

SAM LABS WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

Christmas Around the World

Recommended Read Aloud: **A World of Cookies for Santa** by M.E. Furman

Christmas is celebrated in many countries around the world, but how families celebrate, and views on Santa, are different.

Allow students to research Christmas in different cultures, specifically looking at the various takes on Santa around the world. Some examples are shown in the table below.

| Country | Santa's Name and Appearance | How Santa Travels | Special Traditions |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| United States | Santa Claus; Red and white suit with a white beard | Sleigh pulled by reindeers; Travels down chimney | Kids leave out milk and cookies for Santa to eat; Santa fills stockings |
| Netherlands | Sinterklaas; Red cloak over a white robe with a white beard | White horse named Amerigo | Kids leave shoe out with carrot in it for the horse |
| Italy | La Befana; Christmas witch who wears long skirts with a shawl and hood | Broomstick; Travels down chimney | Leaves candy and gifts in kids shoes or socks; sweeps the house before she leaves |



Santa Claus



Sinterklaas



La Befana



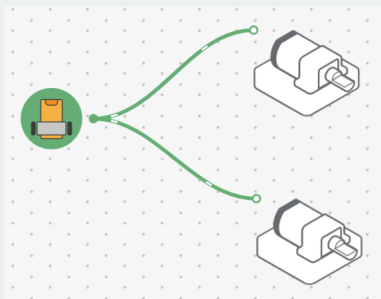
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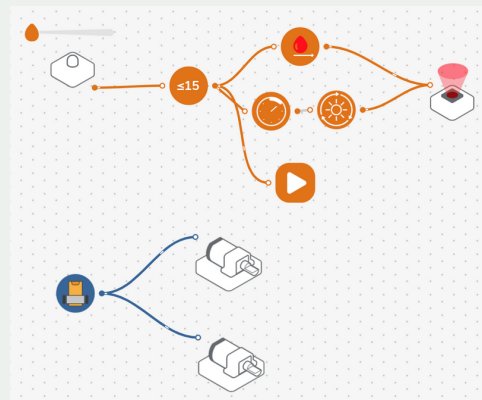
Students can assemble the 'remote controlled car' using the materials from their STEAM Kit.

Encourage students to create a working model of how Santa travels using their research on Santa around the World [i.e. if Santa travels on a horse, students should decorate their 'car' to be a horse].

LOWER ELEMENTARY



UPPER ELEMENTARY



Students can choose what color light(s) they believe best fit with their version of Santa Claus, as well as which sound best matches Santa's mode of transportation.