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 15	B 26	C 21	D 8	E 1	F 17	G 6	H 13	I 4	J 23	K 3	L 9	M 10	N 11	O 12
P 19	Q 16	R 5	S 2	T 18	U 20	V 14	W 25	X 22	Y 7	Z 24				

1 M E R R Y _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Example
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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