

## WHY SANTA HAS A BEARD

Divide the group into four smaller groups and assign each group one of the words listed below. Read the story. After each of the words is read pause for the group to make the appropriate response.

**SANTA** "Ho Ho Ho"

**NORTH POLE** "Way Up there" (point North)

**SLEIGH** "Jingle, Jingle, Jingle"

**WORKSHOP** "Wizzz, Bang, Pop"

You've all heard many stories about **SANTA**\_\_\_ and his **WORKSHOP**\_\_\_ at the **NORTH POLE**\_\_\_. You have also heard stories about his **SLEIGH**\_\_\_ and reindeer. But there is a story about **SANTA**\_\_\_ that very few people know, so if you will listen very closely, I'll tell you about how **SANTA**\_\_\_ decided to grow a beard.

As you know, the weather is very, very cold at the **NORTH POLE**\_\_\_ where **SANTA**\_\_\_ has his **WORKSHOP**\_\_\_. He works very hard throughout the year with his little elves, making toys for his Christmas Eve visit. Like everyone else, **SANTA**\_\_\_ needs relaxation, and a chance to get away from it all. His way to relax was to take a leisurely ride in his **SLEIGH**\_\_\_.

With such cold weather at the **NORTH POLE**\_\_\_, **SANTA**\_\_\_ always had to bundle up tightly before taking a **SLEIGH**\_\_\_ ride. Once he forgot to bundle up as tightly as usual and he failed to wrap his heavy wool scarf around his face as he went **SLEIGH**\_\_\_ riding. When **SANTA**\_\_\_ got back from his ride and walked into the **WORKSHOP**\_\_\_ where Mrs. Claus and the elves were happily working, he had the most beautiful white icicles hanging down the sides of his face and chin, just like a beard.

When Mrs. Claus looked up and saw him, she squealed with delight, "Why, **SANTA**\_\_\_ you look absolutely marvelous with your sparkling white icicle beard". Well, when **SANTA**\_\_\_ saw how delighted his wife was, he was very flattered and decided right then and there to grow a long, flowing white beard and mustache. And that is what he did!

By doing this, **SANTA**\_\_\_ caused two things to happen. He made himself so handsome that whenever Mrs. Claus passed by him in the **NORTH POLE**\_\_\_ **WORKSHOP**\_\_\_, she gave him a big smile. This made **SANTA**\_\_\_ blush so much, that to this day, he is still blushing. That's why his cheeks always look rosy. And now he doesn't have to wrap a scarf around his face when he goes **SLEIGH**\_\_\_ riding at the **NORTH POLE**\_\_\_. Mrs. Claus has even started going on **SLEIGH**\_\_\_ rides with **SANTA**\_\_\_