

RUDOLPH JR.

THE
RED-NOSED REINDEER™



ABOUT THE SHOW

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The holiday classic soars off the screen in this 60-minute musical adaptation of the beloved television special. Filled with holiday hits like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas," *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR.* features all of your favorite characters including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and, of course, Rudolph. It's an adventure that teaches us that what makes you different can be what makes you special.

Because of his shiny nose, Rudolph doesn't feel like he belongs in Christmastown and sets off to find a place that accepts him. Along his journey, he encounters fellow misfits, only to realize that home is where he has belonged the whole time. When a storm threatens to keep Santa's sleigh from taking flight, it's up to Rudolph to save Christmas!

ORIGINS OF THE FAMOUS SONG AND 1964 TV SPECIAL

In 1939, Montgomery Ward commissioned one of its catalog copywriters, John May, to dream up a character for the coloring books the department store handed out to children visiting Santa. The company gave out nearly 2.5 million books that year alone.

May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, wrote the famous tune a decade after the story for Montgomery Ward. Marks might as well have had a PhD in writing Christmas songs. He can claim credit for writing "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," along with other songs featured in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* like "Silver and Gold," "There's Always Tomorrow" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas."

Created with stop-motion animation, the show was narrated by folk singer Burl Ives and introduced such characters as Sam the Snowman, the doe Clarice who plays Rudolph's love interest, Hermey the misfit elf who dreams of being a dentist, Yukon Cornelius, and the Abominable Snowmonster (referred to as The Bumble by Yukon Cornelius).

It is now a Christmas classic watched and enjoyed by millions of families each year during the Christmas season. Film sequels have followed, but the 1964 special remains a favorite. Shown on TV each year during the holiday season, it is the longest running Christmas special in the history of television.

ACTIVITY PACKET

The Magic Behind the TV Special

The 1964 television special, bankrolled by GE for its General Electric Fantasy Hour, took about 18 months to complete and cost more than \$500,000 to produce, an amount that would exceed \$4.5 million today. It was “a smash hit” in its first airing, watched by 55% of television viewers. Subsequently, it became what’s described as the longest-running, highest-rated special in television history.

Yet as Rudolph evolved into the viewing equivalent of familiar holiday comforts like pumpkin pie, pine scent and eggnog, it’s easy to forget the technological achievements, challenges and environment it represented as a TV special.

Rankin/Bass, as Videocraft International, contracted with Tokyo’s pioneering Tad Mochinaga for the stop-motion “Animagic” animation. Scripts, pre-recorded voices and sounds made their way to Japan, and an estimated 82 puppet figures were created. The average height was eight inches (a notable exception was the comparatively huge Abominable Snowmonster, or Bumble), and most sets were no larger than six by eight feet.

The Japanese animators “were learning on the job,” and the puppets were generally composition rubber dolls that “would last about 16 months, tops,” recalled Arthur Rankin to Goldschmidt. Human puppets had mouth shapes drawn on Japanese paper that were pasted on and removed to match dialogue. Rudolph’s head, torso and hooves were carved wood, but his red nose was a custom-made 12V light bulb.

You may notice that the figures have only three fingers and a thumb. It was, Rankin said, “just enough for them to grasp things” and not clutter the animation. Oh, and the animated water? Cellophane.

While the animation was a product of Japan, almost all the audio – including the character voice actors – were products of Canada. The one exception was Sam the Snowman, performed by Burl Ives. Dialogue was recorded in Canada, and songs for the soundtrack with the mostly Canadian cast were reportedly taped in New York on a single day.

ACTIVITY PACKET

Reading Comprehension

Facts About Reindeer

Reindeer are prominent in our holiday music and images. They pull Santa’s sleigh, have red noses, have names, and fly. But how much do you really know about this northernmost deer species?

Here are 12 fascinating facts you can use to impress your friends and family:

- In North America reindeer are also called **caribou**.
- Both the males and females grow antlers.
- Their noses are specially designed to warm the air before it gets to their lungs.
- Reindeer hooves expand in summer when the ground is soft and shrink in winter when the ground is hard.
- Some subspecies have knees that make a clicking noise when they walk so the animals can stay together in a **blizzard**.
- Some North American caribou migrate over 3,000 miles in a year – more than any other land **mammal**.
- Though thought of as a **tundra** species, a form of caribou lived in southern Idaho until the 19th century (there are ongoing efforts to re-establish them in the state).
- Northernmost **species** are much lighter in color than species at the southern end of their range.
- Reindeer have been herded for centuries by several Arctic and Subarctic peoples.
- The name “reindeer” is of Norse origin (from the old Norse word “hreinn” for deer) and has nothing to do the reins of a sled. The name “caribou” comes to us through the French, from the Mi’kmaq “qalipu,” meaning “snow shoveler.”
- Golden eagles are the leading **predator** of caribou calves in the late spring and fall.
- Once the entire body of a reindeer was found inside a Greenland shark (most likely a case of near-shore **scavenging**, as opposed to a migrating land shark).

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Let's Define

Caribou (noun) - any of several large, North American deer of the genus Rangifer, related to the reindeer of the Old World.

Blizzard (noun) - a heavy and prolonged snowstorm covering a wide area.

Mammal (noun) - any vertebrate of the class Mammalia, having the body more or less covered with hair, nourishing the young with milk from the mammary glands, and, with the exception of the egg-laying monotremes, giving birth to live young.

Tundra (noun) - one of the vast, nearly level, treeless plains of the Arctic regions of Europe, Asia, and North America.

Species (noun) - a class of individuals having some common characteristics or qualities; distinct sort or kind.

Predator (noun) - Zoology. any organism that exists by preying upon other organisms:

Scavenging (verb) - to take or gather (something usable) from discarded material.

Answer the following questions based on the reading on page

1. Reindeer hooves _____ in the summer and _____ in the winter.
2. Some North American migrate over _____ miles a year.
 - a. 1000
 - b. 2000
 - c. 3000
 - d. 5000
3. The name "reindeer" is of _____ origin.
 - a. French
 - b. Norse
 - c. Italian
 - d. Russian
4. These birds are the leading predator of caribou calves:
 - a. Hawks
 - b. Condors
 - c. Golden eagles
 - d. Vultures

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Name: _____

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Please unscramble the words below

Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Scramble Maker

1. seDrha
2. neDnro
3. tSana
4. istifM
5. onYku
6. rymeeH
7. carCeli
8. iabFllre
9. vsEle
10. staChmirs
11. swrmtSnoo
12. ihleSg



ACTIVITY PACKET

Rudolph the Red Nosed Mad Libs!

Your students may know how to use a dictionary, but what about a thesaurus? Here's a fun holiday activity that will have you and your kids singing, laughing, and using a great writing tool to build important skills now and for many years to come.

What You Need:

- a thesaurus
- a pencil
- a piece of paper, with the following words listed on it: *let, shiny, red, say, games, saw, if, poor, glows, laugh, other, saw, join, had, names, games.*
- the lyrics to "Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer", (included below for your reference!)

*Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw it you would even think it glows!
All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games!*

What You Do:

1. Give your student the list of words, a pencil, and the thesaurus.
2. Explain that a thesaurus is used to find other choices for words. When you look up a word in the thesaurus, you see a list of words with similar meanings.
3. Help your child look up the first word on the list: let. Have him write one of the synonyms for "let" on his list (beside the word let).
4. Repeat for the rest of the words on the list.
5. Now show him the words to Rudolph, and have him read it aloud.
6. Have him use his pencil to replace the underlined words from Rudolph with the words from his list.
7. Have him read or sing the new version aloud. It should sound pretty silly, but still make sense!

Rudolph the _____-nosed Reindeer
_____ a very _____ nose.
And _____ you ever _____ it,
You would even _____ it _____!

All of the _____ reindeer
Used to _____ and call him _____.
They never _____ Rudolph
_____ in any reindeer _____

ANSWER KEY

ANSWER KEY

Name: _____

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Please unscramble the words below

Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Scramble Maker

From the Reading Questions on page 4

1. Expand, shrink
2. C. 3000
3. B. Norse
4. C. Golden Eagles

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. seDrha | Dasher |
| 2. neDnro | Donner |
| 3. tSana | Santa |
| 4. istifM | Misfit |
| 5. onYku | Yukon |
| 6. rymeeH | Hermey |
| 7. carCeli | Clarice |
| 8. iabFilre | Fireball |
| 9. vsEle | Elves |
| 10. staChmirs | Christmas |
| 11. swrmtSnoo | Snowstorm |
| 12. ihleSg | Sleigh |

STANDARDS

3.LS.2 Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.

L.4.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

-c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

RI.1.2 Analyze informational text development.

-a. Identify the main topic.

-b. Retell key details of a text.