

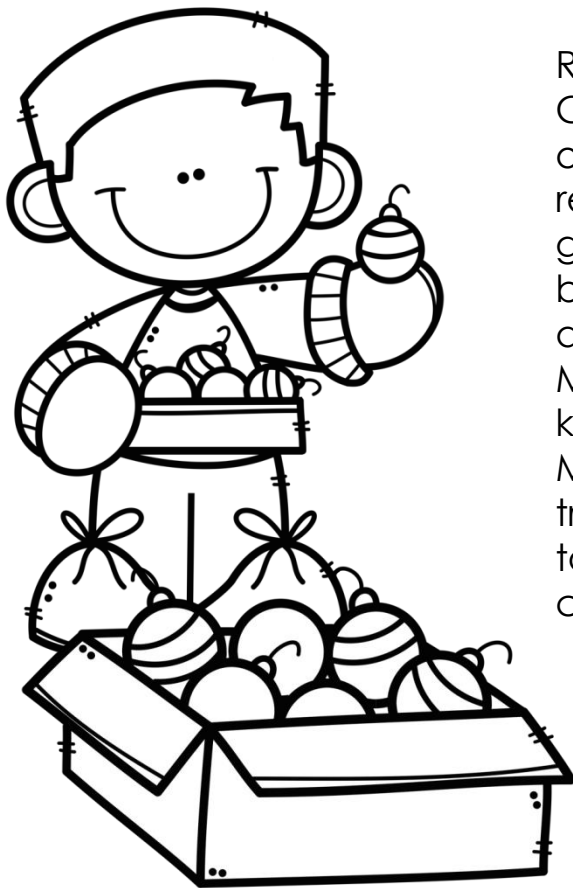
Christmas

Compare and Contrast

This resource contains 10 short paragraphs on Christmas topics. Students read the paragraph and then respond to the compare and contrast questions.

If you would like a [digital version](#) of this resource, you can get it here.



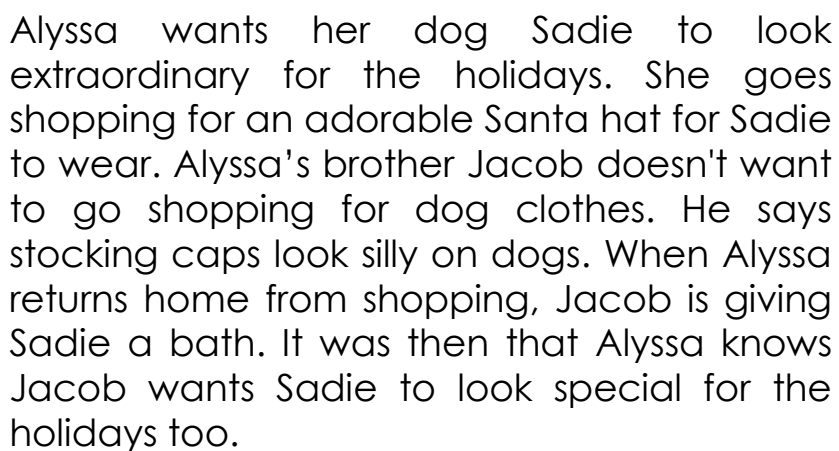


Ricky and Matthew were decorating the family Christmas tree. Each boy had one box of ornaments. Ricky stood on a chair, so he could reach the top of the tree. He worked steadily going from the top to bottom of the tree until his box of ornaments was empty. He then sat down to drink a cup of cocoa. On the other hand, Matthew said he knew where a step ladder was kept. He looked all over the house until he found it. Matthew had just started decorating his half of the tree when Dad came in and said that it was time to go shopping. Matthew didn't have time to drink cocoa before heading out to the mall.

1

How are Ricky and Matthew similar?

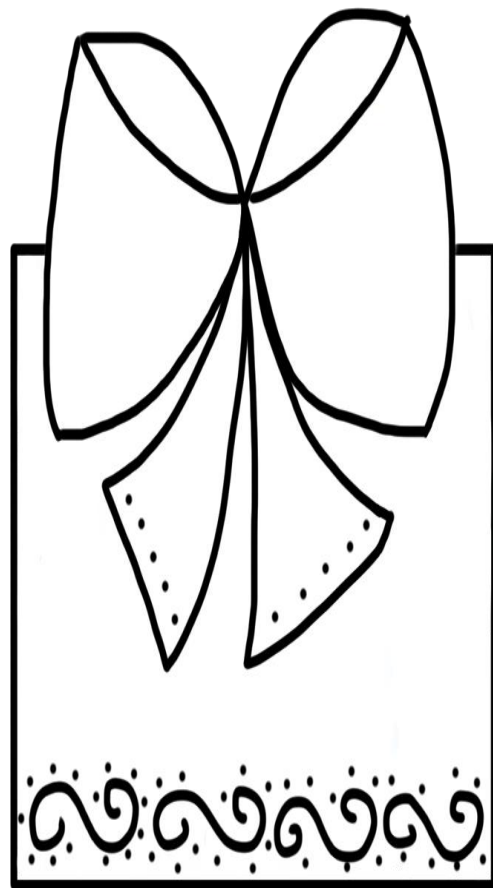
How are they different?



Select which character you feel did the best job making Sadie look special for the holidays. Explain why this character's approach is better compared to the other character's method.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Tiffany stared at the two gifts sitting under the Christmas tree. She couldn't wait for Christmas to come so that she could finally see what was inside the packages. One was tall and very heavy. It was wrapped in green paper with a big red bow. In contrast, the other present was small and square. It was very light when she picked it up. Its paper was blue. It had a red bow on it as well. Both packages were very pretty with their big bows.



3

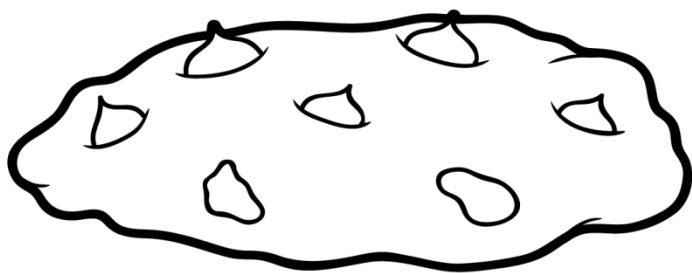
Complete the Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two packages.

Small Package

Both

Large Package

Emily couldn't decide which type of cookie to leave out for Santa. She had two favorites, chocolate chip, and gingerbread men. Her mom added a secret ingredient to the chocolate chip cookie dough, cream cheese. This gave the cookies a chewy middle with slightly crunchy edges which made them delicious. Another of her mom's specialties was gingerbread men. This all-time favorite looked so festive decorated like little men. The gingerbread men tasted really yummy also because likewise, her mom added a secret ingredient to them, cream cheese frosting. Maybe Santa would like both?

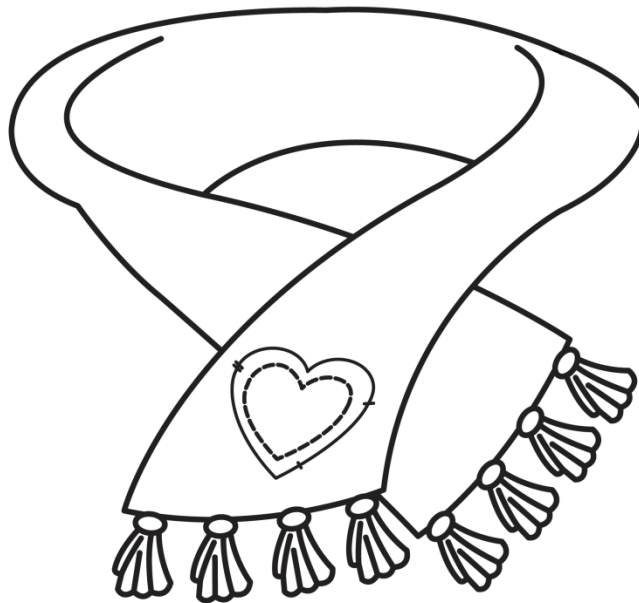
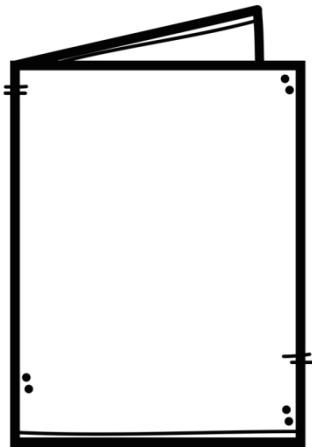


4

How are the two cookies alike?

How are the two cookies different?

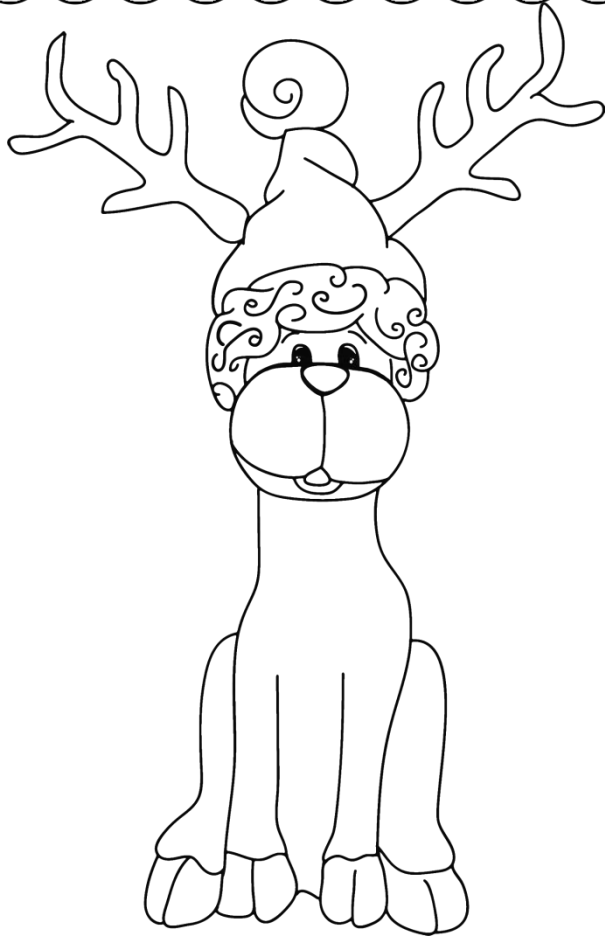
Sally and her sister Meg wanted to buy special Christmas presents for their mother. Sally saved a small part of her allowance each week. Meg waited until two weeks before Christmas and tried to find jobs to earn extra money. Sally bought her mother a beautiful scarf, Meg only had enough money to buy sequins to put on a homemade card.



5

In what ways are Sally and Meg alike in their goals to buy Christmas gifts?

How are they different?



Families in Alaska celebrate Christmas with the same traditions as people all over the United States. Santa arrives on Christmas Eve; on Christmas morning everyone exchanges gifts, and special foods are prepared. Alaskans do have some customs which are different. They sing *Gristuusaaq suu'uq*, an Aleut song that means Christ is born. Along with cookies and candy, they will also eat maple-frosted doughnuts. Instead of a turkey, fish pie and smoked salmon are eaten for dinner. Another difference is children go from house to house carrying long poles with stars on top singing Christmas carols.

6

Compare and contrast an Alaskan Christmas to a Christmas in other states.

Alaska

Both

Other U.S. States



During the month of December, Americans often bring an evergreen tree inside their homes and decorate it with lights, tinsel, and other ornaments. The tree is often topped with a star or an angel. Gifts are placed around the tree to be opened on Christmas day. This tradition varies in other places around the world. In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of the summer. Many Australians decorate Christmas bushes. These are native plants with little red-flowered leaves. Christmas in Brazil also comes in the summer, so pine trees are decorated with little pieces of cotton to represent falling snow. In Italy, families decorate for Christmas with nativity scenes instead of a Christmas tree. In some countries such as Japan, few people celebrate Christmas.

7

Use a T-Chart to explain some different Christmas tree traditions.

Americans	Australians	Brazilians	Italians



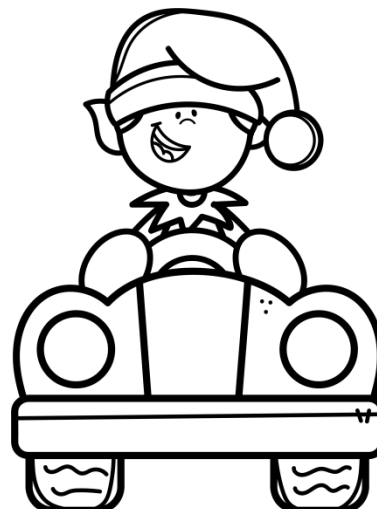
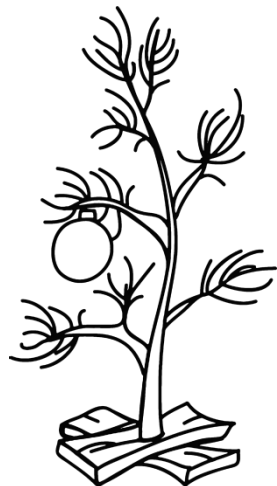
One debate among families is whether to top the Christmas tree with a star or an angel. The Christmas star is usually made of metal or plastic and may come with lights inside. The angel normally has a porcelain face and arms and is dressed in fancy fabric with feathery wings. In the same manner, as the lighted star, angels may have lights under their gowns. Both slide onto the top of the tree with a cone-shaped metal piece or may be clipped to the treetop. The angel represents the angel of God that came down from heaven to bring tidings of Jesus' birth. However, the star represents the star in the East which is said to have hung over the manger in which Jesus was born. Whether your family selects a star or an angel, the topper will be the focal point of your Christmas tree and a family heirloom to be passed down for generations.

What characteristics do the two Christmas toppers have in common?

How are they different?

A *Charlie Brown Christmas* is a great movie to watch during the holidays. During the movie, Charlie Brown is depressed about the commercialism of Christmas. His spirits are lifted by directing the school pageant, a talk from Linus, and a little fir tree. The music in this movie is fantastic as well.

Another Christmas movie you should watch during the holidays is *Elf*. This is the story of Buddy, a human raised by elves. Buddy travels to New York City to find his real father after learning he's not actually an elf. Buddy is very naïve as he explores a world he has never before seen. His antics are often silly causing laugh-out-loud moments.



9

Write a paragraph explaining why both movies should be viewed during the Christmas season.

Select two Christmas songs with similar themes.

Here are a few examples:

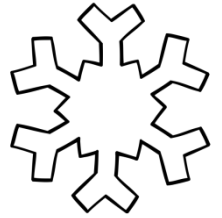
Jingle Bells vs. Silver Bells



Up on the Housetop vs. Here Comes Santa Claus vs. Must be Santa



Winter Wonderland vs. It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas



Children Go Where I Send Thee vs. Away in a Manger



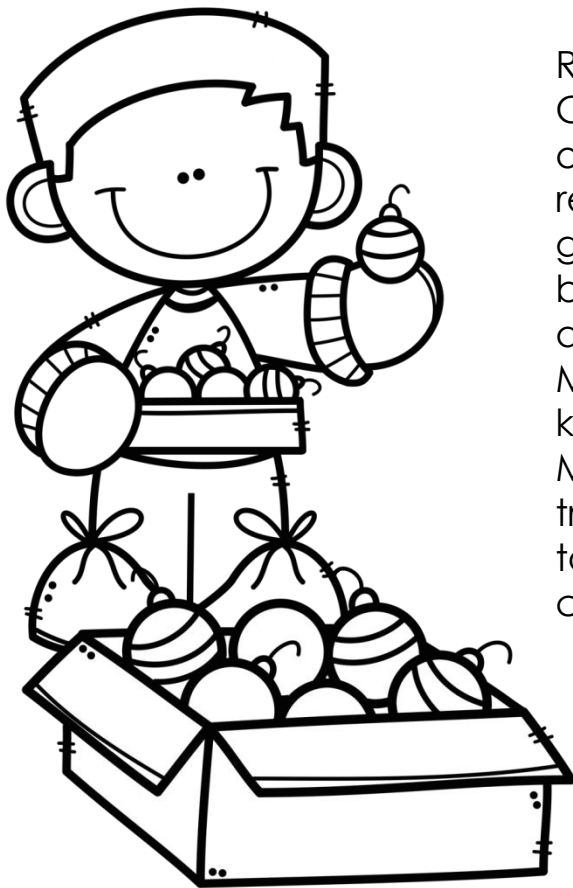
10

What do these two Christmas songs have in common?

How do these two Christmas songs differ?

Answer Keys





Ricky and Matthew were decorating the family Christmas tree. Each boy had one box of ornaments. Ricky stood on a chair, so he could reach the top of the tree. He worked steadily going from the top to bottom of the tree until his box of ornaments was empty. He then sat down to drink a cup of cocoa. On the other hand, Matthew said he knew where a step ladder was kept. He looked all over the house until he found it. Matthew had just started decorating his half of the tree when Dad came in and said that it was time to go shopping. Matthew didn't have time to drink cocoa before heading out to the mall.

1

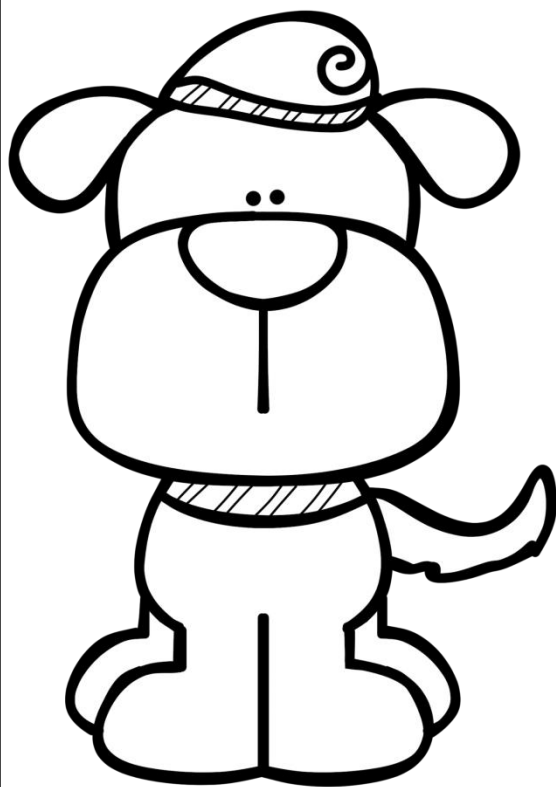
How are Ricky and Matthew similar?

Both boys want to decorate the Christmas tree and then drink a cup of cocoa.

How were they different?

Ricky jumps right into the task. He works steadily until his job is completed. He is then rewarded with a cup of cocoa.

Matthew spends time he could have been decorating the tree looking for a ladder. He uses up his time searching for the ladder and does not have time to drink the cocoa.



Alyssa wants her dog Sadie to look extraordinary for the holidays. She goes shopping for an adorable Santa hat for Sadie to wear. Alyssa's brother Jacob doesn't want to go shopping for dog clothes. He says stocking caps look silly on dogs. When Alyssa returns home from shopping, Jacob is giving Sadie a bath. It was then that Alyssa knows Jacob wants Sadie to look special for the holidays too.

2

Select which character you feel did the best job making Sadie look special for the holidays. Explain why this character's approach is better compared to the other character's method.

Which character did the best job making Sadie look special for the holidays?

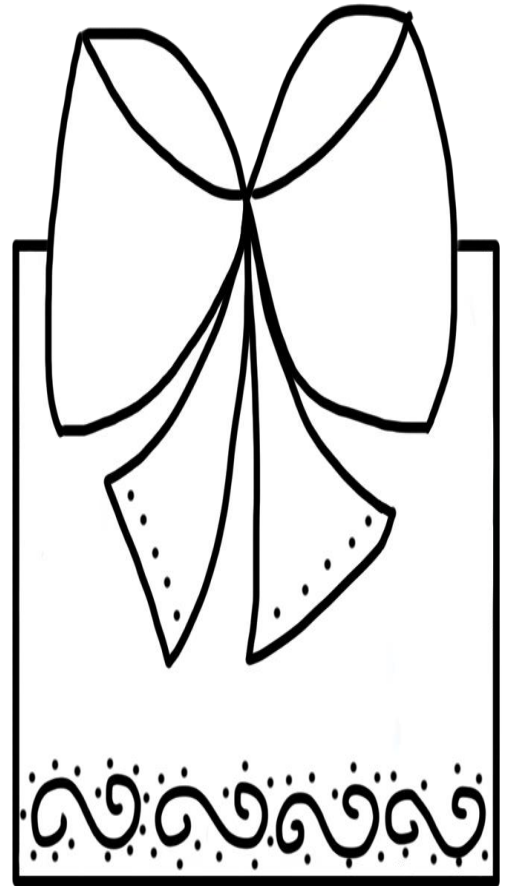
Answers will vary. Some students may agree with Alyssa while others may think Jacob had the best solution.

Explain why this character's approach was better compared to the other character's method.

Answers will vary. Students selecting Jacob may think a dog would look special just by cleaning him/her, brushing his/her fur, etc.

Alyssa fans may feel a dog needs more than a simple bath to look special for the holidays.

Tiffany stared at the two gifts sitting under the Christmas tree. She couldn't wait for Christmas to come so that she could finally see what was inside the packages. One was tall and very heavy. It was wrapped in green paper with a big red bow. In contrast, the other present was small and square. It was very light when she picked it up. Its paper was blue. It had a red bow on it as well. Both packages were very pretty with their big bows.



3

Complete the Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two packages.

Small Package

small
square
light
blue paper

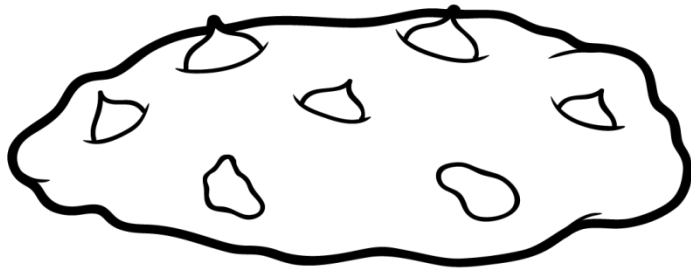
Both

red bows
Christmas presents
pretty

Large Package

tall
heavy
green paper

Emily couldn't decide which type of cookie to leave out for Santa. She had two favorites, chocolate chip, and gingerbread men. Her mom added a secret ingredient to the chocolate chip cookie dough, cream cheese. This gave the cookies a chewy middle with slightly crunchy edges which made them delicious. Another of her mom's specialties was gingerbread men. This all-time favorite looked so festive decorated like little men. The gingerbread men tasted really yummy also because likewise, her mom added a secret ingredient to them, cream cheese frosting. Maybe Santa would like both?



4

How are the two cookies alike?

Both cookies are made for Christmas.

Both have the secret ingredient of cream cheese.

Both cookies are specialties of Emily's mother.

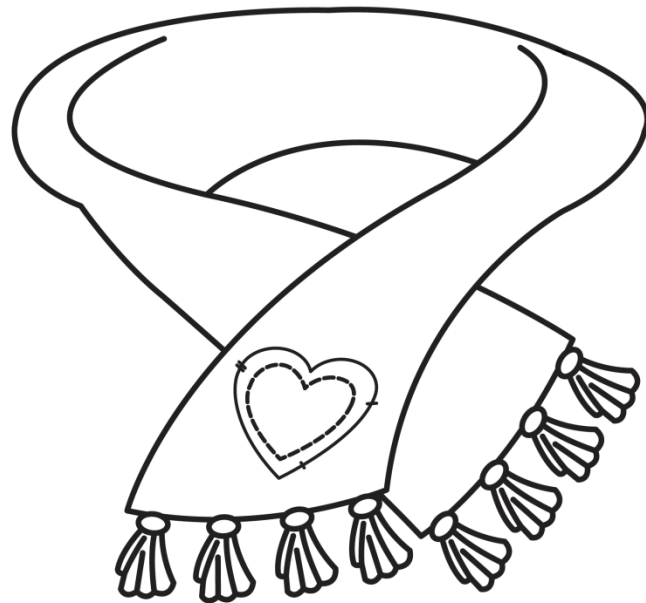
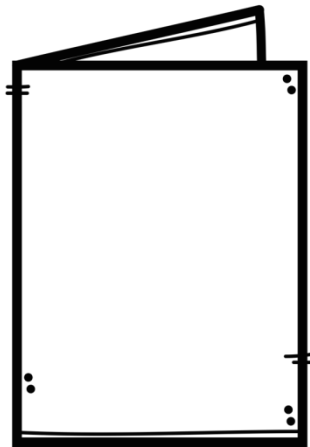
How are the two cookies different?

One cookie is chocolate chip and the other is a gingerbread man.

The chocolate chip has a chewy middle and crunchy edges.

The gingerbread men are decorated with frosting.

Sally and her sister Meg wanted to buy special Christmas presents for their mother. Sally saved a small part of her allowance each week. Meg waited until two weeks before Christmas and tried to find jobs to earn extra money. Sally bought her mother a beautiful scarf, Meg only had enough money to buy sequins to put on a homemade card.



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In what ways are Sally and Meg alike in their goals to buy Christmas gifts?

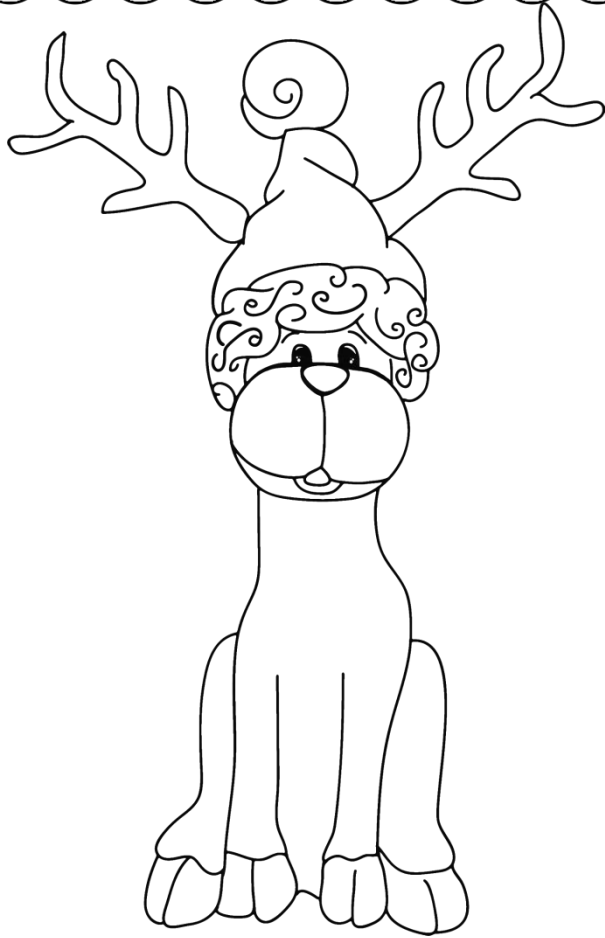
Both sisters wanted to buy something special for their mother for Christmas.

How are they different?

Sally planned ahead by saving money.

Meg waited too close to Christmas and tried to make extra money.

Sally was more successful in obtaining her goal of buying a special Christmas gift.



Families in Alaska celebrate Christmas with the same traditions as people all over the United States. Santa arrives on Christmas Eve; on Christmas morning everyone exchanges gifts, and special foods are prepared. Alaskans do have some customs which are different. They sing *Gristuusaaq suu'uq*, an Aleut song that means Christ is born. Along with cookies and candy, they will also eat maple-frosted doughnuts. Instead of a turkey, fish pie and smoked salmon are eaten for dinner. Another difference is children go from house to house carrying long poles with stars on top singing Christmas carols.

6

Compare and contrast an Alaskan Christmas to a Christmas in other states.

Alaska

sing *Gristuusaaq suu'uq*

eat maple-frosted doughnuts

Eat smoked salmon

go Christmas caroling with long poles with stars on top

Both

Santa brings toys

exchange gifts on Christmas morning

prepare special foods

Other U.S. States

eat turkey



During the month of December, Americans often bring an evergreen tree inside their homes and decorate it with lights, tinsel, and other ornaments. The tree is often topped with a star or an angel. Gifts are placed around the tree to be opened on Christmas day. This tradition varies in other places around the world. In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of the summer. Many Australians decorate Christmas bushes. These are native plants with little red-flowered leaves. Christmas in Brazil also comes in the summer, so pine trees are decorated with little pieces of cotton to represent falling snow. In Italy, families decorate for Christmas with nativity scenes instead of a Christmas tree. In some countries such as Japan, few people celebrate Christmas.

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An evergreen tree is brought inside the house and decorated with lights, tinsel, and ornaments. The tree is topped with a star or an angel. Gifts are placed under the tree.	Australians decorate Christmas Bushes. These are native plants with little red-flowered leaves.	Pine trees are decorated with little pieces of cotton to represent falling snow.	Families decorate nativity scenes instead of Christmas trees.



One debate among families is whether to top the Christmas tree with a star or an angel. The Christmas star is usually made of metal or plastic and may come with lights inside. The angel normally has a porcelain face and arms and is dressed in fancy fabric with feathery wings. In the same manner, as the lighted star, angels may have lights under their gowns. Both slide onto the top of the tree with a cone-shaped metal piece or may be clipped to the treetop. The angel represents the angel of God that came down from heaven to bring tidings of Jesus' birth. However, the star represents the star in the East which is said to have hung over the manger in which Jesus was born. Whether your family selects a star or an angel, the topper will be the focal point of your Christmas tree and a family heirloom to be passed down for generations.

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What characteristics do the two Christmas toppers have in common?

Star - The star is usually made of metal or plastic and may come with lights inside.

The star represents the star in the East which is said to have hung over the manger in which Jesus was born.

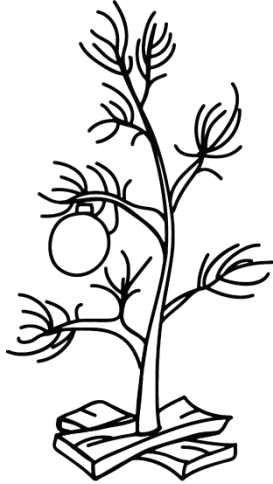
Angel - The angel normally has a porcelain face and arms and is dressed in fancy fabric with feathery wings. Angels may have lights under their gowns.

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How are they different?

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Answers will vary.

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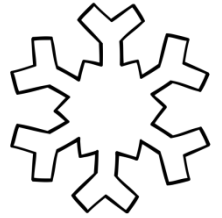
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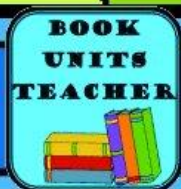
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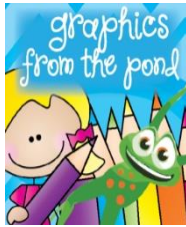
Answers will vary.

How do these two Christmas songs differ?

Answers will vary.

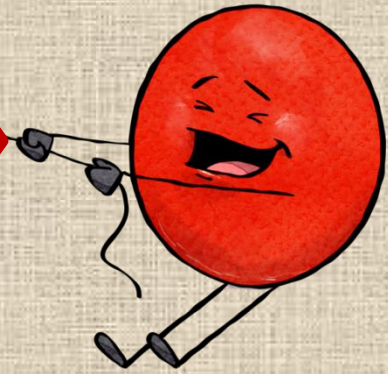


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