



Talking Tees Valley Activity Pack

Christmas



**Tees Valley
Museums**

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Welcome to the first edition of the Talking Tees Valley Activity Pack.

Each month we will use objects from one of our museums in the Tees Valley to take a closer look at the lives and stories from people in our area.

This month we take a look at Christmas, with cards, decorations, lights and crackers from Preston Park Museum and Grounds in Stockton.



| Tees Valley
Museums

Christmas cards

The first ever Christmas card was sent in 1843 by Henry Cole. He was a very busy man and at Christmas time wanted a quick and easy way to reply to people so he asked his friend, artist John Callcott Horsley to design a card for him. It pictured the Cole family raising a toast.

Although we can still buy cards with children, presents and Rudolph on them, these look very different to those in the shops today - no glitter in sight!



This card was sent over 100 years ago in 1911.

What do you imagine are in those boxes?

Definitely no phones or games consoles.

Do you have an image you love to see on a Christmas card?



This image of Rudolph was sent in the 1940s.

Why not sing along to Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer?



Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer

You know Dasher and Dancer
and Prancer and Vixen
Comet and Cupid
and Donner and Blitzen
But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
“Rudolph, with your nose so bright
Won’t you guide my sleigh tonight?”

Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee
“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
You’ll go down in history”

Are there any other Christmas songs you enjoy singing?

Christmas Anagrams

Rearrange the letters to find some well-known Christmas songs

brotherly mutt dim eel (3,6,7,3)

An unlikely duo in Bowie and Crosby released this song in 1977

slight ten in (6,5)

This German Christmas Carol was sung during the 1914 Christmas Truce

Vexed rosy mymy barer (5,4,9)

It’s Christmas! Has been shouted every year since this song was released in 1973

Lit On Stew! Lit On Stew! Lit On Stew! (3, 2, 4)

Well, since we’ve no place to go... sung by Dean Martin in 1959 and 1966!

Christmas Tree Decorations

Before the 1840s most Christmas trees were decorated with candy canes, apples and pastries shaped like stars and hearts. The first glass Christmas baubles were made in Germany in 1847 by Hans Greiner. They were made to look like fruit and nuts.

Baubles now come in all shapes, sizes and colours.



Have a go!

If you have received the craft pack, we have included some materials for you to make your own baubles and materials in the craft pack, why not decorate your own?

Christmas Crackers

Another Victorian invention! After a trip to Paris, Tom Smith, a sweet maker based in London was inspired to make sweets wrapped in paper with small riddles inside. However these sweets did not sell very well so he came up with the idea of having his sweets open with a 'crack' after watching sparks fly from his log fire at home. He called them 'Bangs of Expectation.



Here's a few jokes for you to enjoy. Do you have any?

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

He was picking his nose.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy.





Christmas Lights

Once again, it was those inventive Victorians who first came up with electric Christmas lights.

In December 1882 Edward Hibberd Johnson, the vice president of Thomas Edison's Electric Light Company, had the idea of stringing fairy lights on Christmas trees. He had 80 wired lights in red, white and blue on his Christmas tree in his home in New York however these lights, and electricity in general, were expensive so it wasn't until 1930 that the average person would be able to afford Christmas lights.



There are some impressive displays on houses around Christmas. What do you think? Over the top or lovely to see?



A few extra jokes for you to enjoy

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

How do snowmen get around?

By riding an 'icicle

Why are Christmas trees very bad at knitting?

Because they always drop their needles

What is good King Wenceslas favourite pizza?

One that's deep-pan, crisp and even

What's a dog's favourite carol?

Bark, the herald angels sing

Why is the turkey never hungry at Christmas?

It's stuffed

Anagram answers

Little Drummer Boy
Silent Night

Merry Xmas Everybody
Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow

