Puzzle, year 2 to 6
About 20 minutes

Santa's **secret code**

Santa has sent four messages. Every letter has turned into a number. Can you crack the code?



Thomas Nast, Santa Claus, 1881.

Name _____ Class _____

Find the number in the code key. **Write** the letter that goes with the number in the box above it.

The code key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
15	26	21	8	1	17	6	13	4	23	3	9	10	11	12

P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
19	16	5	2	18	20	14	25	22	7	24

1 Example

M	E	R	R	Y										
10	1	5	5	7	21	13	5	4	2	18	10	15	2	

2

18	13	1	1	9	14	1	2	15	5	1	26	20	2	7

3

5	20	8	12	9	19	13	6	9	12	25	2	5	1	8

4

9	1	15	14	1	15	10	4	11	21	1	19	4	1

Your own message

Finished? **Write** a short message with numbers from the code key. Let a friend crack it.

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Answers

Santa's Secret Code

Print only page 1 for the students. Here are the messages in plain text, with the numbers underneath.

1	M	E	R	R	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	
	10	1	5	5	7	21	13	5	4	2	18	10	15	2	
2	T	H	E	E	L	V	E	S	A	R	E	B	U	S	Y
	18	13	1	1	9	14	1	2	15	5	1	26	20	2	7
3	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	G	L	O	W	S	R	E	D
	5	20	8	12	9	19	13	6	9	12	25	2	5	1	8
4	L	E	A	V	E	A	M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	
	9	1	15	14	1	15	10	4	11	21	1	19	4	1	

How to use the sheet

Do the example together: find 21 in the key, see that it is C, and write C in the box.

Talk about the messages afterwards. Rudolph was made up in 1939 for a children's booklet in an American department store. In Britain, many children leave a mince pie for Santa, and a carrot for the reindeer.

The students' own messages can go up on the classroom wall, so that everyone can crack each other's codes.

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