



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The History of Christmas Caroling

Long ago, before the bright lights and colorful decorations we see today, people celebrated Christmas in many different ways. One of the most cherished traditions was Christmas caroling. Let's travel back in time and explore the history of this heartwarming tradition.

Christmas caroling has its roots in medieval Europe. During the Middle Ages, singers known as "wassailers" would go from house to house, singing and wishing good health to the residents. They would often carry a "wassail bowl," a special drink made of hot spiced ale or mulled wine, to share with the people they visited.

In the 16th century, carolers began to sing more religious songs, retelling the story of the birth of Jesus. These early carolers used to be called "waits" and were often musicians who played instruments like the flute and the lute.

By the 19th century, Christmas caroling as we know it today was becoming popular. People gathered in their communities and sang festive songs to celebrate the holiday season. In England, "The Oxford Book of Carols" was published in 1928, which included many well-loved carols that are still sung today.

In the United States, caroling became a beloved tradition during the 19th century as well. People would gather together, sometimes in church choirs, and sing Christmas songs to spread joy and goodwill. Even today, caroling is a cherished part of the holiday season, with groups of friends and families singing their favorite carols in their neighborhoods, at malls, or even in front of decorated houses.

The act of Christmas caroling is a way to bring people together during the holiday season, share joy, and keep traditions alive. It's a special time when people of all ages come together to sing songs that celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

So, next time you hear the sweet sound of carolers singing "Jingle Bells" or "Silent Night," remember that this tradition has a long and beautiful history that brings warmth and happiness to people's hearts during the most wonderful time of the year.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the text structure of this passage? (circle all that apply)

description

cause and effect

compare and contrast

problem and solution

sequence

2. When did carolers begin to sing more religious songs? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name one way caroling has changed through time. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Jingle Bells Lyrics

Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way  
Bells on bobtails ring  
Making spirits bright  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight, oh!

Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh

Now the ground is white  
Go it while you're young  
Take the girls tonight  
Sing this sleighing song  
Get a bobtailed bay  
Two forty for his speed  
And hitch him to an open sleigh  
And you will take the lead

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In one horse open sleigh!