

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**___