



MINIS AT HOME

volume 1, issue 12

Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!

Welcome to issue 12 of Minis at Home newsletter. Each newsletter features a special theme and offers pertinent information, a craft, and recommended reading. Grownups: please work on projects together with your children. Your pARTicipation is important! We will offer hints and tips for ways to create art as a twosome or a family.

This week's theme = Reindeer

It's that time of year when some may be expecting a visit from Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer. The story goes that Rudolph is a reindeer who comes to visit us from the far far north, where it's cold and snowy.

Reindeer are similar to the deer that we see here in Easton, except reindeer are much larger. They can be the size of small horses!

Reindeer live near the Arctic circle. They have very thick furry coats that allow them to stay warm in the snow. In North America, where we live, they are called caribou. In Europe and Asia, they are known as reindeer. Don't be confused by the sound of their name, though; reindeer have nothing to do with "rain."





Both the female reindeer, called a doe, and the male reindeer, called a buck, grow antlers. They are the only deer species in the world whose females grow antlers. Reindeer get brand new antlers every year. They shed, or lose, their antlers and then grow new ones. Reindeer antlers are like our fingerprints or a zebra's stripes, meaning that their shape and size are unique to them and different from all the other reindeer antlers in the world! Antlers are very important to the reindeer because they use them to scrape away snow and soil to find food like berries, roots, leaves and lichen.

Antlers are like a reindeer's built-in snow shovel! Would you like to have antlers growing from the top of your head? What would you use them for? Antlers would make wearing a hat pretty difficult! But reindeer have no use for hats. Their antlers actually provide extra body heat.

Antlers also help reindeer protect themselves from predators. Males use them to fight off other males who may be intruding in the herd. In addition, reindeer have hooves with two parts: imagine having two very hard toes that you could use to dig for food in the snow and frozen ground.

Reindeer live in huge herds with thousands of other reindeer. They migrate many miles every year looking for food and warmer weather. They are great swimmers and fast runners. People who live in the far northern hemisphere have been using reindeer for thousands of years as a source of milk, food, fur and for pulling sleds.



Activity: **Craft**

Reindeer Crown



Materials:

Brown construction paper

Tape

Scissors

Aleene's Tacky Glue

Red pom-pom

Large googly eyes (or make your own reindeer eyes)

Thin black marker

Procedure:

Cut a 2-inch wide strip of construction paper so that it fits around your child's head like a crown when the ends are taped together. (How about making a crown for the each member of the family? Then you can be a herd!)

Trace your child's hands on the construction paper and cut them out (these will be the antlers).

Use tacky glue to attach the reindeer's eyes and red nose. Draw a reindeer mouth with the black marker.

Tape the hands onto the crown so they are sticking up like antlers. When everything is secured, tape the ends for a snug fit.



Activity: Craft

Reindeer Friend



Materials:

Brown paint

Toilet paper roll

Brown construction paper scraps

Brown pipe cleaners

Scissors

Small red pom-pom

Small googly eyes (or make your own reindeer eyes)

Aleene's Tacky Glue

Thin black marker

Tape

Procedure:

Paint the toilet paper roll brown

Cut out long, thin rectangles for the reindeer's front legs, adding hooves with black marker

Glue on eyes, nose and legs. Draw a mouth with the black marker.

Curl the pipe cleaners to make antlers and tape or glue them on.

If you have lots of toilet paper rolls, you can make a herd of reindeer!



Activity: Fun in the Kitchen

Want to make up a batch of **Magic Reindeer Food**?

Mix together 1 cup bran cereal, 1 cup oats, 1/2 cup raisins (or dried cranberries), 1/2 cup shredded coconut (or chopped nuts)

Sprinkle on your lawn for Rudolph and his team (but we can't guarantee that other critters won't stop by for a winter snack :-)

Reindeer-shaped Snacks for humans:

Ingredients: 2 cups of the above Magic Reindeer Food, 1/2 cup peanut butter, pretzel twists (not the stick style), dried cranberries, raisins, M&M's or small circular candy

Procedure:

Place 1 batch of magic reindeer food in a mixing bowl.

Add the peanut butter. Mix well.

Place mixture in the refrigerator for 30 minutes until it hardens a little

Take a spoonful of the mixture and roll it into a ball. This will be the reindeer's head.

Use the dried cranberries or small candies to make the eyes and nose.

Place 1 pretzel twist on each side of the reindeer's head to make the antlers.

Keep your reindeer snacks in the refrigerator until you are ready to eat them.

How many reindeer can you make?



Activity: Move and Dance Like a Reindeer

(make sure to wear your reindeer crown!)

(Tune: The Hokey Pokey
original author unknown)

You put your antlers in (place your open hands, fingers spread, on top of your head)

You put your antlers out

You put you antlers in

And you shake them all about

You do the reindeer pokey and you turn yourself around

That's what it's all about

Repeat with hooves, tail, nose and body



Reindeer, Reindeer:

(from kidzparkz.com)

(Tune: Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear)

**Reindeer, reindeer, jump up high,
Reindeer, reindeer, fly across the sky,
Reindeer, reindeer, land softly on the roofs,
Reindeer, reindeer, step lightly with your hooves,
Reindeer, reindeer, turn around,
Reindeer, reindeer, touch the ground,
Reindeer, reindeer, now go slow,
Reindeer, reindeer, still far to go,
Reindeer, reindeer, now go fast,
Reindeer, reindeer, home at last!**

Literacy: POEM TO SHARE

The Reindeer Eight

by Constance Del Nero

'Twas a cold dark night in the far-off north; eight reindeer friends were growing bored.
With dinner still an hour away, they came up with a game to play.

Each one chose their neighbor's name and used it in a funny game. You can read their poem here; I hope it brings you lots of cheer!

I know a reindeer:
her name is Chandy
she likes to eat ribbon candy

I know a reindeer:
his name is Jake
his favorite food is chocolate cake

I know a reindeer:
his name is Ted
his favorite food is raisin bread

I know a reindeer:
her name is Rosa
her favorite food is crispy samosa

I know a reindeer,
her name is Betty
she really likes to eat spaghetti

I know a reindeer:
her name is Weiss
her favorite food is saffron rice

I know a reindeer:
his name is Juan
his favorite herb is tarragon

I know a reindeer:
his name is Jude
he likes every kind of food



And then the dinner bell did clang! "We're all so hungry," the reindeer sang.
Off they went to their long table and ate as much as they were able.

Next time you have to sit and wait, think about the reindeer eight.
How did they spend their time with friends?

What will *you* do when this poem ends?

Literacy: RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Snuggle up in a big comfy chair and read together

The Reindeer Wish by Lori Evert

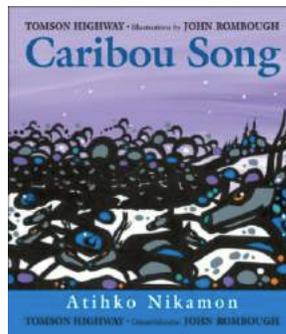
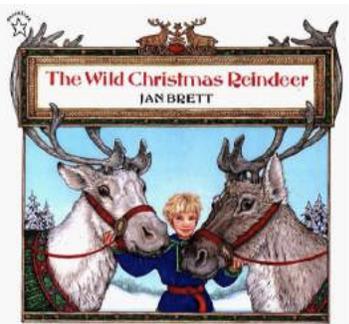
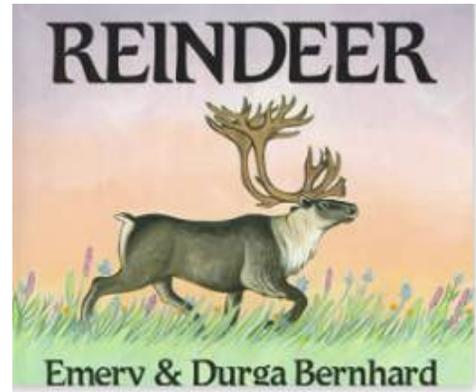
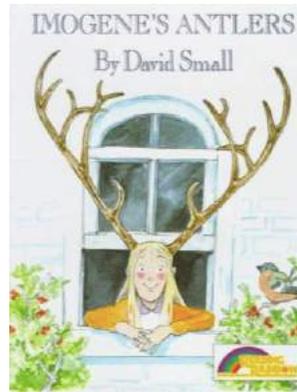
The Reindeer Girl by Holly Webb

Imogene's Antlers by David Small

Reindeer by Emery and Durga Bernhard

The Wild Christmas Reindeer by Jan Brett

Caribou Song by Tomson Highway



Creatively yours,

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See you next week with issue 13 of **Minis at Home!**

Share your work on <https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/>

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