

Your hunt, ready in about 15 minutes.

Two free routes. Print one, or run them in different rooms. Playing usually takes 20–30 minutes; that is an estimate, so go at your own pace.

Picture Trail • ages 4–7 with a grown-up

Riddle Route • ages 8+

1–8 seekers

You'll need

- The cards for your route, printed and cut out (about 5 minutes)
- Tape or fridge magnets
- A small gift or treat for the treasure, wrapped if you like
- A phone for the free companion, optional with the paper tracker or decoder

Setting up

1. Send the seekers to another room.
2. Hide the cards in the order on the next pages (about 10 minutes). Tick each one off.
3. Open the companion, choose your route and "Printed cards".
4. Hand the seekers the start card and say go!

Safety notes

- Keep every card away from stairs, ovens, stovetops, the kettle, heaters, sockets and high shelves.
- Keep cards off the tree lights and well away from candles and the fireplace.
- Keep little ones indoors and in sight. Close doors to the street.
- Use tape or magnets, never pins. Hide cards only in cold, clean pans and cupboards.
- Check treats for allergies. Avoid small hard candies for children under 4.

No printer?

Put a small treat at each spot instead of a card. Choose "No printer" in the companion. Each clue appears on the phone, and you tap to confirm every find. Riddle letters appear on screen.

Playing again

Once seekers know the hiding places, the surprise is gone. For another round, use the "No such spot?" alternatives, move the treasure, or swap routes.

Companion and fresh copies: playatyour.com/christmas-scavenger-hunt

Running both routes?

Hide the picture cards in one part of the home and the riddle cards in another, so little seekers don't pick up a riddle card. The red cards are the Picture Trail; the green cards are the Riddle Route.

Bigger group?

Split into teams of 2 to 4, each with a reader. Print a second set for a race, hiding it at the alternative spots. Give every team the same treasure at the end.

Picture Trail • hiding order

Card codes: card 1 snowflake • card 2 gingerbread • card 3 mitten • card 4 bell • card 5 reindeer • card 6 snowman • card 7 candy cane • tag star.

CARD	HIDE IT HERE	NO SUCH SPOT?
☐ Start card (window picture)	Hand it to the seekers when you begin	—
☐ Card 1 • snowflake code	On a low window sill, with the window shut	Taped low on a glass door or a patio door
☐ Card 2 • gingerbread code	Beside the cookie jar or cookie tin, on a low shelf	Next to the fruit bowl or the bread bin
☐ Card 3 • mitten code	Tucked inside a slipper	Inside a shoe, or under a pair of cozy socks by the bed
☐ Card 4 • bell code	Leaning on the toothbrush cup in the bathroom	Beside the soap or the bathroom sink
☐ Card 5 • reindeer code	On top of the toys in a toy box or basket	On a shelf of toys or a pile of soft toys
☐ Card 6 • snowman code	On the seat of a kitchen or dining chair, pushed in at the table	On any chair, stool or footstool
☐ Card 7 • candy cane code	Folded inside a blanket or throw on the sofa	Inside a folded towel, or under a cushion
☐ Treasure + tag	The treasure and its treasure tag go under the Christmas tree	No tree? Under a houseplant, or wherever presents go in your home

Every spot is indoors and fits a small apartment. Keep cards away from tree lights, candles and the fireplace.

Riddle Route • hiding order

CARD	HIDE IT HERE	NO SUCH SPOT?
☐ Start card (riddle 1)	Hand it to the seekers when you begin	—
☐ Card 1 • letter S	Tucked under the covers at the foot of a bed	Any bed, or a sleeping bag rolled out for the night
☐ Card 2 • letter N	Stuck to the fridge door, low down, with a magnet	On the freezer door, or a low kitchen cupboard door
☐ Card 3 • letter O	Inside a picture book on a low bookshelf	Under a stack of magazines or comics
☐ Card 4 • letter C	On top of the socks in a low drawer	In a basket of clean washing or a pile of folded socks
☐ Card 5 • letter A	Beside the mugs on a low shelf	Next to a plastic cup or beaker at child height
☐ Card 6 • letter D	Flat under the corner of a rug, so no one trips	Under a bath mat or the edge of an indoor doormat
☐ Card 7 • letter E	Beside a hairbrush or comb	On a dressing table or beside a mirror
☐ Card 8 • letter T	Inside a cold, clean saucepan in a low cupboard	Inside a mixing bowl or a lunchbox
☐ Card 9 • letter U	Beside a calendar, or behind the advent calendar	A diary, a planner or the family list on the fridge
☐ Card 10 • letter R	Under a box of tissues	Beside a toilet roll or a pack of wipes
☐ Treasure + tag	The treasure and its tag go under the coats by the door	No coat hooks? Pile a few coats on a chair and hide the treasure underneath

Answer key

RIDDLE	ANSWER	LETTER FOUND THERE
1	Bed	S
2	Fridge	N
3	Book	O
4	Sock drawer	C
5	Mug	A
6	Rug	D
7	Hairbrush	E
8	Saucepan	T
9	Calendar	U
10	Tissues	R

Letters arrive as **S N O C A D E T U R** and unscramble to **UNDER THE COATS**.

Every spot is indoors and fits a small apartment. Use only cold, clean pans; keep cards away from the kettle, oven, tree lights and fireplace.

Hints, one step at a time

Read a nudge first. Give the strong hint if they are still stuck, and the answer only when they ask.

Picture Trail

#	NUDGE	STRONG HINT	ANSWER
1	Where can you peek out to see if it is snowing?	Find the glass you look through. Look low, on the ledge.	On the window sill.
2	Where do the crunchy, sweet treats wait?	Go to the kitchen. Look for a jar or tin of cookies.	Beside the cookie jar.
3	What keeps your toes warm on a frosty morning?	Look by a bed for something soft you wear on your feet.	Inside a slipper.
4	Brush, brush, brush! What makes your teeth sparkle?	Go to the bathroom. Look by the sink.	By the toothbrushes.
5	Where do your games and teddies live?	Look in the box or basket where toys are tidied away.	In the toy box.
6	Where do you sit to eat your dinner?	Go to the table. Look on a seat.	On a chair at the table.
7	What do you snuggle under when it is chilly?	Look on the sofa for something soft and warm.	In the folds of the blanket.
8	What sparkles with lights and has a star on top?	Go to where the presents go. Look down low.	Under the Christmas tree. Treasure!

Riddle Route

#	NUDGE	STRONG HINT	ANSWER
1	It has a head and a foot, but no brain and no toes.	You sleep in it every night.	A bed. Look under the covers at the foot end.
2	Its light switches on every time you open it.	It keeps the milk and butter cold in the kitchen.	The fridge. Look on its door.
3	A spine with no bones, and leaves that never grew on a tree.	You read one at bedtime.	A book on a low shelf. Look inside.
4	Rolled-up pairs live here, and their big cousin hangs up at Christmas.	Something that keeps your feet warm is folded inside.	The sock drawer.
5	It has a handle, but it is not a door.	You drink hot chocolate from it.	A mug. Look where the mugs are kept.
6	It lies down all day but never sleeps.	It is on the floor, soft under your feet.	A rug. Lift one corner.
7	It has lots of teeth, but it never eats.	You use it to tidy your hair.	A hairbrush or comb.
8	It has a lid and a handle, and stew bubbles in it.	It lives in a kitchen cupboard, cold and clean right now.	A saucepan. Look inside.
9	Dates you can't eat... days, weeks and months.	It shows how many sleeps are left until Christmas.	A calendar or the advent calendar.
10	Pull one out and another pops up.	You need one when you sneeze.	A box of tissues. Look underneath.
♦	Ten letters with THE in the middle: a 5-letter word, THE, then another 5-letter word.	The first word means "below". The second is what you wear outside in the snow.	UNDER THE COATS.