Welcome to the most wonderful time of year — and to Heifer’s 12 Days of Holiday Fun! We hope you enjoy the following activities with your children and family as you count down the days until Christmas. We’ve included some of our favorite activity sheets, crafts, jokes, recipes and more — all perfect for family night fun.

If 12 days of fun isn’t enough, here are a few more family-friendly activities.

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**GINGERBREAD COOKIES**

Celebrate the season with this easy and delicious recipe for a classic holiday treat: gingerbread cookies!

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**ACTIVITY PACKS FOR KIDS**

Interested in more activity sheets like the ones included? Check out our themed packets for elementary kids.

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**ACTIVITIES FOR TWEENS & TEENS**

If you’re looking for something a little more advanced, check out our activities for kids sixth grade and older.

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**HEIFER FAMILY GIVING**

Heifer Family Giving is a FREE program you can use to teach your children about the importance of generosity, empathy and compassion. Each month, you’ll receive a downloadable packet that includes conversation starters, monthly challenges, stories from the field, activities and more.

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**FROM ALL OF US AT HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**
Holly’s Snow Maze
Help Holly the heifer find her friends. Watch out for the snow!
Holiday Jokes
Use the decoder to find the answers to some of our favorite holiday jokes.

What does the grumpy sheep say at Christmas?

What did one snowman say to the other?
Holiday Word Search
Find the hidden holiday words.

BRIGHT
CANDY CANE
CAROLING
ELF
GINGERBREAD
GIVING
HOT CHOCOLATE
MERRY
MITTENS
GINGERBREAD
GIVING
HOT CHOCOLATE
Merry
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
TINSEL
TREE
WINTER
Holiday Ornaments

1. Color the animals below.
2. Cut them out along the dotted lines.
3. Thread string through the hole on top of each ornament and form a loop, then tie it.
4. Decorate your tree with your special ornaments!
Holiday Fill-Ins

Fill in the blanks with the types of words described. Then, fill in the corresponding blanks on the next page with your answers. Once you’ve filled everything in, read the story aloud.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANIMAL</th>
<th>ADJECTIVE 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTMAS DECORATION PLURAL</td>
<td>LENGTH OF TIME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST TENSE VERB 1</td>
<td>PAST TENSE VERB 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMOUS PERSON</td>
<td>NAME 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAST TENSE VERB 2</td>
<td>NAME 2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NAME 3</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BODY PART 1 PLURAL</td>
<td>NAME 6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>NAME 7</td>
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<td>PAST TENSE VERB 7</td>
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<td>ADJECTIVE 4</td>
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PAGE 1
'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the farm, not a creature was stirring, not even a/an _______________ . The _______________ were _______________ by the _______________ with care, in hopes that _______________ soon would be there. The children were _______________ all snug in their _______________ , while visions of _______________ _______________ in their _______________. And Mama in her _______________ , and I in my _______________ , had just settled our brains for a _______________ winter’s nap. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the _______________ to see what was the matter. When, what to my wondering _______________ should appear, but a/an _______________ sleigh, and _______________ tiny reindeer, with a little _______________ driver, so _______________ and _______________ , I knew in a _______________ it must be _______________. And he/she _______________ , and _______________ , and called them by name: “Now! _______________ , now! _______________ , now! _______________ , and _______________ . On! _______________ , on! _______________ , on! _______________ and _______________ . Now _______________ away! _______________ away! _______________ away! _______________ away all!” And away they all _______________ , like the down of a _______________. But I heard him/her exclaim, as he/she _______________ out of sight, “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.”

Want to read the original poem with no funny words? Check out “A Visit from St. Nicholas” by Clement Clarke Moore.
FIND THESE 10 HIDDEN OBJECTS IN THE PICTURE ABOVE.

BONUS!
FIND THE POLAR BEAR
Copy the Picture

Copy the image on the left to the grid on the right. Then, color them both!
In Oaxaca, Mexico, Christmastime means indulging in buñuelos de rodilla, traditional fritters seasoned with anise and guava. They’re soaked with syrup made from piloncillo, which is a raw form of pure cane sugar commonly used in Mexican cooking. They look a lot like pancakes and syrup, but do they taste the same? Give this recipe a try.

**DIRECTIONS FOR FRITTERS**

1. In a large bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt.

2. Form a hole in the center and add the egg, melted butter and vanilla. Stir until the mixture gives the appearance of bits of oats. Add water little by little (a tablespoon at a time) and knead (usually less than 5 minutes) until smooth. Cover the dough with a cloth and let stand for 30 minutes.

3. Divide the dough into 12 balls and cover with a kitchen napkin. Flour a work surface and rolling pin.

4. Place one of the dough balls on the floured work surface and spread with the roller. Flatten the dough balls into thin circles. You can shape the dough for all 12 fritters before frying. Just space them out on a clean tablecloth.

5. Fry the fritters in very hot oil until golden and crisp. This step will only take a few seconds. Place the fritters on paper towels to absorb excess oil. Serve warm or at room temperature, sprinkled with powdered sugar or piloncillo syrup.

   Note: You can make the dough a day before and put it in the refrigerator.

**DIRECTIONS FOR SYRUP**

1. Place one cup of the water and the piloncillo in a medium pot over medium-high heat and stir constantly until the piloncillo dissolves.

2. Add the rest of the water, cinnamon, guava, anise and orange peel and bring to a boil. Simmer until you achieve the desired consistency, then strain. The syrup will keep refrigerated for up to a week.
Christmas Tree Maze

Follow the path that leads to the gift.
Holiday Card

Wish a friend or loved one a very merry Christmas with a holiday card! Color the card on the following page, then write your message inside. When you’re done, follow the folding instructions below and mail or hand deliver your card.

FOLDING INSTRUCTIONS

1

2

3
Happy Holidays!

You bring joy to my world.

Joy to the World
We hope you are celebrating this holiday season with your favorite traditions. Around the world, families observe holidays in many ways. Here are some of our favorites!

1. UNITED STATES — DECORATING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE WITH ... PICKLES? No one knows for sure how this tradition started, but many families in the United States hide a pickle-shaped ornament on a Christmas tree. The first to find it gets an extra present from Santa Claus!

2. SWITZERLAND — SPLATTERED ICE CREAM Normally, dropping your ice cream is very upsetting. But in Switzerland, the new year is celebrated by throwing an ice cream cone on the floor for good luck!

3. JAPAN — KFC FOR CHRISTMAS Did you know an estimated 3.6 MILLION Japanese families feast on Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas dinner? The tradition started shortly after the first KFC opened in Japan in 1970, and it has become so popular that getting the special Christmas dinner requires ordering weeks in advance!

4. MEXICO — NIGHT OF THE RADISHES A city in Mexico celebrates Christmas with a tradition called Night of the Radishes. Every year, people carve vegetables into dolls and animals and enter contests to see who has the best work of art!

5. PARAGUAY — CHRISTMAS FRUIT PUNCH Most of us are used to snow and hot chocolate during the holidays, but did you know it’s the hottest time of the year in South America? Instead of building snowmen and sitting around a cozy fireplace, families in Paraguay set off fireworks and drink fruit punch!

6. KENYA — RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED CAMEL? Families in Kenya aren’t so sure that Santa Claus travels around the world with his group of reindeer. Instead, many think he rides a camel!

7. SOUTH AFRICA — BYE-BYE CANDY CANES, HELLO CATERPILLARS In South Africa, families celebrate the holiday season by eating deep-fried caterpillars! The national delicacy is believed to bring good luck for the next year.

8. AUSTRALIA — BEACH PARTY In Australia, holidays are during the summer. So, families and friends celebrate by packing a picnic and spending the day at the beach!
Pin the Nose on the Snowman

1. Cut out the carrot noses below. (You can print multiple pages if you need more carrots.)
2. Color or decorate the carrots.
3. Hang the snowman (on the next page) on a wall or hard surface.
4. Place a piece of two-sided tape on each carrot.
5. Now, it’s time to play! The goal is to place your carrot closest to where the snowman’s nose should be.
6. For each player’s turn, blindfold them, spin them around a few times, and let them place the carrot on the snowman while they’re still blindfolded.
7. Whoever’s carrot is the closest to where the nose should be wins!
Answers
Below are the answers to the activities.

1. Holly’s Snow Maze

2. Holiday Jokes
   Answer 1: Baaa humbug
   Answer 2: Do you smell carrots?

3. Holiday Word Search

6. Hidden Images

9. Christmas Tree Maze