

Christmas Party Games

Before the party cut out from blue paper a number of bluebell shapes, and hide these in various parts of the house or room. When you are ready to play this game in your friends to find as many bluebells as they can in ten minutes. Everyone sets off at once and at the end of the time when the player who has succeeded in collecting the largest number of "flowers."

The Cat Sat on the Mat
On a piece of paper draw a mat and out of a picture cut a cat, putting a pin through it. Hang the mat in great up and invite your guests in turn to be blindfolded and put the cat on the mat by digging the pin through the paper. This is quite easily done if the mat picture is pinned on to curtains in the first place. The winning players are those who succeed in actually placing the cat on the mat.

Umbrella Circle
All the players stand in a circle. One is handed an umbrella. He then turns to his next-door neighbour and solemnly says: "Excuse me is this yours?" The second replies, "No, I'm afraid it is not" but takes it and passes it on, using the same words. The whole point of the game is that it must be played in great solemnity and anyone who so much as smiles when speaking or being spoken to is out of the game. After a round or two it should be speeded up. The winners are those left in a circle at the end of the game.

Trains
This is a very boisterous team game, but always much appreciated. The two teams stand at one end of the room. At the word "Go" the first player runs to the opposite end of the room and touches the wall running backwards to his place. As soon as he reaches it the second player joins on behind him, and so on until the last player has reached the end. The first player to touch the wall is the winner.

hind, the train moving forward once more to touch the wall. The game thus continues until the whole train has moved place. Needless to say this game is best played in a large room.

Happy Face
A good game for the spare moment. One player smiles broadly, places his hand over his face, gathers up the smile, leaves his face grim, and proceeds to throw the smile to another player who must catch it and put it on. He then removes it as the other has done and throws it to someone else.

Number Team
Divide your players into two teams to stand at one end of the room, and at the other, facing them, have two umpires, one for each team.
At the word "Go" the first player in each team runs up to his umpire, who asks him a question with an answer in numbers. These questions may be of any type for instance, "How many in two and twopenny?" "Divide eighteen by four?" and so on. As soon as the first player of the team has answered his question satisfactorily he runs back and the second player runs up and so the race continues. The winning team is the first back into position. In order to make the game quite fair it is a good idea to play it twice through so that the umpires may be changed over.

Names of Fame
An excellent way of pairing off your guests for supper is to write the names of half as many famous people as you have guests. The Christian name should be on one slip of paper and the surname on another. Give each girl a Christian name and each man a surname and then invite your friends to go round and find the right partner.

It would add to the fun if everyone called out the name he had been given until the other half was found.
I Went to the Chemist
The first player begins the game by saying "I went to the chemist to buy some..." naming an object beginning with C which may be bought at the chemist's. The second player repeats this and adds an object beginning with H and so on round the circle. Should any player make a mistake or fail to think of an object before three has been counted by the previous player, he is out of the game. As soon as one shop has been finished the next player names another one and so the game proceeds.

Musical Sweets
All the players sit in a circle and one is handed a box of sweets. While music is played as for Musical Chairs, the box is passed round from one player to the next. As soon as the music stops whoever is holding the box hands it to his right hand neighbour to take a sweet, then his left hand neighbour and finally takes a sweet himself. If the music begins again before this has been done, the box must be passed on as before. So the idea is to be quick about it. The game proceeds in this way until the box is empty.

Nut Race
At one end of the room stands an umpire with a bowl of nuts and two pairs of nutcrackers. At the opposite end two teams line up. At the word "Go" each first player runs up to the bowl selects a nut and cracks it. He must continue to crack nuts, too, until he produces one that is quite whole. He then returns to his team and the next player runs up. This continues until every player has cracked a whole nut. The winning team is the one back into position first and the nuts are then shared as prizes.

Candied Orange Peel
3 oranges
1 tbs. salt
4 cups water
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup water
Cut orange peel in sixths; running knife from top to bottom; loosen peel from pulp with bowl of

water; add salt to the four cups water; add peel. Weight with a plate to keep peel under water and let stand overnight. Drain and wash thoroughly. Cover with cold water, heat to boiling and drain. Repeat three times to take away bitter taste of peel. With scissors, cut into strips. Put two cups peel into a saucepan, add sugar and 1/2 cup water. Stir until sugar dissolves and cook slowly until peel is translucent, about 30 minutes; Drain and roll in granulated sugar.

To Measure Exactly
3 teaspoons... 1 tablespoon
16 tablespoons... 1 cup
4 cups sifted flour... 1 lb.
2 c. granulated sugar... 1 lb.
2-3 c. brown sugar... 1 lb.
2-3 c. powdered sugar... 1 lb.
2-3 c. raisins... 1 lb.
3 cups sult... 1 lb.
4 c. grated cheese... 1 lb.
5 c. flaked cereal... 1 lb.
1 pint liquid... 1 lb.
2 tbs. baking soda... 1 oz.
2 tbs. ground spice... 1 oz.
2-3 tbs. baking powder... 1 oz.
1-3 tbs. salt... 1 oz.
4 tbs. tea... 1 oz.

2 tbs. coffee... 1 oz.
2 tbs. liquid... 1 oz.
2 1/2 c. (Imperial measure) 1 pint
2 c. (Wine Measure)... 1 quart
2 pints... 1 quart
All level measurements.

generation to generation by the chefs of the Borgia family.
Caffee Tonico: Demitasse with a dash of biters.
Granita di Caffee: For warm weather, a combination of coffee, chip ped ice and whipped cream, stirred up in a tall glass.
Zabaglioni: eggs beaten to a froth with coffee. Served hot, or it can be served cold, with chocolate chips.
Roman espresso: demitasse with a twist of lemon peel.
Meat should be unwrapped and stored as soon as possible after buying. Wrapping paper draws juices from the meat. Meat should be wiped with a damp cloth, placed on a dry plate and covered loosely with waxed paper.

Add finely diced green pepper and canned pimento to corn muffins. Serve with fried chicken.
Here's a dessert for the waist-line watchers. Arrange fresh grape fruit sections and cranberry sauce in alternating layers in sherbet glasses. Chill and serve.
Next time a seafood salad is on the menu, try it with a "different" dressing. Shred an unpeeled cucumber to give about 1/2 cup. Blend the cucumber into 1 cup mayonnaise, add a bit of chopped onion and serve.
A solution of dry mustard and water makes an excellent deodorizer for jars and bottles.



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Old Christmas Customs

In France the whole month of December is a time of song. "From the first to the last everyone who can utter a sound is singing, singing. Strolling musicians go from house to house playing and singing Noels, and old and young of all classes in society, at home and abroad, on their way to church or market, at work or at play, may be heard singing these fascinating carols. Noel signifies "good news", and it has been the greeting of the season since the earliest observance of Christmas."

"At Christmas in many villages of Holland a star, typical of the Star of Bethlehem, is carried through the dark, silent streets, while offerings for the poor are gathered from the onlookers.
In Russia and in Poland "everybody waits for the shining of the Christmas star. Near it is placed a table which is covered with straw as a reminder that Christ was laid to a manger...
In window the children gather watching for the first bright star and as soon as they see it they call loudly, "The Christmas Star Shines!" Then the tree is lighted and all the people of the house come to Christmas supper... and make merry all the night."
It was not many Christmas ago that all trolley-car tickets and transfers in Tokyo, Japan, were bearing the words:
"Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth,
Good will to men."
The countries of South America have many special ways of celebrating Christmas. In some of them Christmas comes in the warmest weather of the year, and having no snow or holly or lighted evergreen trees they put brightness and colour into the day by setting off fire

works. But everywhere, in the churches and in the homes of the people, little models of Bethlehem and the stable where Christ was born are made, some of them quite large and many very elaborate, showing the Christ child lying in the manger, with the Virgin Mary and Joseph near, and the Wise Men bringing their gifts, and all the animals about: on the hills beyond, the shepherds can be seen with their flocks, while above them are angels with bright wings. These little models become a kind of Christmas shrine, prayers are offered by them and the children stand before them and sing their songs. Little scenes like this are also set up in Spain, and in France and in Italy, and often the children help in making them." But for a day such as this Christian youth must content itself not with a miniature replica of the manger scene but must in reality bring its gifts to a Christ new-born in our hearts and in our purposes.

Perhaps the most significant Christmas custom of all is one that is observed in Poland and Lithuania. It is the breaking and eating of the Peace Wafer. The village priest supplies each member of the family and each guest in the house with the wafers, which are symbolic of "peace on earth." The partakers break and eat the Peace Wafers as good Christmas wishes are exchanged. How will this bit of ceremony be observed this year, is a thought that comes to all of us.

Musical Bounce
While music is played as for Musical Chairs a ball is passed round from player to player, who must bounce it once for each letter of his Christian name, spelling it out as he does so. The player who has the ball when the music stops each time is out of the game. The winner is the one left in until the end.

Ring Couples
One player takes a handkerchief made into a small ball and throws it to another in the ring saying at the same time a word which is usually closely connected with another one, such as "spoon." The second player then has to provide the other word of the pair, which in this case would be "Fork" before the first player counts three. Should he fail to think of a suitable word he is out of the game. If he succeeds it is his turn to throw and give another word.

The Mistletoe Hunt

"Bye-O Baby Bunting, Daddy's gone a-hunting".....
When the mothers of young children in the east Oklahoma country sing this nursery song to their little ones they may out of loyalty to Mother Goose add the next two lines:
"For to find a rabbit skin,
To wrap the Baby Bunting in."
But that isn't exactly what daddy does down there. When it comes the time of year that the baby needs warmer covering, daddy takes his gun and goes out to shoot down mistletoe! This he sells for the Christmas trade and buys Baby Bunting a different kind of raiment. For mistletoe, with its well-known holiday meaning, grows in abundance there and is always found high among the bare winter branches of the native elm. Little boys climb for it, of course, but the quickest way to gather it for commercial use is to shoot it down.
"Open season" for mistletoe hunting begins about the last of November and the demand increases steadily until Christmas. Truck loads of the green sprigs with their wax-white berries are driven to the cities of the north for the holiday trade. As the mistletoe in time is wanted much "hunting" is required to find sprigs whose berries are at a stage to suit the demands of the buyers. At such times the roadsides may be strewn with discarded mistletoe, for the condition of the berries cannot be seen until the sprig has been shot down. But such waste is not lamented, for mistletoe is a parasite that reappears in abundance each year however ruthlessly it may be treated.

Holiday Partners

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
"Fa la la, la la la la,
"Tis the season to be jolly,
"Fa, la la...
"Say Jen, where's the star for the top?"
Dick Dartmouth smiled down at the girl who stood at the foot of the ladder. "How does it look?" he asked.
"Fine, Dick. It's almost like being home," she exclaimed, and then her face sobered.
"Here!" said Dick, and descended. "Don't you dare let me down. It's a darn shame that the whole school piled off for the holidays and left you behind with me, but still, if you hadn't stayed, what would I have done?"
"And if you hadn't stayed, what would I? I couldn't nearly afford the trip home."
"But at least, Jen, you have a home," he said wistfully.
"I know. I've been thinking of that." She straightened. "Come on, let's get through. What shall we do with the mistletoe?"
"I'll take it." He began twining it around a lamp fixture. "Do you know," he said musingly, "I'm surprised some of the other girls didn't invite you to visit them."
She was silent for a moment. "They did, Dick. But I preferred to stay here with you."
"Honestly, darling?" He laughed happily. "And I turned down three chances just to stay with you."
And quite naturally he discovered what to do with the mistletoe.

Christmas Gifts

(Continued from Page 2)
brown. Nice cold, or may be warmed up if preferred.
Yule Logs
To send these travelling, leave them uncut, and they may be sliced just before using.
8 ounces (1 1/4 c.) whole shelled Brazil nuts
1/2 lb. chopped pitted dates
1 six ounce jar maraschino cherries, drained
1/2 lb. package vanilla wafers, crushed fine (2 1/2 c. crumbs)
1 tbs. finely chopped candied ginger.
1/2 lb. marshmallows, cut in half
1 teas. grated lemon rind
1/2 c. undiluted evaporated milk
1/2 teas. cinnamon
1/2 teas. nutmeg
1/4 teas. ground ginger
1/2 teas. all-spice
1 eight ounce pkg. shredded coconut.
In a large bowl, combine nuts, dates, whole cherries, crushed wafers and candied ginger. Set aside until needed. In the top of a double boiler, combine marshmallows, lemon rind, evaporated milk and spices. Stir occasionally until marshmallows are partly melted

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Spirit Of Christmas

By Katherine Edelman
Surrender yourself to the Spirit of Christmas! Let its joy thrill you—let its peace steal softly across your heart! Open your eyes to the magic of its message—open your eyes to the miracle it accomplishes!
"Read again Dickens' Christmas Carol, the best known and most in-

Remove from Heat and Blend

thoroughly with fruit and nut mixture. Shape into two rolls about two inches in diameter. Roll in coconut. Wrap in waxed paper and chill 6 to 8 hours, longer if possible. Cut in 1/4 inch slices for serving. Makes 2 two inch rolls, six inches long.
Holiday Fruit Cookies
Brown sugar cookies, rich with colourful fruit and nuts. Good keepers and good travellers.
1 c. soft shortening
2 c. brown sugar (packed)
2 eggs
1/2 c. sour milk
3/4 c. sifted flour...
1 tsp baking soda
1 teas. salt
1/2 c. broken pecans or walnuts
2 c. halved candied cherries
2 c. cut-up dates
Mix well shortening, brown sugar, eggs. Add sour milk. Sift flour, soda, salt and stir in. Mix in pecans, cherries, dates. Chill. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Drop with teaspoon 2 inches apart on greased baking sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Makes 7 dozen.
Christmas Marmalade
3/4 c. prepared fruit (2 medium lemons and about 5 medium oranges)
6 c. granulated sugar
1/2 8 ounce bottle liquid pectin.
Wash oranges and lemons, then peel off outer skin thinly with vegetable peeler. With sharp knife, cut skin in fine shreds. Add 1/2 c. water, 1/2 teas. baking soda. Bring to boil and simmer, covered, for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut remaining skin off fruit and cut pulp out of each section. Add pulp, juice and 1 cup sugar to cooked

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