

You are invited to help investigate a

MURDER AT THE NORTH POLE

On: _____

Location: _____

Time: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

RSVP



Christmas Day. The big present delivery is over for another year and Father and Mrs Christmas are about to hold a grand party. A “thank you” to all their staff for the hard work they have put in during the build up to Christmas. But hours before the party is to begin a body is discovered. The Ice Sculptor, hired to sculpt a grand ice sleigh as the party’s centrepiece, is found dead. Apparently killed in a horrendous polar bear attack. But appearances prove to be deceptive. And it turns out that one of nine suspects is a killer.

Father Christmas

Head of Christmas Land.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Macho puller of Santa’s sleigh.

Tubby the Trainee Reindeer

A new recruit from Butterworth Zoo.

Eskimo Nelly

An environmental protester.

Mrs Christmas

The power behind the pole.

Blitzen the Brown Nosing Reindeer

Goody goody snooper

Bluddengutz Polar Bear

Head of Christmas Land Security.

Postman Knox

A postman from Milton Keynes.

Frosty the Killer Snowman

A magical snowman.

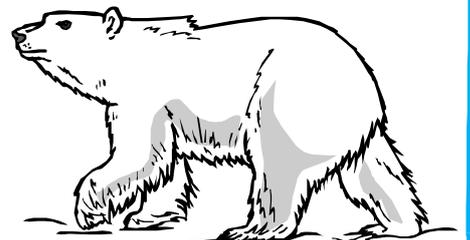
One or more of the above murdered the Ice Sculptor. You are invited to help

Long Beard

Father Christmas’s Chief Engineer

Discover Whodunit!

www.merrymurder.com



Background

Christmas Land lies at the North Pole. A very small land, its only building is Father Christmas's Factory. Here, throughout the year, toys and sweets are produced, all to be delivered on Christmas Eve to the entire world.

Father Christmas is Head of Christmas Land. He is assisted (some would say ruled) by his wife, Mrs Christmas. Three other species make up the inhabitants of Christmas Land. The elves, who work in the factory. The reindeer, who do miscellaneous chores throughout the year, and assist with the delivery on Christmas Eve. And a small group of polar bear brothers who are in charge of security.

On the very edge of Christmas Land is "The Ice Hole". This is the only point of access to the Arctic ocean which lies beneath the frozen mass of Christmas Land.

The Ice Railings

Recently security has become an issue in Christmas Land. This is due to three factors:

1. Russian scientists from a nearby Arctic Research Centre have started wandering into Christmas Land. They say accidentally.
2. An environmental protester, known as Eskimo Nelly, has built an igloo just outside Christmas Land. She is protesting about the pollution caused by Father Christmas's factory.
3. A mysterious magical snowman, armed with a laser carrot nose and hand grenade buttons, has been seen slithering about Christmas Land. He has even broken into the factory. Known as "Frosty the Killer Snowman", all attempts to apprehend him have been unsuccessful.

Because of these threats, a continuous set of ice railings has recently been erected around Christmas Land. Overseen by the elf Long Beard (Father Christmas's Chief Engineer) and polar bear Bluddengutz (Head of Christmas Land Security), the polar bear brothers have been drawing water from the Ice Hole, pouring it into railing shaped moulds to freeze, then using these to create a sturdy barricade encircling Christmas Land.

To ensure that the entrances to Christmas Land are appropriately impressive, Father and Mrs Christmas have hired an Ice Sculptor to sculpt some magnificent and imposing ice gates. Using water from the Ice Hole, the Russian Sculptor has been making these in his workshop within the Ice Caves, just outside Christmas Land.

The Party

Father and Mrs Christmas traditionally throw a large party on the evening of December 25th for all their staff. This is to thank them for their hard work in the months building up to Christmas. This year was to be extra special. The Ice Sculptor had been commissioned to carve a wonderful ice sleigh. This was to be the centrepiece of the party and was to be filled with presents for everyone. And, to mark the fact that he has now been guiding Father Christmas's sleigh for five years running, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was to be the party's guest of honour.



Murder

After lunch on Christmas Day it is the custom for everyone to go to bed for an afternoon sleep to ensure that they are fresh for the night's celebrations ahead. This year was no different. With a few exceptions, everyone retired to bed. But towards the end of the afternoon a vast commotion was heard. Bluddengutz polar bear had finally managed to apprehend Frosty the Killer Snowman in Mrs Christmas's kitchen. But, just as Frosty was being led away for interrogation, a second upheaval occurred. Blitzen and Tubby Reindeer, who had gone to the Ice Sculptor's cave to collect the ice sleigh, came hurtling back to the factory screaming. And announced they had found the Ice Sculptor dead!



The Crime Scene

The Ice Sculptor had been killed by a ferocious blow to the back of the head, crushing his skull. His clothes were ripped to shreds and there were claw marks on his body. Imprinted on the snowy floor of the cave were numerous polar bear footprints. As well as the ice sleigh there was also a large radio and a box of confectionery in the cave.

However at lunchtime that day a fresh fall of snow had occurred. And at the entrance to the cave various prints were visible. Namely:

- A man's large snowboot footprints
- A woman's small snowboot footprints
- A child's very small snowboot footprints¹
- A polar bear's huge pad imprints with claws
- Reindeer hoofmarks
- Strange, slithering tracks – known to be the tracks of Frosty the Killer Snowman



¹ Particularly puzzling as there are no children in Christmas land. Definitely not an elf print.

Investigation

Long Beard, Father Christmas's Chief Elf Engineer, has a reputation as an amateur detective. Although the evidence suggests that the Ice Sculptor was killed in a polar bear attack, Long Beard is adamant that this is not the case. And has insisted on holding a court of enquiry. Father Christmas, who has relied upon Long Beard for many years, has agreed to his demands.

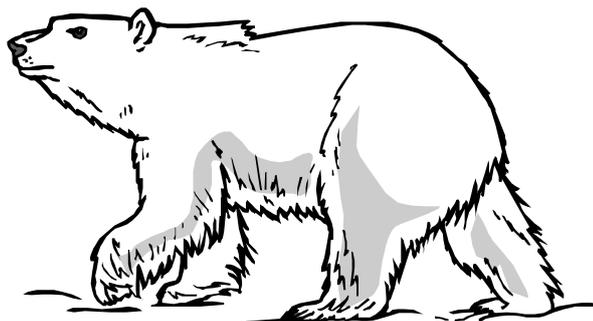
The Ice Sculptor was last seen alive heading back to his cave after lunch. Long Beard is therefore particularly suspicious of nine people who did not partake in the general afternoon snooze.

- Father Christmas says he spent the afternoon in his toy museum.
- Mrs Christmas says she spent the afternoon in her kitchen.
- Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer refuses to say where he was or what he was doing.
- Blitzen the Brown Nosing Reindeer says he was preparing the ballroom for the night's party.
- Tubby the Trainee Reindeer says he was helping Blitzen.
- Bluddengutz Polar Bear says he was patrolling the factory.
- Postman Knox, a guest of Father and Mrs Christmas, says he spent the afternoon pottering about the factory.
- Eskimo Nelly denies even being in Christmas Land and says that she was in her igloo.
- Frosty the Killer Snowman, admits that he had broken into the factory, but denies killing the Ice Sculptor.

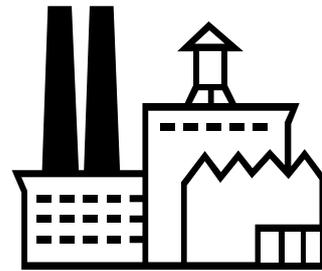
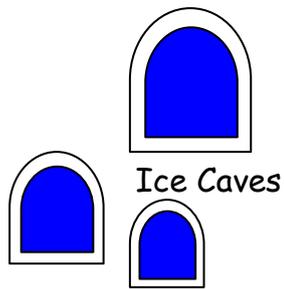


Apart from Blitzen and Tubby, who admit to visiting the Ice Sculptor's cave together when they found the body, all suspects deny visiting the cave.

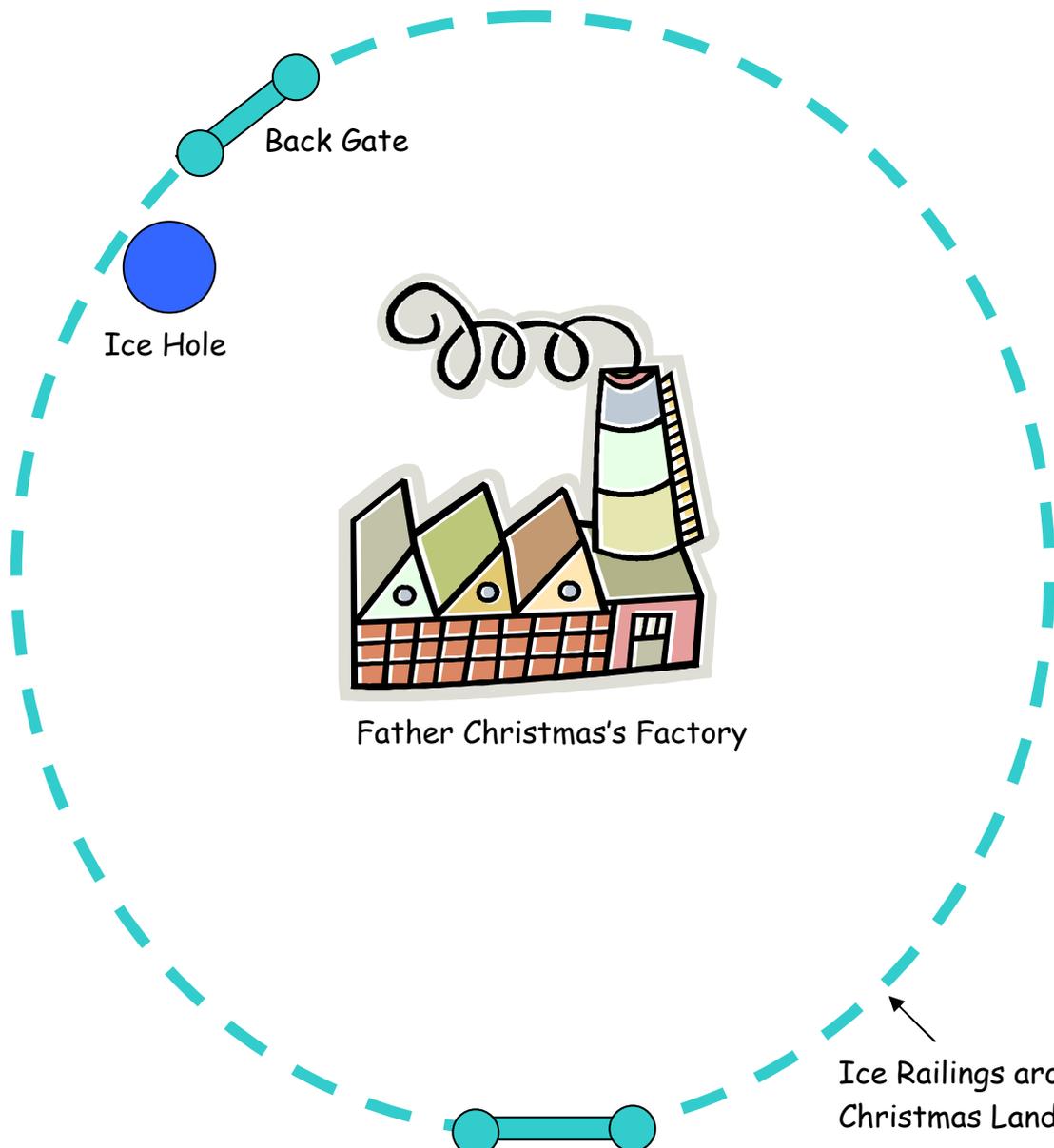
Long Beard has been given permission to hold a court of enquiry to try and unravel how the Ice Sculptor met his death. Assisted by an Investigation Panel of elves, reindeer and polar bear, he hopes to discover the truth so that the party can still go ahead tonight. And already a posse of Investigators have been sent out to scour Christmas Land looking for clues...



MAP OF CHRISTMAS LAND AND SURROUNDING VICINITY



Russian Arctic Research Centre



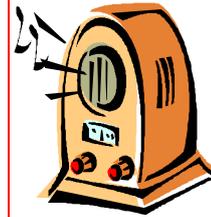
Father Christmas's Factory



Eskimo Nelly's Igloo



FESTIVE RADIO HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY



Pull up a chair, open a bottle of wine, and enjoy some of the festive radio treats lined up for Christmas Day...

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

Once again Her Majesty speaks to the nation, reflecting on the year that has passed and wishing them prosperity and peace for the new year. But maybe this year she will have one or two surprises up her sleeve...

CAROLS FROM KINGS

The traditional carol service from King's College, Cambridge. Traditional and modern carols sung side by side to celebrate the festive spirit. And we hear this year's concert includes a very original version of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"...

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

It just wouldn't be Christmas without this annual yuletide penny turning up! Don't miss the Vonn Trapps trying to outwit the Nazis in this family favourite. Unfortunately it is on commercial radio, so there may be some persuasive adverts interrupting the songs...

CHRISTMAS BOOK DEBATE

Over three nights a distinguished panel will be discussing the merits of three of the nations favourite Christmas novels. Tonight's programme will focus on C.S.Lewis and his classic work "The lion, the witch and the wardrobe". However these discussions have been getting quite feisty...



YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE THE ROLE OF



LONG BEARD

FATHER CHRISTMAS'S CHIEF ENGINEER

I am Long Beard, a very aged elf, so named after my exceptionally long beard. I am Father Christmas's much trusted Chief Engineer. I am very intelligent and it is I who draw up the factory schedules to ensure that all the toys and sweets are produced in time for delivery on Christmas Eve. I have also devised many efficiencies in the manufacturing processes.

I drew up the plans for the Ice Railings which has been erected around Christmas Land. My logical streak means that I am a gifted amateur detective. It was I who spotted the scam that some of the elves had, selling off toy stock to the Chinese. And I have spotted a big inconsistency in the evidence surrounding the Ice Sculptor's death which leads me to believe he was murdered.

Because of this, Father Christmas has entrusted me to investigate the killing. Little did he realise he was going to be one of the chief suspects! To help me with the investigation I have assembled a panel of much trusted elves, reindeer and polar bears.