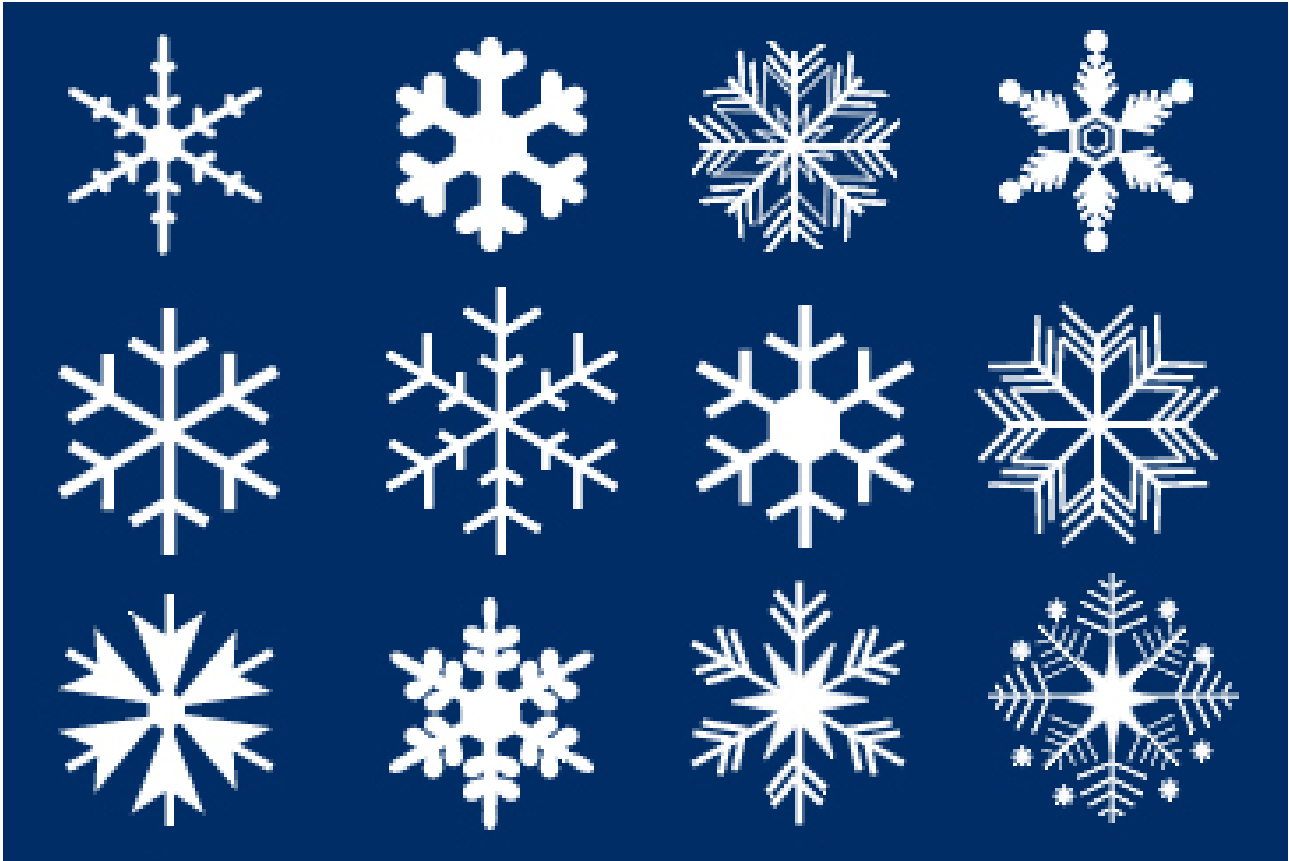


# Snakes & Ladders

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## Games for December

*by Carla Wilson*

These are a few Christmassy game and activity ideas for lessons in December that can be used with a variety of different levels.

### **Blind Drawing Game**

Students need to know some Christmas vocabulary and some prepositions. Each student has a piece of paper resting on something hard or a notebook. The paper or notebook is rested on the child's head. The teacher describes a Christmas scene such as, "There is a Christmas tree. A star is on top of the Christmas tree. Two presents are under the tree. Seven baubles are on the tree." The scene can be varied according to the students' level. Students try to follow the instructions and draw the picture while the paper is on top of their head.

Variation 1: One student has the original picture and describes it to other students.

Variation 2: Points are awarded for various things e.g. the star is in the correct place, a point for each bauble actually on the tree etc.

### **Christmas Tree Game**

A large Christmas tree is drawn on the board by the teacher or a student. The tree should be symmetrical with about five or six branches on either side. The teacher has two stars made from paper or card and two magnets. The stars can be ready to use or can be given to the students to decorate. Students are divided into two teams.

Each team has a star. The starting positions for the stars are on the bottom branches of the tree., one on the left and one on the right. The two stars move up the tree according to correct answers, or correct guesses, or correctly spelled words from the two teams. It can be used for a variety of activities, e.g. simple question and answers, some kind of guessing game, a spelling game. The first team to get their star to the top is the winner.

Variation 1: Use one star for the whole class, and a time limit to reach the top.

Variation 2: Draw a chimney instead of a tree, and have Santa instead of a star, climbing up the chimney.

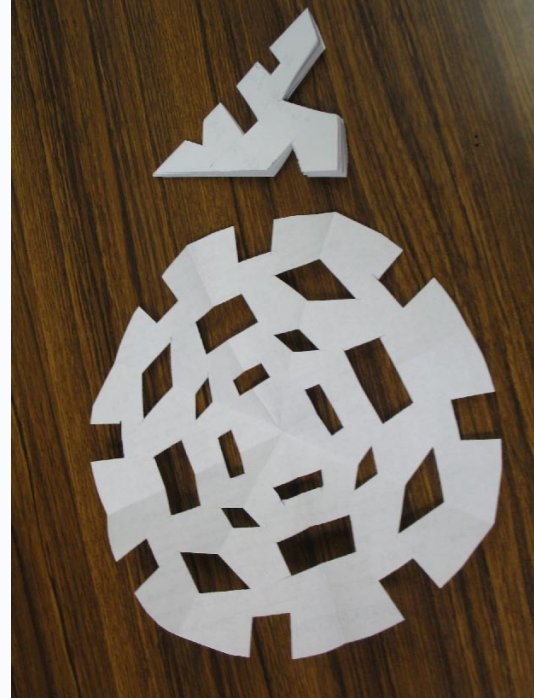


### **Making Snowflakes**

This game requires students to know shapes and to be able to use scissors, and also requires one or two dice. Each student has a circular piece of white paper, about 20cm in diameter. Instruct students to fold the circle in half, and in half again and again so they have a pie-slice shaped piece of folded paper. Write on the board, 1=small square, 2=small triangle, 3=small rectangle, 4=big square, 5=big triangle, 6=big rectangle. Students take turns to throw the dice and to cut out the appropriate shape on their folded paper. Use two dice for a larger class so students are not waiting for a long time for their turn. Continue until each student has cut out about four or five shapes. Students unfold their paper and see the snowflakes they have made. The snowflakes can be used

to decorate the classroom or taken home.

Variation 1: Instead of a dice, the teacher or a student can give verbal instructions.



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