sister often _____ to watch YouTube videos.
3. Harry Potter and his friends all have _____ powers.
4. This coin has an _____ of a famous president.
5. Many _____ go to church at Christmas.
6. What is the capital city of Greece? Let's _____ it and find out.
7. Thank you very much, _____, for your help.
8. Exercise is good for your body, mind, and _____.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

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Was There Ever a Real Santa Claus?

TOPIC: Christmas



When I was a young boy, I knew exactly who Santa Claus was. He was a fat, friendly, old man with a long white beard, and he visited our home once every year to put lots and lots of toys under the Christmas tree. He came only if my sister and I had been good, and only if we were asleep. We must have been good kids because Santa brought gifts for us every year! As I got older, however, I stopped believing in Santa Claus. Many years later, I asked myself the following questions: Is there a real Santa Claus? Was there ever a real Santa Claus? So, I **went online**¹ and **googled**² "Santa Claus." And guess what? I found out that yes, **indeed**³, Santa Claus was, in fact, a real man! His name was Saint Nicholas, and he lived in what is now Turkey, about 1,700 years ago. He was famous because he was a **Christian**⁴ and he often helped the poor by giving them gifts. About a thousand years later, people in Europe began the **tradition**⁵ of giving gifts to children at Christmas as a way to remember Saint Nicholas. The modern **image**⁶ of Santa Claus, a **magical**⁷ old man dressed in red and white, with a long white beard, began about 200 years ago in Canada and in the United States. Nowadays, he is also known as Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Santy, or just Santa. The original Saint Nicholas may have lived and died a long, long time ago, but I like to believe that his **spirit**⁸ still lives on to this day. His spirit, I believe, reminds us that true happiness comes from giving to other people.

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Grammar Practice

When I was a young boy, I knew exactly who Santa Claus was. He was a fat, friendly, old man with a long white beard, and he (1)_____ our home once every year to put lots and lots of toys under the Christmas tree. He came only if my sister and I had been good, and only if we (2)_____ asleep. We must have (3)_____ good kids because Santa brought gifts for (4)_____ every year! As I got older, (5)_____, I stopped believing in Santa Claus. Many years later, I asked (6)_____ the following questions: Is there a real Santa Claus? (7)_____ there ever a real Santa Claus? So, I (8)_____ online and googled "Santa Claus." And guess what? I found out that yes, indeed, Santa Claus was, in fact, a real man! His name was Saint Nicholas, and he (9)_____ in what is now Turkey, about 1,700 years ago. He was famous because he was a Christian and he often (10)_____ the poor by giving them gifts. About a thousand years later, people in Europe (11)_____ the tradition of giving gifts to children at Christmas as a way to (12)_____ Saint Nicholas.

1.

- (A) visits
- (B) visited
- (C) visiting

2.

- (A) were
- (B) are
- (C) was

3.

- (A) were
- (B) be
- (C) been

4.

- (A) ours
- (B) we
- (C) us

5.

- (A) however
- (B) because
- (C) but

6.

- (A) my
- (B) myself
- (C) me

7.

- (A) Did
- (B) Were
- (C) Was

8.

- (A) go
- (B) going
- (C) went

9.

- (A) lived
- (B) lives
- (C) living

10.

- (A) help
- (B) helped
- (C) helps

11.

- (A) began
- (B) begin
- (C) begun

12.

- (A) remembered
- (B) remember
- (C) remembering

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BLENDING LEARNING LESSON

Was There Ever a Real Santa Claus?

How Much Do You Understand?

- **Complete the statements.**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Santa Claus visited our home | A. when I was older. |
| 2. I stopped believing in Santa | B. Santa Claus still lives on to this day. |
| 3. Later, I went online to find out | C. more about Santa Claus. |
| 4. The real Santa Claus lived | D. about 1,700 years ago. |
| 5. Santa Claus (Saint Nicholas) | E. every Christmas when I was a kid. |
| 6. I believe that the spirit of | F. became famous for giving gifts to the poor. |

Discuss

- **Discuss the following questions with your classmates.**

1. Are you surprised to learn that Santa Claus was a real man?
2. What are some questions that you would like to ask Santa Claus?
3. Describe a gift that someone gave you. Did you like it? Why? / Why not?
4. Besides Christmas, when are some other times that people give gifts?

Write

- **Write your answer to Question 3: "Describe a gift that someone gave you. Did you like it? Why? / Why not?"**

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BLENDed LEARNING LESSON

Was There Ever a Real Santa Claus?

Interview Santa Claus!



Work together with two or three of your classmates and think of TEN interview questions that you would like to ask Santa Claus. Write them in the spaces.

Then, one person in your group will pretend to be Santa Claus. Ask your questions and Santa will try to answer the questions!

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Title "Was There Ever Real Santa Claus?"

Grammar Focus Mixed: Past Simple / Present Perfect**Vocabulary** 284 words**A1** words-69% / **A2** words-12% / **B1** words-2% / **B2** words-3%**C1** words-1% / **C2** words-0% / **Off List**-11%**AWL** Words in this text: *found, image, tradition*Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com**Level** Elementary to Intermediate (CEFR A2 to B1)**ANSWER KEY** Page 1• **Vocabulary**

- | | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1. E | 1. tradition |
| 2. H | 2. go es online |
| 3. C | 3. magical |
| 4. F | 4. image |
| 5. B | 5. Christian s |
| 6. D | 6. google |
| 7. A | 7. indeed |
| 8. G | 8. spirit |

ANSWER KEY Page 3• **Grammar**

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 7. C |
| 2. A | 8. C |
| 3. C | 9. A |
| 4. C | 10. B |
| 5. A | 11. A |
| 6. B | 12. B |

Watch the
matching
video with
subtitles!

**ANSWER KEY** Page 4• **How Much Do You Understand?**

- Santa Claus visited our home (E) every Christmas when I was a kid.
- I stopped believing in Santa (A) when I was older.
- Later, I went online to find out (C) more about Santa Claus.
- The real Santa Claus lived (D) about 1,700 years ago.
- Santa Claus (Saint Nicholas) (F) became famous for giving gifts to the poor.
- I believe that the spirit of (B) Santa Claus still lives on to this day.

Article Sources

- Santa Claus**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus
- Who is St. Nicholas?**
<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>
- The History of Santa Claus and Father Christmas**
<http://www.arthuriana.co.uk/xmas/>

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