Grown-up guide

Hunt 1 · Home riddle trail · 20 min

Cut out the 13 cards. Hide them following the host key: clue 1 in the stocking, clue 2 under the tree and so on; the treasure card goes under the sofa cushion with the prize. Hand the start card to the hunters. Missing a place (no wreath, no coat hooks)? Take out the card whose rhyme describes that place; the card after it takes its spot.

Hunt 2 · Yard nature hunt · 30 min

One checklist per child or pair, a pencil, warm boots. Items are spotted and ticked, not collected, apart from a pine cone, a feather and a stone for the nature bag if you like. The six riddle cards are for older children: they decide what counts and explain why.

Hunt 3 · Christmas lights hunt · 45 min, on foot or by car

One scored checklist per team: easy decorations score 1 point, rarer ones 2 and 3. Add the bingo cards for the back seat and the best-house ballot for the end. Walkers stay on the sidewalk, cross at crossings and admire from the street; drivers keep the hunting to passengers.

Prizes that need no shopping

- Home trail: the hunters find a treat, a book or "you pick tonight's film" written on the treasure card.
- Yard: everyone who finds 15 gets a champion badge.
- Town: highest points chooses the cocoa toppings.

Printing

- Clue cards and badges: plain paper or light cardstock, cut on the dashed lines.
- Checklists and bingo: one per child or team.
- Print at 100%, not "fit to page". Letter and A4 files are in the ZIP.

Hunt 3 • Christmas lights hunt • scored checklist

Common sights score 1 point, rarer ones 2, the hard-to-find 3. A decoration counts once per team. **Team:** _____

- [ ] An inflatable snowman — 1 pt
- [ ] Reindeer on a roof — 2 pt
- [ ] A house with only blue lights — 2 pt
- [ ] Candy-cane lights along a path — 1 pt
- [ ] A wreath on a front door — 1 pt
- [ ] A star on a rooftop — 2 pt
- [ ] A lit tree in a window — 1 pt
- [ ] A nativity scene — 2 pt
- [ ] A projector sprinkling lights on a wall — 1 pt
- [ ] A lit palm tree or cactus — 3 pt
- [ ] One bulb that has gone out — 3 pt
- [ ] A snowman family of three or more — 2 pt
- [ ] Lights that change colour — 2 pt
- [ ] Santa climbing a ladder — 3 pt
- [ ] A sleigh with reindeer — 2 pt
- [ ] Icicle lights along a roof — 1 pt
- [ ] An inflatable penguin or polar bear — 2 pt
- [ ] Lights that spell a word — 3 pt
- [ ] A dog in a sweater — 3 pt
- [ ] A train or carousel display — 3 pt
- [ ] Paper snowflakes in a window — 1 pt
- [ ] A door wrapped like a gift — 3 pt
- [ ] A tree so tall you must look up — 2 pt
- [ ] A house with no decorations at all — 1 pt

Score

1-point finds ____ × 1 = ____
2-point finds ____ × 2 = ____
3-point finds ____ × 3 = ____
Total _____

Best house ballot

Brightest: _____
Funniest: _____
Most elegant: _____
Our favourite street: _____