

THE KIDS' CHRONICLE

5 December 2025

Edition 35



Welcome to our special Christmas Edition of TKC!

In this issue:

- Learn all about the magical Northern Lights
- Find out how the penguins are doing in Antarctica
- Discover why Australia has banned social media for kids
- Plus all your favourite **puzzles and games**

Each issue is designed to be print-friendly, so you can take your copy with you wherever you go - just don't forget to recycle the pages once you're done.

I hope you love reading this as much as I have loved creating it.

If you have any feedback, or just want to say 'Hi!', write to us at:
Thekidschronicledubai@gmail.com.



NORTHERN LIGHTS SHINE ACROSS EUROPE IN A MAGICAL WINTER SURPRISE!



People across Europe were treated to an unexpected Christmas gift from nature this year – the Northern Lights, also known as the aurora borealis, appeared much farther south than usual! Instead of only glowing over places like Norway and Iceland, the lights drifted into France, Germany, and even the south of England.

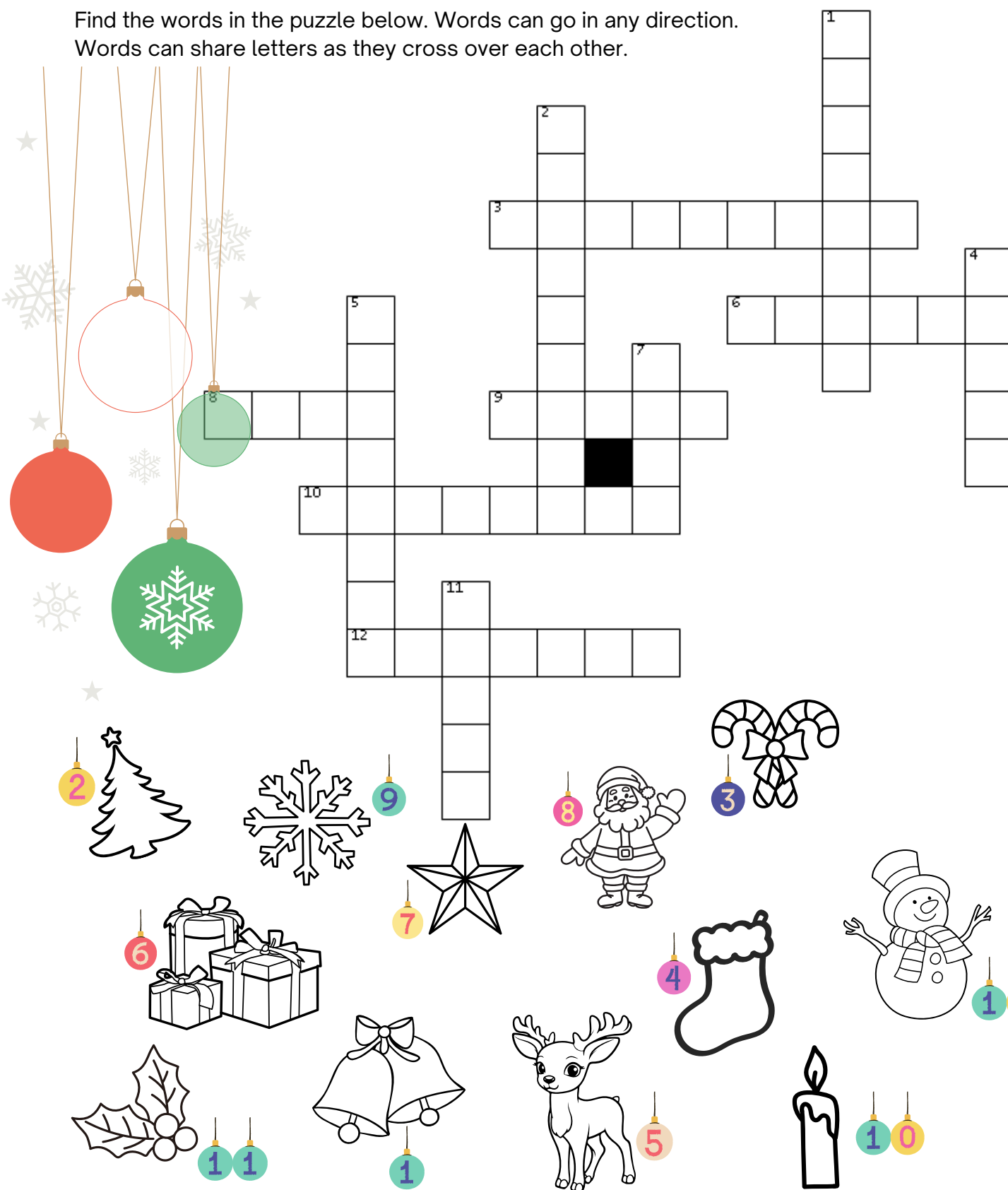
These colourful lights appear when particles from the Sun crash into Earth's atmosphere, creating shimmering greens, pinks, purples, and reds. A huge burst of energy from the Sun – called a solar storm – made the glow brighter and wider than normal.

Families rushed outside in their pyjamas to see the sky dance. Many described it as “magical”, “Christmassy”, and “like watching fairies paint the sky”. Scientists believe more unusual auroras may appear in the next year, as the Sun is reaching a particularly active period called solar maximum.

Even though the lights look mysterious, they are completely safe and one of Earth's most beautiful natural shows. The best part? You don't need special equipment to see them – just clear skies, darkness, and a little luck.

A CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Find the words in the puzzle below. Words can go in any direction.
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.



A BABY BOOM FOR PENGUINS IN ANTARCTICA!

Great Christmas news from one of the coldest places on Earth! Scientists studying Antarctica have reported a record-breaking number of penguin chicks in several colonies this year. Emperor and Adélie penguins, which are famous for their tuxedo-like feathers, have welcomed thousands of fluffy grey babies.



Researchers think this success is thanks to good sea-ice conditions and plenty of fish and krill for the adults to eat. When the ocean is healthy, penguins can travel to feeding areas more easily and bring back food for their chicks.

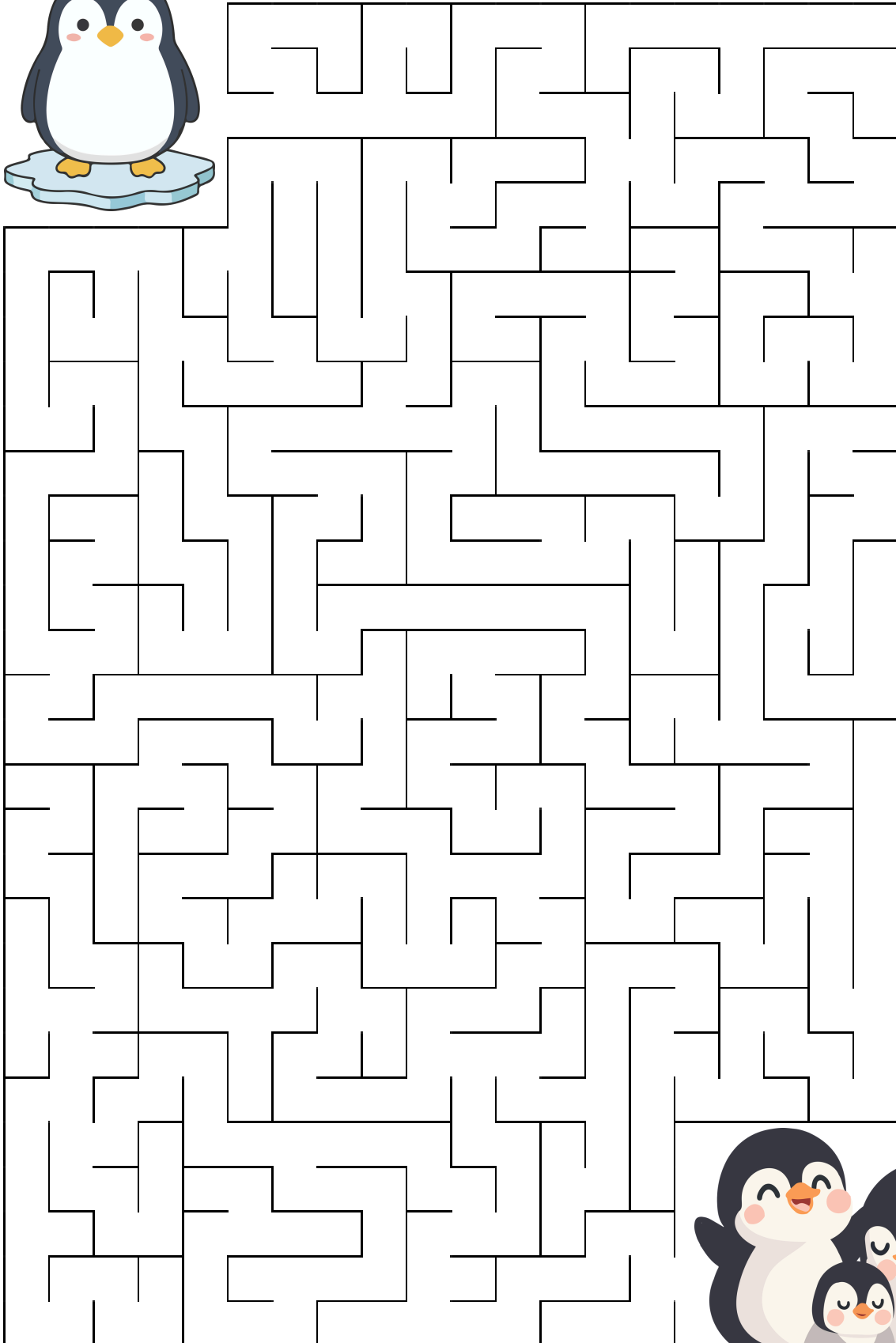
Penguin parents work very hard during winter. Emperor penguin dads famously balance eggs on their feet for two months while mums search for food. When the chicks hatch, both parents take turns feeding and protecting them. It's a true teamwork story!

This good news is especially exciting because penguins face challenges from climate change and melting ice. Seeing their numbers rise gives scientists hope – and reminds us how important it is to protect polar environments.



PENGUIN MAZE

Help the emperor penguin chick find his way to his mother:



THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS UP AN ITALIAN MOUNTAINSIDE

Every December, the small Italian town of Gubbio becomes famous for something spectacular: the world's largest Christmas tree, glowing across the entire side of Mount Ingino! Instead of branches and pine needles, this "tree" is made from thousands of colourful lights stretching over 750 metres tall – taller than two Eiffel Towers stacked together.

This year's tree is brighter than ever because the town switched to eco-friendly LEDs powered partly by solar panels. Volunteers spend weeks arranging green, blue, and gold lights into the shape of a giant tree, topped with a sparkling star that can be seen from miles away.



People travel from around the world to see the magical display. Families stroll through the streets sipping hot chocolate while choirs sing festive songs. At the official lighting ceremony, crowds cheer as the mountain suddenly glows with Christmas colour.

The tradition began over 40 years ago, and each year the town dedicates the star at the top to someone special. This year, the star honoured global peacemakers who work to keep children safe around the world.

HOLIDAY BINGO!

Can you get 5 in a row? Or perhaps a Full House (all)?

Share your progress with us for a chance to win a prize!

Holiday Bingo

Make a
Christmas
card
for someone

Spend 1 day
without a
screen (TV,
iPad or
Phone)

Bake a cake
(with an
adult)

Learn a new
board game

Make
someone
else's bed

Build a fort

Make a your
own
Christmas
ornament

Clean your
room

Have a family
movie night

Donate
something to
charity

Make a
"Thank You"
card for
someone

Write a friend
a letter



Have a
Pyjama Day

Do a puzzle

Make your
bed

Help set the
table

Complete all
the activities
in this Kids'
Chronicle

Make a
parent
breakfast in
bed

Ride a bike,
scooter or
roller blade

Help
someone

Learn a new
skill

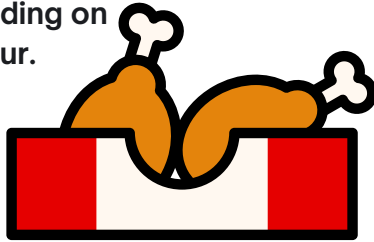
Try a new
food

Play a
boardgame

Read a book

CRAZY CHRISTMAS FACTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

In Iceland there are 13 YULE LADS who leave rotten potatoes in kids' shoes depending on their behaviour.



Japanese families often eat KFC for Christmas dinner. It's so popular you even have to order weeks in advance.

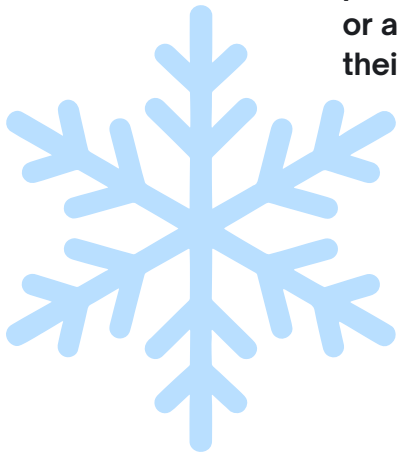


The song 'Jingle Bells' was originally written for Thanksgiving not Christmas.

In Hungary, St Nicholas leaves presents (if kids have been good) or a stick (if kids have been bad) in their shoes



The world's largest snowflake ever recorded was 15 inches wide!



The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was 221 feet tall in Seattle, Washington, USA.



In England, Christmas was once made illegal by the Puritan government, and the celebration was banned for a short time.

In Poland there is a 'Small Santa' who visits homes on 6th December and leaves small presents inside shoes.





HOW TO WRITE A LETTER

Writing a letter to Santa is a fun way to tell him about your holiday wishes and show how good you've been this year. Plus, we all love receiving gifts.

Learn to write the perfect letter with these simple steps:

Start with Your Address

In the top right corner of your letter, write your address. This way, Santa knows where to send his reply! Here's how it should look:

123 Your Street
Your City, Your Country
Postcode

Add the Date

Under your address, write the date. This helps Santa know when you sent the letter.

Write a Greeting

Start your letter with a friendly greeting like: "Dear Santa,"

This is how you politely begin your letter.

Write the Body of Your Letter

Now, tell Santa why you're writing. Here's what to include:

- A little about yourself (e.g., "My name is Emma, and I'm 8 years old.")
- Something good you did this year (e.g., "I helped my friend with homework.")
- What you'd like for Christmas (be polite when asking!).
- Example: "I would love a new book to read and a teddy bear."

End with a Kind Sign-Off

Thank Santa for reading your letter and wish him well.

Use a closing phrase like:

- "Thank you, Santa!"
- "Love, Emma"
- "Yours sincerely, Jack"

My Address:
Home
Street
City

Friday, 13 December 2024

Dear Santa,

I hope you are doing great!

My name is Avir and I am 4 years old. I live in Dubai with my mum, dad and sister.

I have been very good this year. I have listened in school.

For Christmas I would like:

- 1) Dinosaurs
- 2) Hot Wheels Race Track
- 3) A Hulk Costume

I can't wait for you to visit me!

Love,
Avir





Dear Santa,

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing the letter.



AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR UNDER-16S BEGINS THIS YEAR

A year ago, Australia made a major decision: children under 16 would no longer be allowed to use social media. Now, that rule is finally coming into effect across the country.

The government first announced the plan in 2024 after experts warned that too much time online could harm children's mental health. They also found links between social media and problems like bullying, loneliness, and poor sleep. Over the past year, Australia has been working with schools, families, and technology companies to prepare for the big change — and now the ban is officially starting.

WHY DID AUSTRALIA MAKE THIS RULE?

Social media apps such as TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat are fun to use, but they can also create stress. Many kids feel pressure to look a certain way, respond quickly to messages, or compare themselves to others online.

The government says the new rule will:

- protect young people from harmful or upsetting content
- reduce the risk of online bullying
- give children more time for hobbies, sport, sleep, and schoolwork

Australia's Prime Minister has called it a “mental-health safety measure”, especially as rates of anxiety and depression have been rising among young people.

HOW WILL THE BAN WORK?

From this year, social media apps must verify a user's age before allowing them to join. That means platforms will need to check whether someone is truly 16 or older.

New tools being introduced include:

- ID or passport checks
- parent or guardian approval
- AI age-estimation systems (technology that can estimate someone's age from a photo — without saving it)

If a user is found to be under 16, the app must block the account or delete it. Fines may be given to companies that do not follow the rules.

WHAT ABOUT FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS?

Teachers will help students learn about online safety, kindness, and digital wellbeing. Families are encouraged to talk about screen habits and find fun offline activities to replace social media scrolling.

Australia is now one of the first countries in the world to introduce such a strict rule — and other nations are watching closely to see what happens.

CRYPTOGRAMS: CHRISTMAS EDITION



Solve the riddles using the code.
The squares with no icon are a blank space.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

What did the doctor give to Santa to help him to walk?



What do Santa's elves learn in school?

What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?



CHRISTMAS WORD JUMBLE

Unscramble the words to find the different foods and write the answers on the line. *Hint: Look at the pictures to give you a clue if you get stuck.*

TSRIMSAHC



RDREENIE

KSCOTNIG

STHILG

NMARENOT

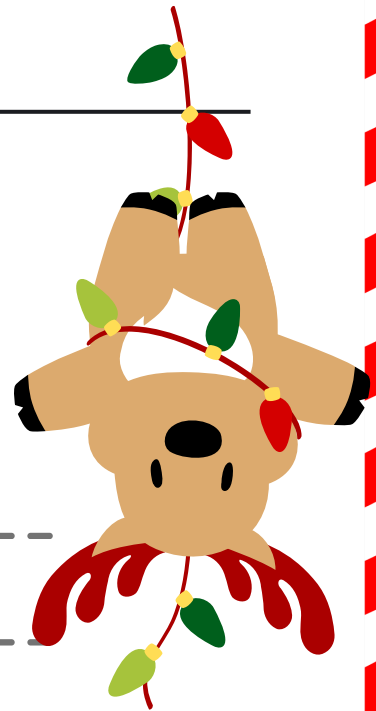
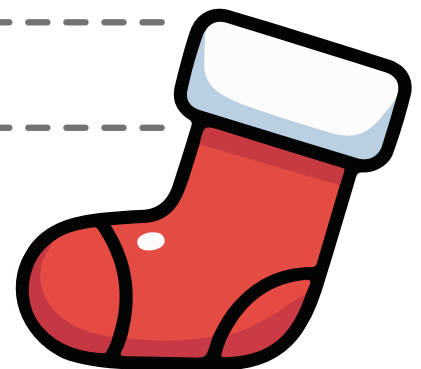
BUEALB

WONMSNA

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LADHIYO

ETNWRI



DECORATE YOUR OWN ORNAMENTS

