

Christmas Drawing

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN

I love to visit the classroom in December and teach the students how to draw Santa in his sleigh, with his reindeer flying over the little houses at night. The kids absolutely LOVE this project.

I like to draw with crayons on white drawing paper and finish with a blue tempera wash for the night sky effect.

1. Have your students draw with a black crayon. Start off on the left side with Santa.. Try drawing just one line or shape at a time. I start with his face from his forehead down to the bottom of his nose. Then his mustache, and then his beard and eye. Next move onto the rectangle for the bottom of his hat and the triangle shape at the top with the ball at the tip.

2. Move onto Santa's arms and gloves. Next draw his tummy. Now, draw the sleigh starting at the top line under Santa and around the bottom. Add runners and some details. Fill in the space between Santa, the sleigh and the edge of the paper with his sack of toys. Draw a flower shape in the middle and a bow hanging below to show how the bag is cinched in.

3. Now for the reindeer. Look at the third and fourth squares. Draw the front reindeer first. Use an oval shape for the body and then draw the neck and head. Add ears and a triangle tail. For the legs draw 3 angle lines in the front and 3 angle lines in the back. Now draw a straight line across the bottom of your 3 lines and you have two legs! Add "w" shapes hooves at the bottom. Now just draw the top of the reindeer that's behind by following your front reindeer's head, ear, back, and tail line. Add some back legs. For antlers, draw a "C" shape and add "v"'s along the line. You can look at the reindeer detail square for more ideas. You can add a harness, a belt and even bells if you want.

4. Now draw another set of reindeer, but smaller. Continue this until your reindeer are off the page. Some children will be able to fit only two or three sets, some have room for more. Just have them draw until they reach the edge of their paper, making each set of reindeer smaller than before. They can draw a connecting line from Santa's gloves to each reindeer's back.

5. Add a moon in the sky. Now draw a curved line of snow on the ground.

Follow the house details square and add a couple of houses along your snow line. Don't draw the lights yet! The roof line at the bottom of the roof can be curved so it looks like there is a lot of snow on it. Have the students draw at least 3 houses. It's OK if they overlap a little. Now, draw a few more hills in the background and triangle trees. They can try a little more detailed tree in the front. Some students ask if they can draw a snowman on their hill.... YES!

6. Now it's time to add some color. It's very important that the students draw **WHITE** pressing hard so that it shows up when we do the wash. Make sure they color all of Santa's fur trim white, all the snow of the roofs and hills, and white circles in the sky for snow. I like to have them do this first so they don't forget.

7. For the lights.... Have them press hard dots with different colors of crayons along their rooftops for Christmas lights. This part turns out so cute! Now, they can color in the rest of their picture however they want. Remind them to color in all their spaces except the sky pressing hard with small short strokes.

8. Last. We do a wash. Mix 2 TBS of blue tempera paint with about 1/2 cup of water. Use a big brush-- I like a 2" brush -- to paint over the entire painting all the way to the edges. This makes the painting look like nighttime. Sometimes I like to take a tissue or paper towel and dab a little of the paint off the colored areas.

You're done! Enjoy your adorable paintings and have a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

