



The Night Before Christmas

A Christmas Game for Little People

By Esperanza Gabay

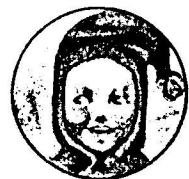
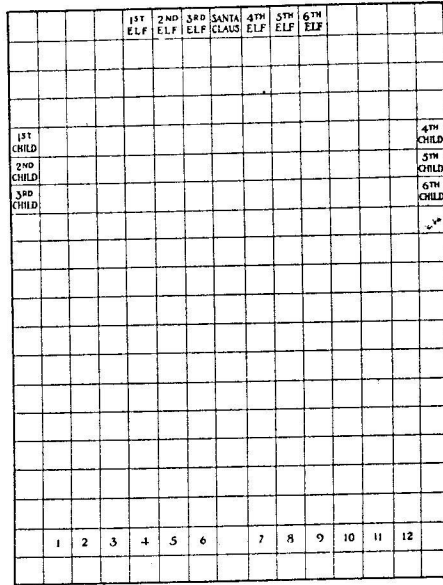
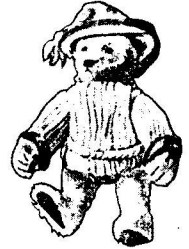


Diagram of the Board on Which the Game is Played

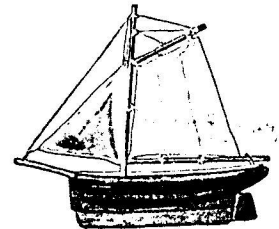


IN THIS game the children themselves can make a large part of the material needed. It has proved to be a most entertaining game for Christmastime, and it is one in which not only the children but their parents as well take keen delight. Here are the directions for making the articles used in playing the game:

First get a piece of stiff cardboard, fifteen inches by twenty inches in size, and rule it into squares one inch each way, as shown in the drawing. Any good black ink will do for this work, although, of course, India ink is the best that can be used. Next cut out the twelve squares with stockings and paste them on the ruled squares as marked in the diagram, 1 to 12. Then cut out the remaining thirteen squares required for the children and elves and Santa Claus himself, and paste them on the game board as shown in the diagram.

Cut out the pictured heads of the six elves, the six children and Santa Claus. If you are familiar with woodwork at school it will add to the appearance of the game to mount these men on small pieces of wood, like checkers—indeed, small checkers may be used for the purpose if you desire. Then cut out the twelve toy counters.

Only two persons can play the game at the same time. The first player





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Only two persons can play the game at the same time. The first player takes the six children, and the second player takes Santa Claus and the six elves. Each piece is placed on its proper square, as shown in the diagram.

The moves of each piece are as follows: Santa Claus moves one space at a time in any direction; the elves move two spaces at a time in any direction; they cannot move one space, so some judgment is necessary in handling them; the children move one space at a time in any direction.

Santa Claus or an elf may take a child, or a child may take Santa Claus or an elf by jumping over the piece into the succeeding square. Jumps may be made in any direction. When a child or an elf is taken it must return to the square from which it started and begin again. Unlike checkers or chess the capture of a piece by the opposing player does not put it entirely out of the game.

Except for a final move in capturing Santa Claus no piece but Santa Claus may move on the stocking squares.

The object of the first player is to capture Santa Claus. If he succeeds he wins the game. The object of the second player is to move Santa Claus down the game board to the stockings, visit each stocking,

and then move Santa Claus back across the game board to the square from which he started. If he succeeds in doing this he wins the game. The elves protect and assist Santa Claus. As each stocking is visited a toy counter is placed upon it to mark it as filled and indicate which ones have been visited by Santa Claus, who sometimes has to stop "filling the stockings" to avoid capture.

