



ELEMENTARY LIBRARY IDEAS FOR DECEMBER

Idea #1: Introduce Holidays Around the World

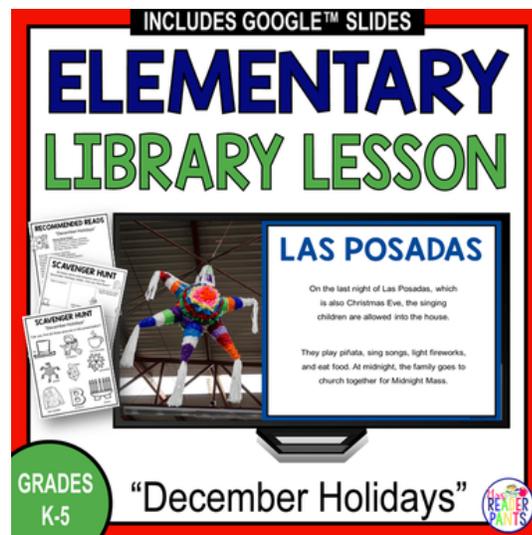
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This Winter Holidays Library Lesson covers December holidays from all over the world!

Features Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Pancha Ganapati, Boxing Day, and more.

Includes whole-group library lesson, scrolling slideshow, Recommended Reads, Scavenger Hunt activity, and lesson plan template.

(See this Library Lesson in the [MrsReaderPants TPT store](#)).



Idea #2: Learn to Draw Winter Bookmark Designs

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Need a library center for fast finishers or just for fun?

These no-prep, print and go Directed Drawing Bookmarks are the perfect activity!

Help students relax and enjoy reading with the bookmarks they've drawn and colored themselves.

(See these [Directed Drawing Bookmarks](#) in the [Library Learners TPT shop](#)).

CONTRIBUTING
AUTHORS:

[The Trapped Librarian](#)
[The Library Patch](#)

[That Library Girl](#)
[Mrs. J in the Library](#)

[MrsReaderPants](#)
[Library Learners](#)

Idea #3: Create Colorful Coffee Filter Snowflakes

article submitted by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Here's a simple, but oh-so-pretty snowflake project for the winter months!

The blogger also adapts this technique to other seasons!

(Continue reading at [One Little Project](#))



PreK-
Grade 5

Favorite New Book Releases

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

New Books
released in
November

PICTURE BOOKS

- *The Big Cheese* by Jory John
- *Wintergarden* by Janet Fox
- *Stone Age Beasts* by Ben Lerwill
- *I'm Trying to Love Germs* by Bethany Barton
- great for winter flu discussions about handwashing and sneezing!
- *Tomfoolery!* by Michelle Markel - great for introducing the Caldecott Award in January
- *When the Stars Came Home* by Brittany Luby
- *A Story No One Has Ever Heard Before* by Avi Steinberg
- *The Red Fruit* by Lee Gee Eun

CHAPTER BOOKS / NOVELS

- *Ruptured* by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz
- *Tagging Freedom* by Rhonda Roumani
- *15 Secrets to Survival* by Natalie D. Richards
- *Stories of the Islands* by Clar Angkasa
- *Duel* by Jessixa Bagley
- *Sweetness All Around* by Suzanne Supplee
- *The Cardboard Kingdom: Snow and Sorcery* by Chad Sell
- *Above the Trenches* by Nathan Hale
- *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library: The Graphic Novel* by Chris Grabenstein
- *The Cool Code 2.0: The Switch Glitch* by Deirdre Langland



Share a link to track Santa with your students!

Every year, NORAD tracks Santa as he delivers gifts all over the world! This is an excellent way for young children to learn about world geography and see photos from other countries. Highly recommended!

[Want a freebie to go with it? Check out this one from That Library Girl!](#)

Idea #4: Read A Story About Santa - FREEBIE

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



Read aloud the story, *How Santa Got His Job*, by Stephen Krensky and identify the many different problems that Santa had with all of his different jobs.

This FREE download includes a book discussion guide and a printable activity. The printable activity comes in four differentiated formats. Perfect to use across grade levels and student abilities.

(See this freebie from The Library Patch)

Idea #5: Tips & Tricks to Use Google Classroom

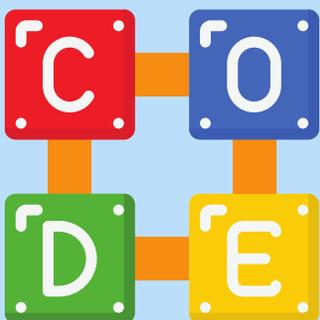
by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

If your district has Google Workspace, then you might already use Google Classroom.

If you're hesitant (or shudder at the bad memories of 2020), these tips will help you use GClassroom to actually save time on lesson prep and classroom management. I promise it can make your life easier, and not add "one more thing" to your plate.



(find out how at Mrs. J in the Library)



Try Bot Logic for Hour of Code

If you still need an Hour of Code resource, Bot Logic can work with all grade levels, right down to Kindergarten!

Engaging, fun, and challenging for everyone!

Idea #6: Do Some Festive Research Projects

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



These December research activities will help you stay flexible and keep in the holiday spirit during this crazy time!

Added bonus: these projects can be used K-5, and build upon skills learned each year. Your students will love the way you keep the learning going as they find information about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

(See this December Research Bundle from The Trapped Librarian).

PICTURE BOOKS TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS



- *A World of Cookies for Santa* by M.E. Furman
- *Fry Bread* by Kevin Noble
- *Sincerely, Emerson* by Emerson Webber
- *Sallie Bee Writes a Thank-You Note* by Courtney Sheinmel
- *Mindy Kim series* by Lyla Lee
- *Blizzard* by John Rocco
- *Maddi's Fridge* by Lois Brandt
- *Pa, Me, and our Sidewalk Pantry* by Toni Buzzeo
- *Paula's Patches* by Gabriella Aldeman
- *Can We Help? : Kids Volunteering to Help their Communities* by George Ancona
- *Making a Difference : An Inspirational Book about Kids Changing the World* by Stacy C. Bauer
- *Kids Who are Changing the World* by Sheila Sweeny Higginson and Alyssa Petersen
- *Kids Who are Saving the Planet* by Laurie Calkhoven and Monique Dong
- *Dasher* by Matt Tavares
- *Tough Cookie ~ A Christmas Story* by Edward Hemmingway
- *Gifts of the Heart* by Patricia Polacco
- *The Nutcracker in Harlem* by T.E. McMorrow
- *Hanukkah Bear* by Eric A. Kimmel
- *'Twas Nochebuena* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong



Idea #7: Create a Colorful Lights Display - FREEBIE

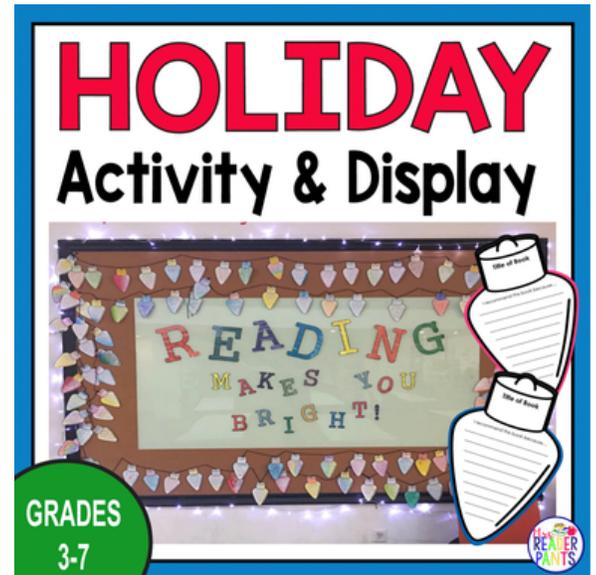
by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

This holiday activity is easy to explain, so it's perfect for substitute plans.

Students write book recommendations on the paper lights, then color and decorate.

Connect with black yarn and hang with fairy lights for an eye-catching display!

(See this freebie in the [MrsReaderPants TPT store](#)).



Idea #8: Rotate Those Holiday Picture Books!

by Cari White (Library Learners)



Want to spread the joy of winter picture books throughout your campus?

Check out this simple picture book rotation that doesn't take much time on your part, but will have a big impact in your school community!

([read the full article from Library Learners](#))



Who to Follow: Follett Destiny Users for Librarians (Facebook Group)

Does your library utilize Follett Destiny for your circulation software?

This Facebook group is a lifesaver!! I visit it regularly and use the search tool to find quick answers to my Destiny questions.

Idea #9: Have Fun with Christmas Song Rebuses

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

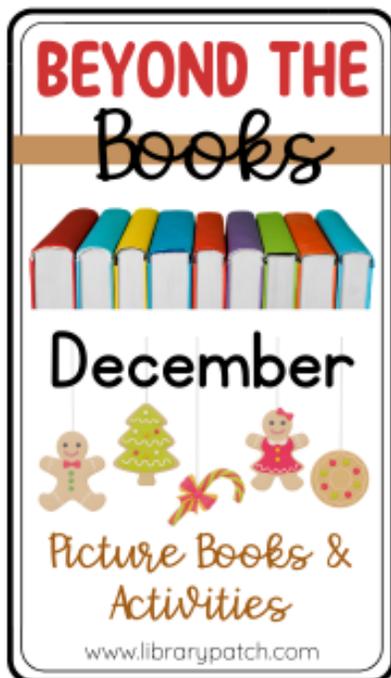
Keep 'em thinking throughout December with these 25 rebus puzzles that represent Christmas song titles!

(see this [Christmas Song resource](#) in the [That Library Girl TPT store](#).)



Idea #10: Try Some New December Read-Alouds

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



Wondering what to read to your students in the month of December?

This blog post will give you the titles of some of my favorite read-alouds accompanied with some easy to plan activities.

([continue reading this article](#) from The Library Patch)



Curated, engaging library curriculum for teacher-librarians

Click to learn more!



Idea #11: Support Research Projects with Citation Helpers

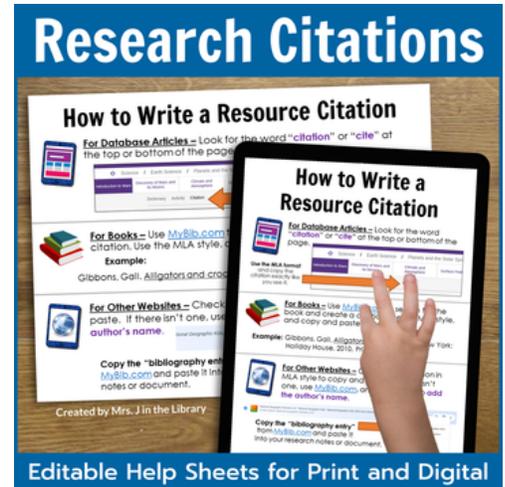
by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library)

Learning to write citations or a bibliography for research is difficult for many elementary and middle school students.

These "help sheets" (not cheat sheets) and mini poster will remind your students how to cite their resources for any research activity.

All of the help sheets and posters are editable, and they include citation examples for books, ebooks, online research databases, and other websites.

(see it on Librarians Teach)
(see it on Mrs. J in the Library)



Idea #12: Try Some Low-Prep December Activities

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



December library lessons can be tricky. It seems like this is the month that schedules can change on a moment's notice.

You need engaging low-prep, flexible, meaningful library activities at your fingertips.

This blog post will help you keep your sanity during a crazy time of year!

(read the full article from The Trapped Librarian)



Seasonal Hour of Code with The Grinch

More seasonal coding fun with the Grinch!



Idea #13: Scroll a Holiday Digital Booktalk

by Leigh Collazo (MrsReaderPants)

One thing I absolutely love about the holiday season is all the fantastic books about December holidays!

Today, I've got a December Holidays Digital Booktalk for you! It's totally free and editable. You can add a copy to your Google Drive from the link below. Once you do that, you can edit, add, or delete slides as needed to suit your library.



[\(read article and download free presentation from MrsReaderPants\)](#)

Idea #14: Add Some SWEET Library Decorations - FREEBIE

by Cari White (Library Learners)



We love this Reading is Sweet activity for decorating the library AND celebrating reading in December!

[\(Download this freebie from Library Learners\)](#)



[Loads of Makerspace Gift Ideas From Parents Magazine](#)

Here's a makerspace idea for an easy gift that kids can make.

We love #2 "Cheery Cord Keeper!"

27 Gifts Kids Can Make
From Parents Magazine

Idea #15: Share the Love with Other Teachers

by Julie Olson (That Library Girl)

Is it time for a staff morale boost -- or a quick gift for your child's teacher?

Tell them "You're Awesome to the Core!" with this apple-themed kit! It's a limited time FREEBIE for December 2023!

[Download this limited-time freebie from That Library Girl](#)



LIBRARIAN VIDEOS WE ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

Here are some great finds for November! Links are in the titles and on the images.



[Jack Hartmann's Holiday Dance and Freeze](#)

This video is a fun brain break for you and your kiddos!

[Make Easy Corner Bookmarks with Red Ted Art](#)

Teach kids to make corner bookmarks with a fun Christmas or winter theme!

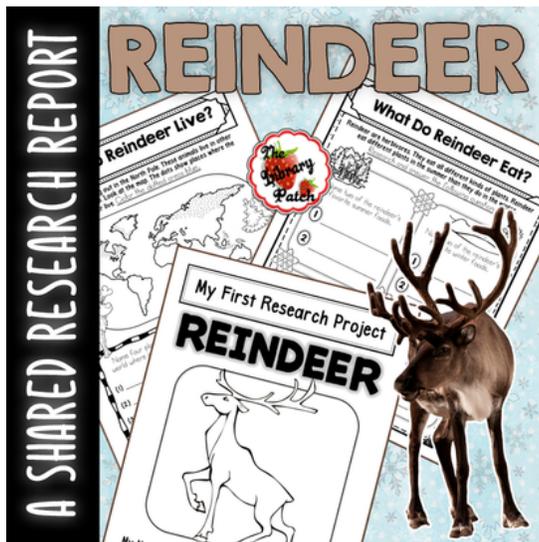


[Check out the Piano Guys!](#)

If you haven't ever watched the Piano Guys videos, you MUST take a minute and check out their channel. Kids love to watch the Piano Guys and I love that the music is all classical ... no lyrics to worry about!.

Idea #16: Learn to Research with Reindeer!

by Sonya Dykeman (The Library Patch)



There is no better time of the year than December to do a little research on the reindeer.

Use this month to introduce the steps to research! You are going to love the clickable bibliography of resources.

(see it in The Library Patch TPT store).

Idea #17: Try One of 12 Free Library Centers for Beginners

by Collette Jakubowicz (Mrs. J in the Library) & Cari White (Library Learners)

This bundle of 12 centers from Librarians Teach is perfect for trying out centers in a no-pressure, no-cost way.

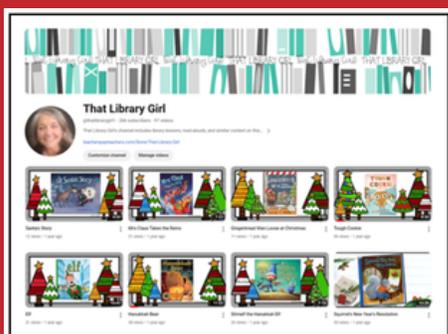
Each center is easy to prep and has a sign with center directions so that students stay on task.

Get this free bundle with email sign-up, or with any \$10 order at Librarians Teach.

FREE Library Centers



12 Library Centers with
AASL Standards + Bookmarks



Check out That Library Girl on YouTube

Need a ready-to-go read-aloud? That Library Girl's YouTube Channel has options for Christmas, Hanukkah, and all winter long!

(Disclaimer: I'm southern... and so is my voice! :)

Idea #18: Set Up a Gift Tag Station - FREEBIE

by Laura Trapp (The Trapped Librarian)



Set up a gift tag station in your library this holiday season!

Print these free gift tags in color or use the black and white version on bright paper.

These Christmas gift tags are also perfect for school or classroom gifts.

[\(download this freebie from The Trapped Librarian\)](#)

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

We've gotten loads of requests to subscribe to the newsletter! We are absolutely humbled by your positive responses, and we are very excited to have so many librarians along with us!

So, how to subscribe? Just click on one of the logos below! Each logo below will take you to each of our email subscription lists. All six of us send out the Newsletter link to our email lists, plus we all have other bonuses for our email subscribers.

You do not have to subscribe to all six lists to get the newsletter (unless you want to - we do send out other content individually!) since we all send it out every month.

Questions or comments? You can also send us an email at eslibrarynewsletter@gmail.com any time!

