**Activity Type**
Reading, writing, listening and matching activity, group work

**Language Focus**
Christmas vocabulary and traditions

**Aim**
To practice Christmas vocabulary and learn about Christmas traditions.

**Preparation**
Make one copy of the worksheet for each student. Also, make one copy of the cards for each group of four and cut as indicated.

**Level**
Elementary

**Time**
60 minutes

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### Introduction
This fun Christmas activity can be used to teach Christmas vocabulary and traditions.

### Procedure
Divide the students into teams of four. Give each team a set of cards. Tell the students to shuffle the cards and deal them out evenly. Each student should have 14 cards. The students spread out their cards face up on the desk in front of them. Give each team a number and draw a scoreboard on the board.

Explain that the students are going to play a game where a Christmas letter is read out and they race to complete it by providing the words.

Start reading the letter to the class. Use the word 'blank' for the missing words. You may wish to read the complete sentence to give it context or read up to the missing word to make it harder for the students.

When a missing word comes up, the students look at their cards and see if they have a suitable word to complete the sentence. There are decoy cards and some words are interchangeable when a sentence contains the conjunction 'and'. The first student to hold up the correct picture card and say the word, scores a point for their team. Don't write the correct answers on the board at this stage.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet. Students put all their team's cards together face up on the table and complete the letter for themselves. When everyone has finished, check the answers as a class.

**Extension Activities:**
Have the students write a reply to Sam. Telling Sam about festivals they celebrate. The letters can then be read aloud or displayed around the classroom.

The teams race to categorize the cards, e.g. days and dates, people, objects, food, places, animals, etc. The first team to categorize all the cards correctly each time wins.

Students play a pelmanism game where they take it in turns to match the cards by category, e.g. dates, people, etc. When a student turns over two matching cards, they keep the cards as a trick. Alternatively, give each group two sets of cards and have the students play a game of Snap.
Dear Miko,

I hope you are well. I’m writing to tell you about a wonderful annual (1) **festival** called (2) **Christmas**. This celebration lasts for (3) **12** days. The two most popular days are the (4) **25th of December**, which is called (5) **Christmas Day** and the (6) **26th of December**, which is called (7) **Boxing Day**. Christians celebrate Christmas, because it is Jesus’s (8) **birthday**. So, it's like a birthday (9) **party**.

Jesus was born in a (10) **stable** surrounded by (11) **farm animals**. His mother’s name was (12) **Mary** and his father's name was (13) **Joseph**. It is said that on that holy night, Jesus was visited by (14) **three wise men**, who brought him gifts of (15) **gold**, frankincense, and myrrh.

Before Christmas, people put up Christmas (16) **decorations** in their home. People usually buy a Christmas (17) **tree**. They decorate it with (18) **lights** and (19) **ornaments**. People usually put (20) **a star** or (21) **an angel** on the top of the tree. Underneath the tree, they put (22) **presents**, which they open on Christmas Day.

At Christmas time, children love to write Christmas letters to (23) **Santa Claus**. In the letter, they write about what they would like to get for Christmas. Children and some adults also like to send Christmas (24) **cards** to each other.

On Christmas Day, people also have a special dinner. People in western countries usually eat (25) **turkey**. At Christmas, people also eat sweet things like (26) **chocolate** and (27) **candy**.

Well, that's all for now, what festivals do you celebrate? They must be wonderful. Write back soon and tell me about them.

Your friend,

Sam
Dear Miko,

I hope you are well. I'm writing to tell you about a wonderful annual (1) .................. called (2) .................. This celebration lasts for (3) .................. days. The two most popular days are the (4) .................., which is called (5) .................. and the (6) .................., which is called (7) .................. Christians celebrate Christmas, because it is Jesus's (8) .................. So, it's like a birthday (9) ..................

Jesus was born in a (10) .................. surrounded by (11) .................. His mother's name was (12) .................. and his father's name was (13) .................. It is said that on that holy night, Jesus was visited by (14) .................., who brought him gifts of (15) .................., frankincense, and myrrh.

Before Christmas, people put up Christmas (16) .................. in their home. People usually buy a Christmas (17) .................. They decorate it with (18) .................. and (19) .................. People usually put a (20) .................., or an (21) .................. on the top of the tree. Underneath the tree, they put (22) .................., which they open on Christmas Day.

At Christmas time, children love to write Christmas letters to (23) .................. In the letter, they write about what they would like to get for Christmas. Children and some adults also like to send Christmas (24) .................. to each other.

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Well, that's all for now. What festivals do you celebrate? They must be wonderful. Write back soon and tell me about them.

Your friend,

Sam
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Christmas</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>Easter</th>
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<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>25th of December</td>
<td>wedding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>26th of December</td>
<td>birthday</td>
<td>New Year's Eve</td>
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<td>Happy Holidays!</td>
<td>April Fool's Day</td>
<td>festival</td>
<td>31st of December</td>
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<td>Boxing Day</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>cake</td>
<td>1st of January</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sheep</td>
<td>House</td>
<td>Farm animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Decorations</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Candles</td>
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<tr>
<td>gold</td>
<td>Maggie</td>
<td>tree</td>
<td>a king</td>
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<td>three wise men</td>
<td>flower</td>
<td>Dave</td>
<td>silver</td>
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<td>bags</td>
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<td>The Grinch</td>
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