

The Jackson Family Christmas

"Wake up!" I shouted, darting around. "It's Christmas. He's been!"

"What?" Mum and Dad grumbled, peeking out of one eye.

"Come on," I yelled. "They'll be down soon!"



Being a house mouse wasn't bad. We lived in the wall of the Jackson family's hallway. It was warm and near the kitchen where there was food. The best bit was watching humans! Most mice don't like humans because they're messy and spoil the countryside by building houses and roads. I'm not like other mice. I love humans.

"OK, we are here, Maurice. Can we go back to bed now?" moaned Mona. We waited under the TV to get a good view. The room looked amazing.

"What are those boxes for?" Dad asked, twitching his nose.

"Boxes?" I answered. "Dad, they're not boxes. They're presents!"

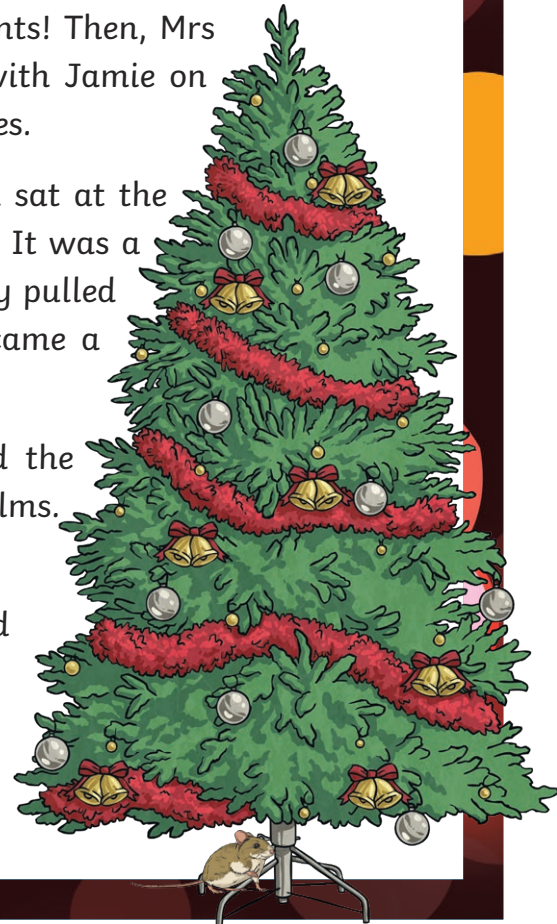
"Hang on," said Mum, "I saw them yesterday. There are more now!"

"Oh yes!" I smiled. "Father Christmas delivered them in the night!" Before anyone could ask how, the Jacksons arrived. Mrs Jackson, Mr Jackson, Jenny and Jamie spent all morning excitedly opening presents! Then, Mrs Jackson went into the kitchen, Mr Jackson played with Jamie on the new games console and Jenny tried on new clothes.

Later, other humans arrived with more presents and sat at the table. We watched safely, hidden behind a pot plant. It was a feast with turkey, potatoes, vegetables and more. They pulled crackers, wore paper hats and laughed. Then, out came a pudding which Mr Jackson set on fire.

After dinner, The Queen made a speech on TV and the afternoon was spent playing games and watching films. Mona and I hid to watch too.

As we arrived home we saw four little presents tied with ribbons at the end of our beds. "He came!" I shouted.



Questions

1. In which month is the story set?

2. Draw **three** lines and match the characters in the story with the presents they received.

Mice

games console

Jamie

new clothes

Jenny

small presents wrapped in ribbons

3. Name **two** things that the Jacksons ate for Christmas dinner.

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- The mice find their own presents.
- Everyone watched The Queen on the television.
- The mice wake up.
- The humans eat Christmas dinner.

5. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word 'darting'? Tick one.

- tiptoeing
- running quickly
- skipping
- trudging

6. Why do the mice stay out of sight of the humans? Tick one.

- They were playing hide-and-seek.
- There was no reason to be hidden.
- The mice do not want to be seen by humans.
- The mice were invisible.

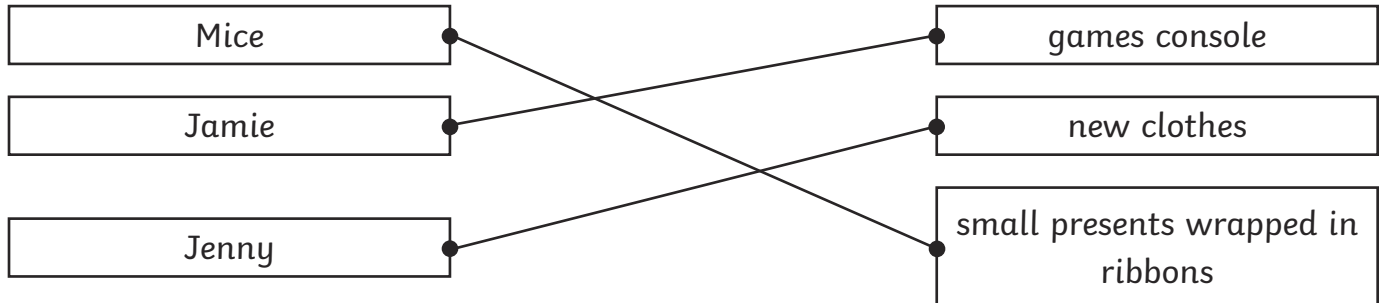
7. In the story, Maurice says that he is 'not like the other mice'. In what way is he different?

Answers

1. In which month is the story set?

The story is set in December.

2. Draw **three** lines and match the characters in the story with the presents they received.



3. Name **two** things that the Jacksons ate for Christmas dinner.

Accept any two of the following: a turkey; potatoes; vegetables; Christmas pudding.

4. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4 The mice find their own presents.
- 3 Everyone watched The Queen on the television.
- 1 The mice wake up.
- 2 The humans eat Christmas dinner.

5. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word 'darting'? Tick one.

- tiptoeing
- running quickly**
- skipping
- trudging

6. Why do the mice stay out of sight of the humans? Tick one.

- They were playing hide-and-seek.
- There was no reason to be hidden.
- The mice do not want to be seen by humans.**
- The mice were invisible.

7. In the story, Maurice says that he is 'not like the other mice'. In what way is he different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Maurice is different from other mice because he says he likes humans. Other mice do not like humans.

The Jackson Family Christmas

"Wake up! It's Christmas Day!" I squealed, bouncing on the matchbox Mum and Dad used as a bed.

"What?" Dad grumbled, peeking out of one eye.



"It's Christmas!" I squealed again, spotting presents. "He's been!" Mum and Dad were moving a bit but Mona was still curled up.

"It's so early, Maurice," Mona replied. "Do we have to?"

"Yes! Remember I wanted to show you a human Christmas?"

Being a house mouse like me wasn't all bad. We had a posh home in the wall of the Jackson family's hallway. It was great being near the kitchen where we could eat whenever we liked. Plus, it was warm. But the best thing was that I could watch my favourite animals all day. Humans! Most mice don't have pet humans because they think they're messy and dirty, ruining the countryside by building houses and roads. But I'm not like other mice. I love humans.

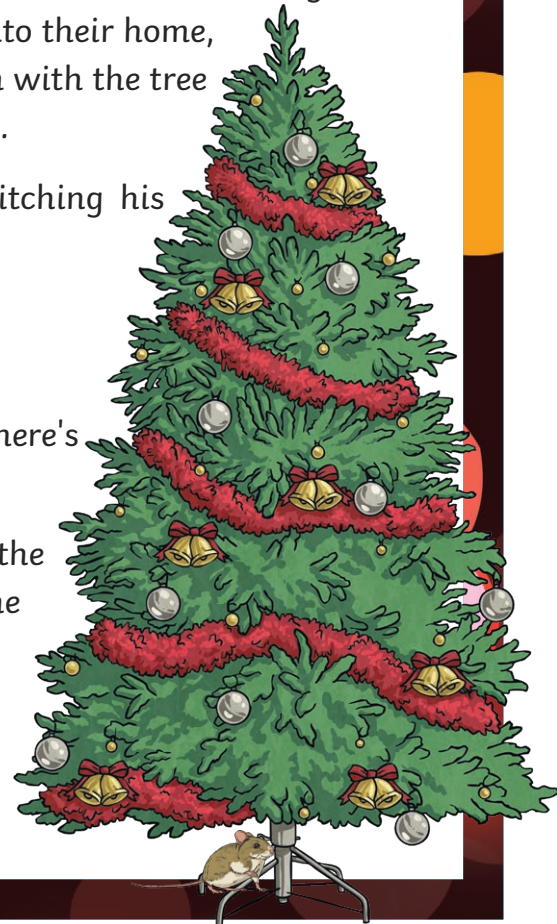
"OK. We're here, Maurice. Nice lights, great. Can we go back to bed now?" Mona moaned. We waited under the TV cabinet to get a good view. The living room looked amazing with cards, snowflakes and snowmen in the window. My humans were strange. Not only did they drag a tree into their home, they decorated it with baubles, tinsel and lights! Even with the tree and lights, the most exciting things were the presents.

"What are all those boxes for, son?" Dad asked, twitching his nose.

"Boxes?" I said, exasperated. "Dad they're not boxes. They're presents!"

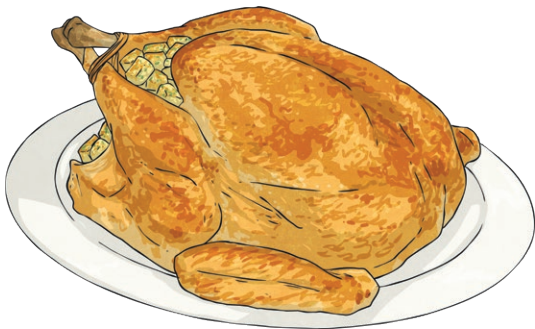
"Hold on," Mum said, "I saw them yesterday. There's more now!"

"Ah!" I smiled. "Father Christmas delivered them in the night!" Before anyone could ask anything else, the sound of human laughter filled the room and the Jacksons piled in. Mrs Jackson with a cup of tea, Mr Jackson filming everything, while Jenny and Jamie began ripping open presents! The atmosphere was



electric. Later, Mrs Jackson went into the kitchen, singing and sipping sherry, Mr Jackson and Jamie played on the new games console and Jenny tried on new clothes.

At lunchtime, more humans arrived so we scurried across the carpet to watch from a safe spot. The humans sat at the table where there was a feast with turkey, potatoes, vegetables and loads more. They pulled crackers, wore paper hats, chatted and laughed. Grandma brought in a bowl-shaped pudding. Mr Jackson set fire to it while everyone gasped in wonder.



After dinner, we sneaked out to Hoover up food from the floor. "Mmm," Dad said, licking gravy from his whiskers, "I think I love Christmas."

Then, everything suddenly stopped as The Queen was on the television. She made an important speech wishing everyone, "A

Merry Christmas."

Then, in the evening, Mrs Jackson brought out snacks and chocolates. There was so much food they didn't notice Dad scoffing a whole mince pie.

"I've loved spending time with you lot today," Dad said.

As we arrived home, Mona yelped. "What is it?" Dad called. At the end of our beds were four little presents, wrapped up with ribbon.



Questions

1. On which date and month is the story set?

2. Why was it good for the mice to live in the hallway near the kitchen?

3. Draw **three** lines and match the characters in the story with the presents they received.

Mice

Jamie

Jenny

games console

new clothes

small presents wrapped in ribbons

4. Explain how you think the mice felt when they arrived back and saw their gifts.

5. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- The mice find their own presents.
- Everyone watched The Queen on the television.
- 1 The mice wake up.
- Mr Jackson and Jamie played on the games console.
- The humans eat Christmas dinner.

6. In the story, the author uses the phrase 'The atmosphere was electric'. Which of these is closest in meaning to 'electric' in this phrase? Tick one.
- Everyone was bored.
 - The lights were switched on.
 - It felt sad.
 - It felt very, very exciting.
7. After dinner, the mouse family sneaked out to eat food from the floor. Why did they need to 'sneak' out? Tick one.
- They were playing hide-and-seek.
 - There was no reason to be hidden.
 - The mice do not want to be seen by humans.
 - They sneaked out to see Father Christmas.
8. In the story, Maurice says that he is 'not like the other mice'. In what way is he different?

Answers

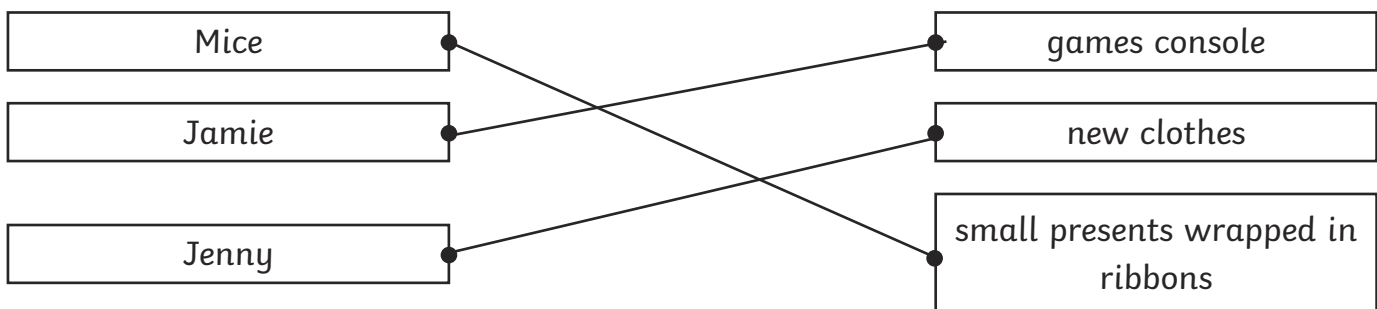
1. On which date and month is the story set?

The story is set on 25th of December.

2. Why was it good for the mice to live in the hallway near the kitchen?

It was good for the mice to be near the kitchen as they could get food whenever they wanted.

3. Draw **three** lines and match the characters in the story with the presents they received.



4. Explain how you think the mice felt when they arrived back and saw their gifts.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the mice felt surprised as they weren't expecting to receive any gifts. They had been busy admiring the presents that the humans had received.

5. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- 5 The mice find their own presents.
- 4 Everyone watched The Queen on the television.
- 1 The mice wake up.
- 2 Mr Jackson and Jamie played on the games console.
- 3 The humans eat Christmas dinner.

6. In the story, the author uses the phrase 'The atmosphere was electric'. Which of these is closest in meaning to 'electric' in this phrase? Tick one.

- Everyone was bored.
- The lights were switched on.
- It felt sad.
- It felt very, very exciting.**

7. After dinner, the mouse family sneaked out to eat food from the floor. Why did they need to 'sneak' out? Tick one.

- They were playing hide-and-seek.
- There was no reason to be hidden.
- The mice do not want to be seen by humans.**
- They sneaked out to see Father Christmas.

8. In the story, Maurice says that he is 'not like the other mice'. In what way is he different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Maurice is different from other mice because he says mice don't usually keep humans as pets but he says he doesn't mind them.

The Jackson Family Christmas

"Wake up! It's Christmas Day!" I squealed, bouncing on the bed.

"Hmm? Wha-?" Dad grumbled, partly opening one eye.

"It'ssss Chrr-istmas!" I squealed. "He's been!" I squeaked, spotting the presents. Mum and Dad were stirring but Mona was still curled up.



"Come on, Mona!" I yelled. "They'll be down to open presents soon!"

"Urrhhh... It's so early, Maurice," Mona replied, "Do we have to?"

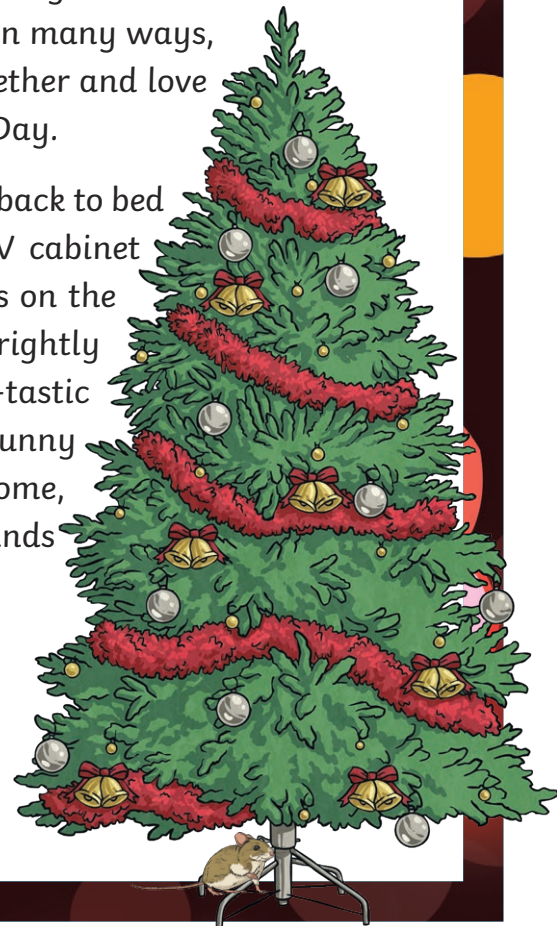
"Yes! Remember I wanted to show you how humans celebrate Christmas? Well today's the day. Isn't it exciting? Come on, everyone!"

Being a house mouse wasn't bad. We had a lovely home, nestled in the cavity wall of the Jackson family's hallway. It was great, not too far away from the kitchen (where we could snack whenever we liked); plus, it was always warm. The best thing about it was that I could study my favourite animals: humans! Most other mice didn't have pet humans. Humankind have a bad reputation within the rodent world. They're seen as messy and dirty - polluting the environment and ruining the countryside by building new houses and roads. I'm not like the other mice. I love my humans. In many ways, they're just like us. They care for one another, live together and love having fun. Nothing shows this quite like Christmas Day.

"OK, we're here, Maurice. Nice lights, great. Can we go back to bed now?" Mona moaned. We had gathered under the TV cabinet to get a good view. The lounge looked stunning. Cards on the walls, snowflakes, penguins and snowmen blinking brightly in the window. But the best thing, the most awesome-tastic thing... were the presents around the tree. Humans are funny creatures. Not only do they drag a tree into their home, they decorate it with baubles, tinsel and lights! It sounds a bit eccentric; however, the results are incredible.

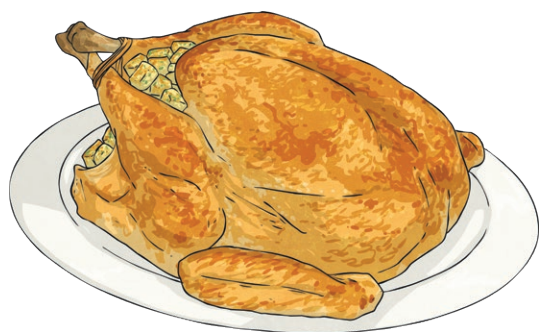
"What are all those boxes for, son?" Dad asked, twitching his nose.

"Boxes?" I said, exasperated. "Dad, they're not boxes; they're presents!"



"Hold on," Mum said, "I saw them yesterday. There's more now!"

"Ah!" I smiled. "Father Christmas delivered then in the night!" Before anyone could ask anything else, the sound of human laughter filled the room and the Jacksons piled in. Mrs Jackson had a cup of tea, Mr Jackson was filming on his tablet while Jenny and Jamie began ripping open presents! The atmosphere was electric. Then Mrs Jackson disappeared into the kitchen, cooking, singing and sipping sherry. Mr Jackson and Jamie played football on the new games console, Jenny tried on clothes and messaged friends on her new phone, while we played hide-and-seek in the paper and nibbled cardboard.



At lunchtime, more humans flooded in, all bearing gifts. Mrs Jackson called, "Dinner time!" as I ushered my family to a safe viewing spot. There was a feast on the table: roast turkey, potatoes, vegetables and loads more. They pulled crackers, wore paper hats,

chatted, laughed heartily and told stories. Afterwards, Grandma appeared with a large, fruit pudding. Mr Jackson doused it with brandy and set it alight.

After dinner was finished, everything suddenly paused for the television. It was The Queen making a speech from her palace. Later on, Mrs Jackson brought out lots of snacks and chocolates. With so much food, they didn't notice Dad scoffing a whole mince pie.



"You know," Dad said, waddling home, "I love time with you lot."

As we entered the hole in the skirting board, Mona shrieked. "What is it?" Dad called out.

There, sat at the end of our beds were four, neat little packages, wrapped up with ribbon. "He came!" I shouted. Mum and Dad smiled. "Let's do this again next year!" they both said at once.

Questions

1. How do you think the mice felt at the end of the story when they saw their surprise?

2. What made the pudding catch fire when Mr Jackson lit it?

3. Name **two** items that were on the Jacksons' Christmas dinner table.

- _____
- _____

4. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- The Christmas pudding arrives at the table.
- 1 Maurice wakes his family.
- The mice find their presents.
- The Queen's speech is on television.
- Mrs Jackson was singing in the kitchen.

5. In the story, the author uses the phrase 'laughed heartily'. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word 'heartily'? Tick one.

- politely
- enthusiastically
- scarcely
- gloomily

6. Maurice ushered his family to a safe viewing spot. Why did they need to be in a safe place?

7. Explain why having a mouse hole near the kitchen was not a good idea for the humans.

8. Compare the events of Christmas Day for the mice and the humans. How are they similar?

Answers

1. Explain why having a mouse hole near the kitchen was not a good idea for the humans.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the mice felt astonished as they weren't expecting to receive presents of their own.
2. What made the pudding catch fire when Mr Jackson lit it?
Mr Jackson poured brandy on the pudding, which is flammable.
3. Name **two** items that were on the Jacksons' Christmas dinner table.
Accept any two of the following: roast turkey; potatoes; vegetables; fruit pudding.
4. 'Number the events from 1-5 to show the order that they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	3	The Christmas pudding arrives at the table.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Maurice wakes his family.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	The mice find their presents.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	The Queen's speech is on television.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Mrs Jackson was singing in the kitchen.
5. In the story, the author uses the phrase 'laughed heartily'. Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word 'heartily'? Tick one.

<input type="radio"/>	politely
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	enthusiastically
<input type="radio"/>	scarcely
<input type="radio"/>	gloomily
6. Maurice ushered his family to a safe viewing spot. Why did they need to be in a safe place?
Maurice's family needed to be in a safe place so that they weren't seen by humans.

7. Explain why having a mouse hole near the kitchen was not a good idea for the humans.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Having a mouse hole near the kitchen is not a good idea for humans because the mice will eat their food.

8. Compare the events of Christmas Day for the mice and the humans. How are they similar?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Christmas Day was the same for the mice and the humans because they all watched The Queen making a speech on television.