

THE EMERGENCY SANTA CLAUS MYSTERY (PREVIEW PDF)

The Emergency Santa Claus Mystery is a free mystery entertainment for children (and adults) which takes place over the period December 14th to December 24th. Santa Claus and his reindeer have unfortunately suffered an accident while on a practice sleigh flight! Christmas will have to be cancelled unless a replacement can be found!

Various applicants offer themselves for the vacancy. Applicants are gradually eliminated over the days until on Christmas Eve it is revealed who will be the Emergency Santa, what method of transport they will be using to deliver the presents, and what type of food and drink they have requested to be waiting for them at the bottom of the fireplace.

This preview PDF contains the items for Dec 14th to Dec 17th. The full PDF, containing all the items, can be obtained for £0.00 from the merrymurder website at:

<https://www.merrymurder.com/free-santa-claus-mystery.html>

The components that are revealed each day are as follows:

Dec 14th – A copy of the “Merrymurder News” telling of Santa’s accident and Mrs Christmas’s fear that Christmas will have to be cancelled if a replacement cannot be found. An appeal by the Merrymurder News for replacement Santa applicants to offer their services overnight.

Dec 15th – A “Merrymurder News” supplement revealing the six most promising applicants who have offered their services. These applicants’ “personal statements” and the transport method that each applicant has proposed for delivering the presents.

Dec 16th – Elimination Grids showing all applicants, all transport methods, all potential “fireplace foods” and all potential “fireplace drinks”. An optional sweepstake form in case members of the participating household wish to enjoy the excitement of an “Emergency Santa Sweepstake” over the coming eight days.

Dec 17th – Snowflake Crossword Puzzle which (like all the following puzzles), once correctly solved will result in some applicants and items being eliminated.

Dec 18th – Christmas Dinner Word Search Puzzle

Dec 19th – Feed the Birds Maze Puzzle

Dec 20th – Christmas Cake Mix Puzzle

Dec 21st – Prediction in the Stars Puzzle

Dec 22nd – Sleigh Ride around the World Puzzle

Dec 23rd – The Cost of Christmas Maths Puzzle

Dec 24th – Christmas Cards Word Jig Puzzle

Each new puzzle provides a web link so that participants can check they made the correct eliminations the previous day. And a web link is provided on Dec 24th so that after solving the Christmas Cards Word Jig, participants can verify that they have got the correct solution to the entire mystery.

To make the beginning of the mystery more intriguing, I suggest that on Dec 14th you pin up the Merrymurder News item, and then refuse to answer any questions about what it refers to. Then on the 15th pin up the news supplement and again remain quiet. This will build up the children's interest and excitement.

I hope you and your family and friends enjoy it.

Best wishes and Merry Christmas,

Tim Morrell

www.merrymurder.com

PS – If you like this mystery, please go to:

<https://www.merrymurder.com/free-santa-claus-mystery.html>

and use the share button to share it with your Facebook friends. Thank you.



MERRYMURDER NEWS

CHRISTMAS IN JEOPARDY

SANTA BREAKS LEG AFTER MID AIR COLLISION

ALL REINDEER INJURED

Terrible news from the North Pole. During a training flight Santa's sleigh was clipped by the wing of a jumbo jet. Santa, sleigh, and reindeers were sent plummeting thousands of feet to the ground below. Fortunately no life threatening injuries were incurred by any of the team, due to them falling into a dense bank of soft arctic snow. But Santa has suffered a broken leg. Rudolph, Vixen and Dasher have suffered concussion. Prancer and Dancer have broken antlers. And Cupid, Blitzen and Comet have all injured various hooves. The sleigh is a write off.

"LUCKY TO BE ALIVE"

Donner reindeer, who suffered a crushed nose in the accident, told Merrymurder News "We are lucky to be alive. The jumbo jet seemed to come out of nowhere. One of its wings struck the sleigh's left side runner and the next thing we knew we were spiralling out of control towards the earth. Fortunately we crashed near Santa's toy factory and so Emergency Rescue Elves were able to get to us quickly. But if this had happened while we were doing the real Christmas Eve present delivery – well I shudder at the thought!"

"CHRISTMAS MAY HAVE TO BE CANCELLED"

Mrs Christmas, shaking her head in despair, kindly granted us a few words. "Obviously the main thing is that my husband and his reindeer team are all safe. But I don't know what is going to happen on December 24th. We don't have

a spare sleigh. And even if we did, the reindeer team is in no fit state to pull it. And as for my husband, his leg is in plaster! It'll be three months before he can drive a sleigh, and goodness knows how long before he can climb up and down chimneys! Christmas may have to be cancelled!"

EMERGENCY SANTA REPLACEMENT APPEAL

To try and prevent the cancellation of Christmas, Merrymurder News, with the blessing of Mrs Christmas, are appealing for an Emergency Santa Replacement. Do you think you have the stamina to deliver numerous presents on December 24th? Do you have some type of transport that could get you all around the world in one night? If so, please send us a personal statement in the next 24 hours. The statement should detail why you should be the Emergency Santa Replacement. All genuine applications are welcome. We regret there is no salary for the position. But if you are successful, all the boys and girls in the world will leave your favourite food and drink by their fireside for you on Christmas Eve.

FURTHER NEWS TOMORROW

Merrymurder News promises to keep their readers fully up to date with appeal developments. Over the next 24 hours Mrs Christmas and ourselves will be scrutinising all received applications. After a final approval by Mrs Christmas, we will be giving details of the most promising applicants in a special supplement in tomorrow's newspaper.



MERRYMURDER NEWS

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

PERSONAL STATEMENTS OF MOST PROMISING APPLICANTS

SIX APPLICANTS SELECTED

Numerous applications have been received overnight from potential “Emergency Santa replacements”. After intense scrutiny Mrs Christmas, assisted by MerryMurder News staff, has selected the six applicants that she thinks are most promising. It is from these six applicants that one lucky winner will be chosen to be the Emergency Santa Replacement. Please find below the personal statements received from the chosen six.

THE SULTAN OF DUMBAI

I am the Sultan of Dumbai, the world’s richest man. I have made my money out of oil wells. I would now like to give something back to the world, and ensuring that this year’s Christmas takes place seems an ideal way to do it.

My family tree dates back to the time of magic, and one of my ancestors had a magic carpet which is now in my possession. I think it would be the ideal transport mechanism for flying around the world on Christmas Eve and delivering presents.

OLIVE REINDEER

I am Olive Reindeer and I live on a farm in Canada. I am also Rudolph’s Reindeer’s pen friend. In his many letters he has told me all about how to deliver presents. And he has also sent me some of the “magic flying powder” which enables him and the other reindeers to fly.

I have been experimenting with the powder and have taught myself to fly. I have also taught some of the Alsatian dogs who live on the farm with me. I think that myself and my flying doggy friends would be the ideal team to deliver all the presents this Christmas Eve.

PROFESSOR BRAINSTRAIN

I am Professor Brainstrain, the great inventor. I relish challenges and the challenge of doing a global delivery via chimney pot drop off makes me tremble with so much delight that I fear my handlebar moustache will drop off!

I have recently finished work on my brand new invention – a nuclear powered hot air balloon! It would be wonderful if its first proper flight could be used to deliver all the presents this Christmas!

HOGARTH THE HEDGEHOG

My name is Hogarth and I am a hedgehog from Norway. I live near a fjord with some dragon friends.

Normally in Autumn I fatten myself up with lots of worms, and go into hibernation. But this year I thought it would be an adventure to stay awake and see what winter is like. And I can’t think of a bigger adventure than me and my Norwegian dragon pals taking on the Christmas Eve present delivery!



MRS MOPP

I am Mrs Mopp. You may recognise me. My husband and I are regular participants on TV's "Scrap Heap Challenge". Here we salvage mechanical items found on a scrapheap to make wild and wacky exciting new machines. Mr Mopp has just finished his most ambitious challenge yet. Using parts from clapped out old washing machines and rusty lawn mowers, he has completely refurbished a World War I German Zeppelin Airship. He has added some extras to make it super fast. I would love to use it on Christmas Eve to deliver presents!

ZOGG THE CAVEMAN

My name is Zogg and I am a prehistoric caveman. We cavemen lived many thousands of years before Jesus was born. And so I have never celebrated Christmas. I have never sang carols. I have never eaten a plum pudding. Or even unwrapped a present.

So I want to experience the magic of Christmas for myself. And I can't think of a better way to do it than becoming the Emergency Santa Replacement. I am fortunate enough to have a flock of trained pterodactyls who obey my commands. My idea is to ride on one of them, and instruct the others to drop presents from their talons into chimneys!

FIREPLACE FOOD AND DRINK

All applicants have specified what food

and drink they would like to find waiting for them by the fireplace on Christmas Eve, should they be lucky enough to be selected. Merrymurder News will be revealing these six food and six drink items tomorrow, although we won't be disclosing which applicant chose which food and which drink.

WHO WILL BE SELECTED

In the days running up to Christmas Eve, applicants, transport methods, fireplace foods and fireplace drinks will gradually be eliminated. These eliminations will be performed by the solving of eight Christmas themed puzzles. Each day Merrymurder News readers will receive a copy of that day's Christmas puzzle and, by solving it, will be able to eliminate applicants and items.

ELIMINATION GRIDS

Tomorrow you will receive a set of elimination grids. These will enable you to keep track of which applicants, transport methods, and food and drink items you have eliminated. You will also receive an "Emergency Santa Replacement" sweepstake kit. This will enable you and members of your household to enjoy a sweepstake competition in the run up to Christmas. You will need four small prizes, such as bars of chocolate, for this sweepstake.

***STOP PRESS** – All applicants have sportingly agreed that, if they are not selected to be the Emergency Santa Replacement, they will allow their own method of transport to be used by other applicants.*

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THE EMERGENCY SANTA CLAUS MYSTERY



ELIMINATION GRID - APPLICANTS

THE SULTAN OF DUMBAI	OLIVE REINDEER	PROFESSOR BRAINSTRAIN
MRS MOPP	HOGARTH THE HEDGEHOG	ZOGG THE CAVEMAN

ELIMINATION GRID - TRANSPORT METHODS

FLYING ALSATIAN DOGS	MAGIC CARPET	NORWEGIAN DRAGONS
NUCLEAR POWERED HOT AIR BALLOON	TRAINED PTERODACTYLS	ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP

ELIMINATION GRID - FIREPLACE FOODS

CHOCOLATE DIGESTIVES	DEEP FRIED LEMMINGS	LIVERWURST
STILTON CHEESE	TRUFFLES	VERMICELLI PASTA

ELIMINATION GRID - FIREPLACE DRINKS

CHAMPAGNE	ELDERBERRY WINE	PAPAYA JUICE
STRAWBERRY MILKSHAKE	STRONG ENGLISH BREAKFAST TEA	WEIZENBIER

Pin this sheet up on a wall. Then cross out each applicant, transport method, fireplace food and fireplace drink as you eliminate them.

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EMERGENCY SANTA REPLACEMENT SWEEPSTAKE

If you are tackling this entertainment as part of a group or a family, then you might like to hold a sweepstake to add to the interest and excitement.

You will need to provide four small prizes. For example bars of chocolate.

Then you need to allocate all the applicants, transport methods, fireplace foods and fireplace drinks amongst the people taking part. People can take it in turns to select items.

Alternatively you can use the “cut out column”. Cut out each item, fold it into a slip, then allow people to draw items at random from a bowl.

When all the puzzles have been solved, the people who selected the successful applicant, transport method, fireplace food and fireplace drink can each claim one of the prizes.

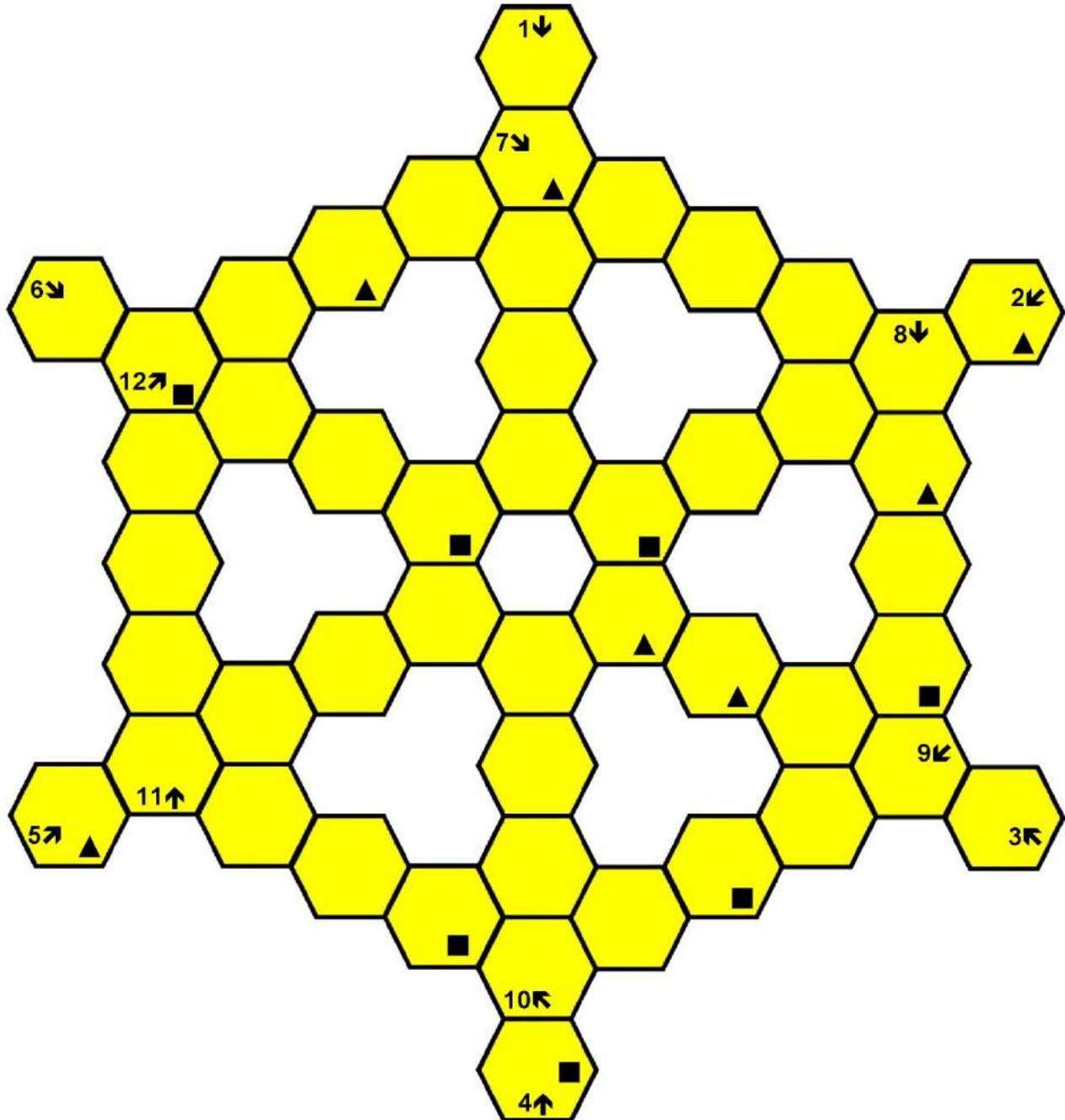
	ITEM	SELECTED BY	CUT OUT COLUMN
APPLICANTS	The Sultan of Dumbai		The Sultan of Dumbai
	Olive Reindeer		Olive Reindeer
	Professor Brainstrain		Professor Brainstrain
	Mrs Mopp		Mrs Mopp
	Hogarth the Hedgehog		Hogarth the Hedgehog
	Zogg the Caveman		Zogg the Caveman
TRANSPORT	Flying Alsatian Dogs		Flying Alsatian Dogs
	Magic Carpet		Magic Carpet
	Norwegian Dragons		Norwegian Dragons
	Nuclear Powered Hot Air Balloon		Nuclear Powered Hot Air Balloon
	Trained Pterodactyls		Trained Pterodactyls
	Zeppelin Airship		Zeppelin Airship
FOODS	Chocolate Digestives		Chocolate Digestives
	Deep Fried Lemmings		Deep Fried Lemmings
	Liverwurst		Liverwurst
	Stilton Cheese		Stilton Cheese
	Truffles		Truffles
	Vermicelli Pasta		Vermicelli Pasta
DRINKS	Champagne		Champagne
	Elderberry Wine		Elderberry Wine
	Papaya Juice		Papaya Juice
	Strawberry Milkshake		Strawberry Milkshake
	Strong English Breakfast Tea		Strong English Breakfast Tea
	Weizenbier		Weizenbier

Cut along the dotted lines so each item is on a slip of paper. Then let people select them at random.



SNOWFLAKE CROSSWORD

Solve the crossword using the clues provided. Then rearrange the letters marked by triangles to find something to eliminate. And also for the letters marked by squares.



CLUES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 – Found in the grate after a fire | 7 – Worn round the neck in winter |
| 2 – Opposite of seldom | 8 – Type of icy weather |
| 3 – You stick it on a letter before posting | 9 – A wooden pole that is carved with figures |
| 4 – Last letter of the Greek alphabet | 10 – Our galaxy is known as “The _____ Way” |
| 5 – Balthazar’s gift to the baby Jesus | 11 – Small sail boat |
| 6 – Cutlery is made from stainless _____ | 12 – Selection of Spanish appetisers |

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