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NOLLAIG
* * *
2009
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YOUTH WORK IRELAND
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



Youth Work Ireland



"Nollaig 2009" is an opportunity for young people between the ages of seven and eighteen to design a Christmas card for Youth Work Ireland.

The competition is open to all young people affiliated to a Youth Work Ireland Local Youth Service. There are three age categories and a winner will be chosen from each. An overall winner will also be chosen and this card will be printed and used as the Christmas card for Youth Work Ireland for 2009. In addition the winners of each age category will be given a prize and their cards will be printed and framed.

FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!

This pack is designed for youth workers and club leaders. It contains all the information you will need to run a workshop with young people who wish to participate in the competition.





The pack outlines a workshop that can be used with groups in conjunction with "Nollaig 2009".

CONTENTS

- 1 What is it all about?
- 2 Getting Started
- 3 Investigation
- 4 Types of Media
- 5 Check List





WORKSHOP OUTLINE



1 What is it all about?

- Introduce "Nollaig 2009".
- Explain to the group what Youth Work Ireland is and how their group /club is affiliated to it.
- Have a discussion on the importance of an organization (i.e. Youth Work Ireland or Local Youth Service) Christmas Card - if possible have a couple of examples from last year.
- Go through the rules and explain the different categories

Rules and Regulations

- All entries must be submitted by young persons affiliated to a Youth Work Ireland Local Youth Service.
- The age categories are **7-11yrs**, **12-15yrs** and **16-18yrs** with persons being of this age on the closing date of the competition (**Thursday, 20 November, 2009**).
- All entries must be submitted on an A4 standard piece of paper (Please do not fold the A4 in half or quarters, use the full page for the picture).
- All entries must be 2D i.e. no articles may be stuck on, cotton wool, glitter etc.
- All 2D media are acceptable pen and ink, crayon, pastels, pencil, paint.
- **All entries MUST be submitted with an entry form.**
- All entries must be submitted to

Nollaig 09

Youth Work Ireland

20 Lower Dominick Street

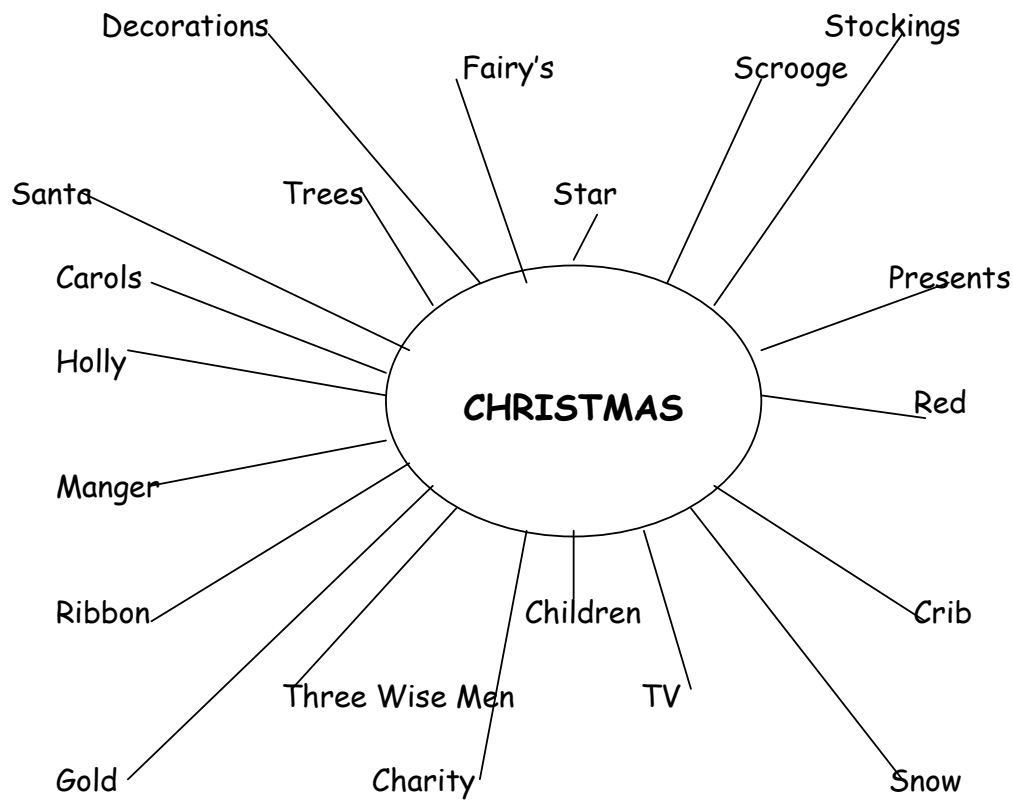
Dublin 1

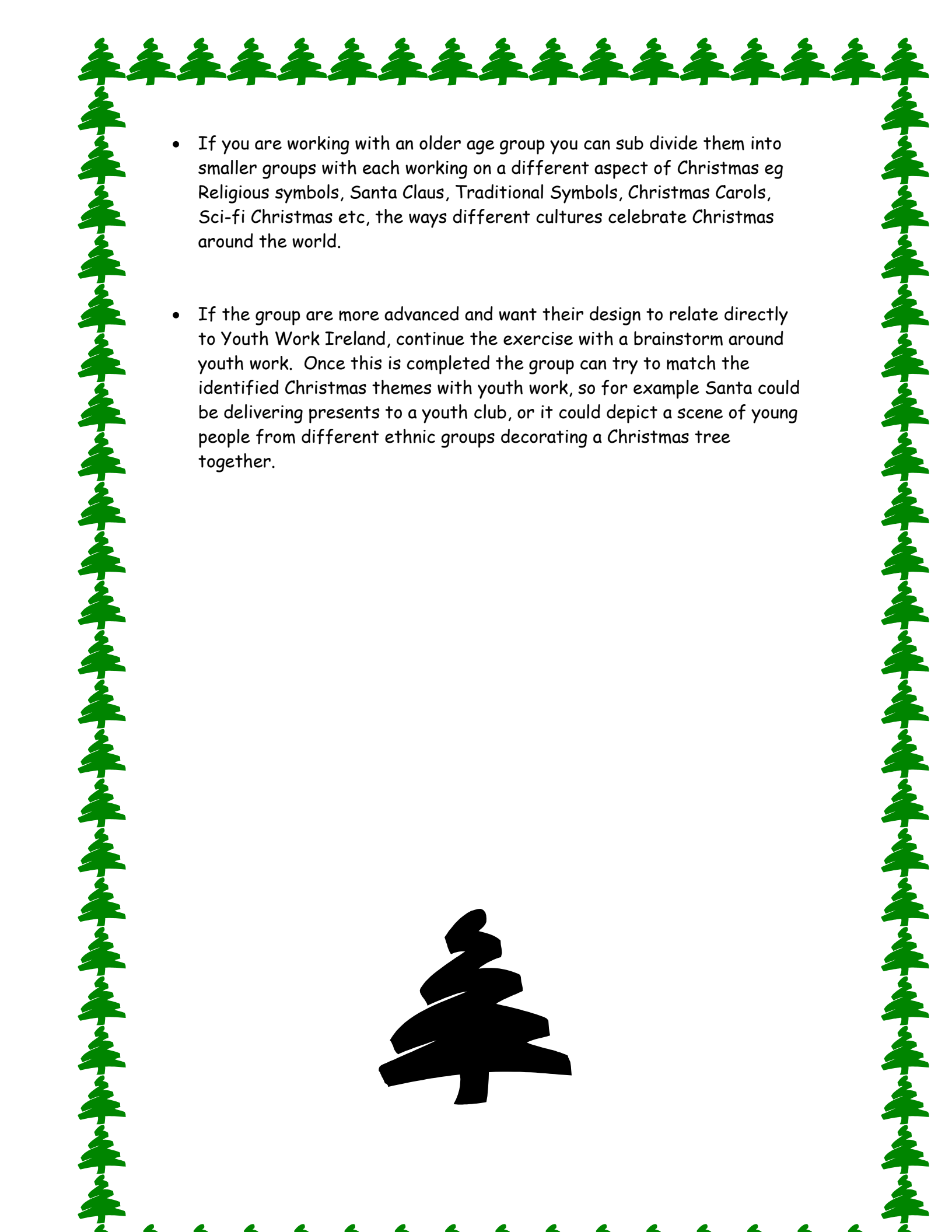
by Thursday, 20 November, 2009.

2 Getting started

The most difficult thing to do when designing a card is to try and decide on "what you're going to put on it"! Most designers spend some time thinking about the message they are trying to communicate with their design and play around with different ideas before choosing the final one.

- It's time to start thinking about Christmas and get the creative juices flowing! Lead the group in a brainstorming exercise around the theme of Christmas.
- Using a flip chart or large sheet of paper record all the words the group associate with Christmas. See example below.



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- If you are working with an older age group you can sub divide them into smaller groups with each working on a different aspect of Christmas eg Religious symbols, Santa Claus, Traditional Symbols, Christmas Carols, Sci-fi Christmas etc, the ways different cultures celebrate Christmas around the world.
 - If the group are more advanced and want their design to relate directly to Youth Work Ireland, continue the exercise with a brainstorm around youth work. Once this is completed the group can try to match the identified Christmas themes with youth work, so for example Santa could be delivering presents to a youth club, or it could depict a scene of young people from different ethnic groups decorating a Christmas tree together.





3 Investigation

You don't always have to rely on your imagination when designing, there are plenty of good ideas out there to help you get started. Before the group puts paint to paper it's a good idea to look at a range of ready made Christmas cards. Examine them under different headings and ask the group the following questions.

- Which card do they like the best and why?
- Which card do they like the least and why?
- Do different cards appeal to different audiences, what are the differences?
- What is the style of the card? - Traditional, animated, funky, stylized, conservative etc.
- What types of colours are used?
- Has a restricted palate (a small group of colours e.g. red and gold) been used, was this effective?
- What type of lettering has been used?
- What does the type of lettering say to the audience?





4 Types of Media

This competition provides leaders the opportunity to introduce young people to a range of different artistic media (In English the stuff you draw with!).

This section gives an overview of the different media available and the merits of each. You could have a session where the young people sample the different types, and look at the different effects achieved by each, finding out what suits them.

Pencils

- If a young person wants to work with pencil I would recommend that they use one or a selection from the H and B graded systems as they are a better quality and allow for more variety of tones. These are not too expensive and widely available in stationery and art shops. Coloured pencils are often easier to work with, as they are softer due to higher level of wax. Water-soluble pencils are often an easier option; you simply draw your image as normal and then go over it with a damp brush applying more water or pressure to achieve a more blurred effect.

Charcoal

- Charcoal is easy to work with, but beware of the mess! If a young person chooses to work in this way you must use a fixing agent, the cheapest is regular hair spray. A good application will prevent smudging.

Pastels

- Pastels are available in both soft, hard and oil. Again if a young person chooses to work with a soft pastel a fixing agent must be used.

Pens and Inks

- This is a more difficult medium to work in as you can not rub out your mistakes, however it can have a very dramatic effect.

Paints

- There is a huge variety of paints available, watercolours, acrylic, oils, poster. If your group chooses to work with paint, give them the opportunity to experiment with the different types. Encourage the group to try out different ways of applying the paint, using different types and sizes of brushes.



5 Check List

Once the young people are ready to start, here are some questions they can ask themselves to make sure they have thought everything through.

- Have you decided on your paper layout, is the card going to be portrait or landscape?
- Have you decided on your theme?
- Have you thought about how your image relates to youth work?
- Have you chosen the materials you are going to use and worked out why they are the best choice?
- What colours are you using?
- Is there going to be any lettering?
- If yes what style is it going to be?

If you have all your answers to these questions then you are ready to go.

GOOD LUCK!





ENTRY FORM

NOLLAI 2009

Please return your entry with this form

to:

Nollaig '09
Youth Work Ireland
20 Lower Dominick St., Dublin 1.

PARTICIPANT NAME:

Home Contact No:

Age:

Date of Birth:

Please tick your age category: 7 yrs - 11yrs 12yrs - 15yrs 16 - 18 yrs

NAME OF YOUTH CLUB/GROUP:

NAME OF LEADER:

NAME OF LOCAL YOUTH SERVICE:

NAME OF CONTACT IN LOCAL YOUTH SERVICE:

PHONE NUMBER OF CONTACT IN LOCAL YOUTH SERVICE:

SIGNED (BY LYS CONTACT):

DATE:

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- All entries must be 2D i.e. no articles may be stuck on, cotton wool, glitter etc.
- All 2D media are acceptable i.e. pen and ink, crayon, pastels, pencil & paint.
- All entries must be submitted with an entry form attached to the back of their entry.
- All entries must be submitted to "Nollaig 09", Youth Work Ireland, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1, by Thursday, 20 November, 2009.
- Entries cannot be returned.