'T was the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads;
And Ma in her kerchief and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter’s nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my Bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash!
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

The moon was shining on the snow, the sky was all aglow;
When all at once I saw them appear:
A sleigh! And eight reindeer!
Who was that? Could it really be?
’T was a little old driver, lively and quick;
I knew in a moment it was St. Nick;
And oh, those reindeer, how they came,
And he called them all by name.
“Now Dasher! Now Dancer! Now Prancer and Vixen!
You’re a little bit slow! On Comet! On Cupid!
On Donner and Blitzen! Come on, you guys, let’s go!”

And then I heard on the roof …
The prancing of each little hoof;
As I was turning around,
Saint Nick came down the chimney with a bound!

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work!
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk!
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
“Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight”!
The Night Before Christmas
Word Domino

creature
das Geschöpf
stockings

with care
sorgfältig
nestle

die Vorstellung
brain

kuscheln
vision

lawn

der Rasen
flash
erröten  sleigh  prance

tänzeln  bound  der  Sprung  nod

nicken  down of a thistle  die Distelwolle  comet

sugar plum

THE END

designed by
A fat, jolly old man with a white beard filling stockings on Christmas Eve and reindeer flying through the sky pulling a sleigh full of toys – those familiar images of Christmas all became popular through one poem which an American professor of Hebrew and Greek, Clement C. Moore wrote for his children in 1822.

The story goes that on Christmas Eve, Moore set out in a sleigh in the heavy snow to deliver Christmas presents. Peter, the family’s Dutch handyman, was driving the sleigh. When Moore saw Peter’s rosy cheeks and his twinkling eyes in the snowy moonlight, he was inspired to use that picture in his poem about Saint Nick.

Find the answers in the text:

1. What does St. Nick look like?
   ________________________________

2. What does St. Nick fill on Christmas Eve?
   ________________________________

3. What does he pull through the sky?
   ________________________________

4. Who made Father Christmas (alias St. Nick) so popular in America?
   ________________________________

5. Who helped the professor to drive the sleigh through heavy snow?
   ________________________________

   ❖ What inspired the professor for his poem?
   ________________________________
There had been stories about flying reindeer in some old Nordic myths, but it was Moore who gave the eight reindeer their now-familiar names: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen. Their colleague Rudolph didn’t join them until 117 years later.

Dutch immigrants had brought their stories about Saint Nicholas to America. He brought gifts on the eve of December 6th. In Moore’s poem, he’s called “Saint Nick” but his delivery date has been changed to December 24th. The Dutch name “Sinterklaas” eventually became Americanised to Santa Claus. Today most children assume that “Santa” is his first name and “Claus” is his last name.

Find the answers in the text:

1. How many reindeer are pulling the sleigh?

2. What are their names?

3. Who brought stories about St. Nicholas to America?

4. What is Father Christmas’ name today?

What does “Santa” mean?
Key to answers in the text:

1. What does St. Nick look like?
   A fat, jolly old man with a white beard.
2. What does St. Nick fill on Christmas Eve?
   Stockings.
3. What does he pull through the sky?
   He pulls a sleigh full of toys.
4. Who made Father Christmas (alias St. Nick) so popular in America?
   Clement Moore, a professor of Hebrew and Greek.
5. Who helped the professor to drive the sleigh through heavy snow?
   Peter, the family’s Dutch handyman.
   What inspired the professor for his poem?
   Peter’s rosy cheeks and his twinkling eyes in the snowy moonlight.

Key to answers in the text:

1. How many reindeer pull the sleigh?
   Nine.
2. What are their names?
   Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph
3. Who brought stories about St. Nicholas to America?
   Dutch immigrants.
4. What is Father Christmas’ name today?
   Santa Claus.
5. What does “Santa” mean?
   ‘Saint’ is a title for a holy man.