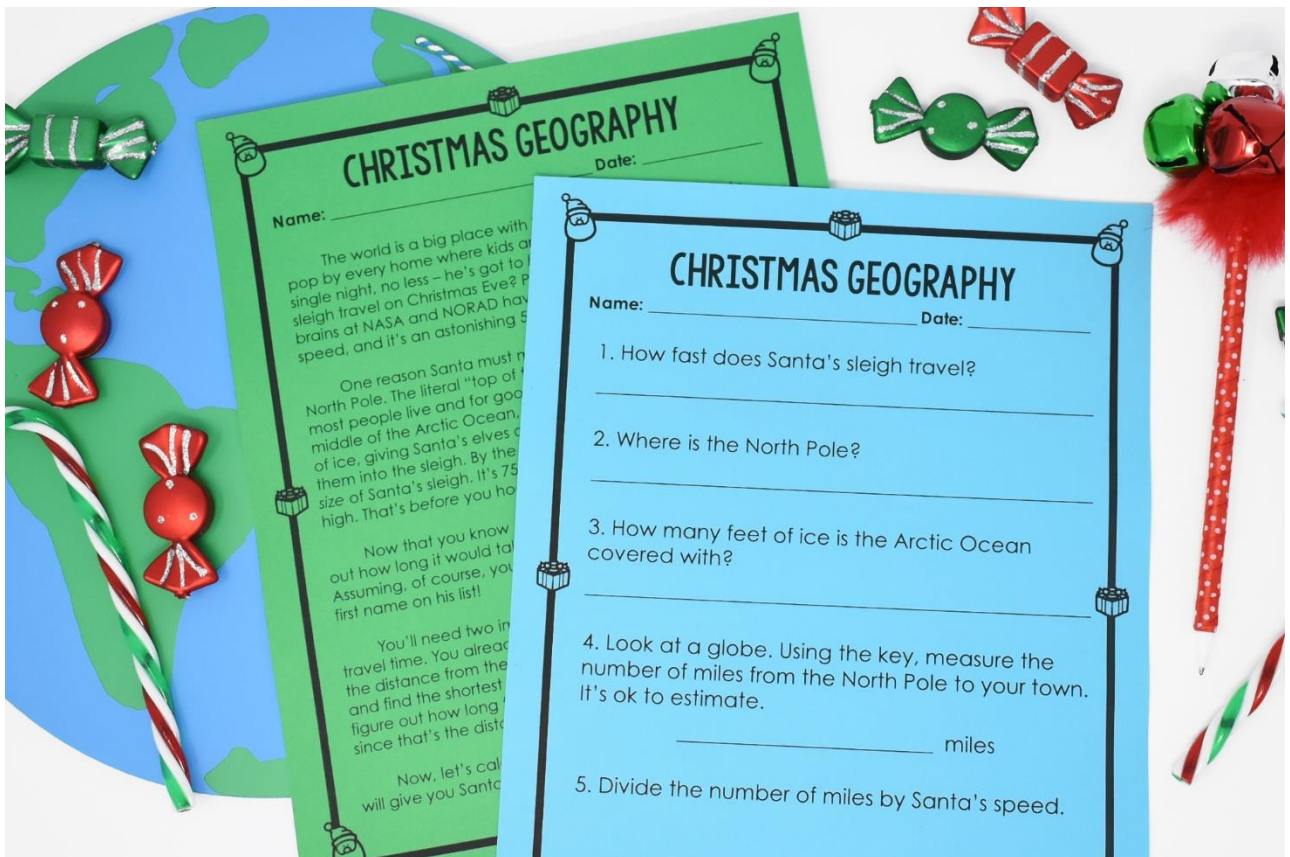


CHRISTMAS GEOGRAPHY WITH SANTA






CHRISTMAS GEOGRAPHY




Name: _____ Date: _____

The world is a big place with lots of chimneys! For Santa to pop by every home where kids are eagerly awaiting gifts – in a single night, no less – he's got to *hustle*. How fast does Santa's sleigh travel on Christmas Eve? Probably faster than you think! The brains at NASA and NORAD have calculated Santa's likely sled speed, and it's an astonishing 5,083,000 miles per hour!



One reason Santa must move so quickly is that he lives at the North Pole. The literal "top of the world" is pretty far from where most people live and for good reason! The North Pole sits in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, but the ocean is covered in 6-10 feet of ice, giving Santa's elves a solid surface to build toys and load them into the sleigh. By the way, researchers also calculated the size of Santa's sleigh. It's 75 candy canes long, 40 wide, and 55 high. That's *before* you hook up the reindeer!



Now that you know a little about the North Pole, let's figure out how long it would take Santa to get from there to your home. Assuming, of course, you've been so *good* all year that you're the first name on his list!

You'll need two important pieces of information to calculate travel time. You already know the speed. You'll also need to know the distance from the North Pole to your home. Look at a globe and find the shortest route, then use the map key on the globe to figure out how long that route is. The distance should be in miles since that's the distance unit the sleigh speed uses.

Now, let's calculate! Divide the distance by the speed. That will give you Santa's travel time, in hours, to your home!



CHRISTMAS GEOGRAPHY

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How fast does Santa's sleigh travel?

2. Where is the North Pole?

3. How many feet of ice is the Arctic Ocean covered with?

4. Look at a globe. Using the key, measure the number of miles from the North Pole to your town. It's ok to estimate.

_____ miles

5. Divide the number of miles by Santa's speed.



CHRISTMAS GEOGRAPHY

ANSWERS

1. How fast does Santa's sleigh travel?

5,083,000 miles per hour

2. Where is the North Pole?

In the middle of the Arctic Ocean at the top of the world



3. How many feet of ice is the Arctic Ocean covered with?

6-10 feet

4. Look at a globe. Using the key, measure the number of miles from the North Pole to your town. It's ok to estimate.

Answers will vary.

5. Divide the number of miles by Santa's speed.

Answers will vary.



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Thanks!

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