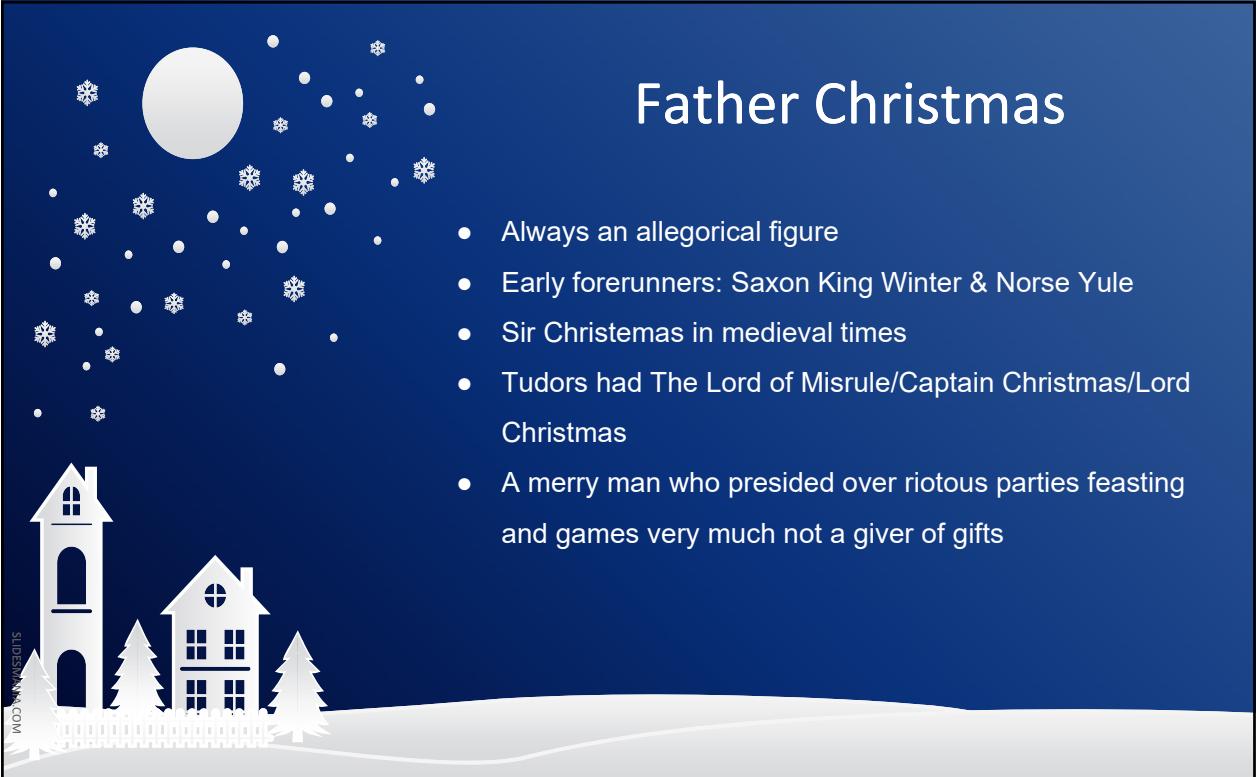






St Nicholas

- St Nicholas was an 4th century bishop from Myra
- Credited with a number of miracles including the 3 sisters he saved from slavery
- Wore red robes of Bishop
- His feast day 6th December



Father Christmas

- Always an allegorical figure
- Early forerunners: Saxon King Winter & Norse Yule
- Sir Christemas in medieval times
- Tudors had The Lord of Misrule/Captain Christmas/Lord Christmas
- A merry man who presided over riotous parties feasting and games very much not a giver of gifts



Father Christmas

- Came to prominence after Christmas was banned 1647-1660
- No defined colour no reindeer no presents no children
- Faded away to be part of mummers plays and folklore
- The Victorians changed Christmas to a family focus and Father Christmas returned - green! Charles Dickens Ghost of Christmas Present
- Santa's iconography largely ousted Father Christmas by the mid 1880's



Sinterklaas

- Closely developed from St Nicholas legend but secular
- The Dutch adopted the tradition of Sinterklaas giving gifts to children who had been good as noted in his red book
- He would enter houses through locked doors or down chimneys
- The Dutch settlers took this tradition with them to New Amsterdam
- At this time Christmas in New York was celebrated in the old "English style"
- Sinterklaas offered an opportunity to generate a gentler more family focussed Christmas

Sinterklaas becomes Santa Claus

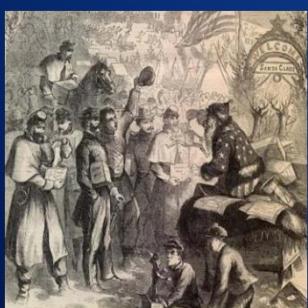
Old Santeclaus with Much Delight 1821

Introduced Santa's red coat, reindeer and sleigh, and put his arrival on Christmas Eve rather than St Nicholas's Day.

St Nicholas or T'was the Night before Christmas 1823

Really cemented Santa's image and gave him 8 reindeer
Dancer Prancer Donner Blitzen Vixen Cupid Comet and Dasher

But he still didn't have a defined image or colour



Thomas Nast's 1863
Santa and 1881 drawing
which establishes the key
elements of modern
Santa and the red outfit





Now Finally we have Santa

- He's definitely red
- He's a jolly character
- He has a 'naughty book'
- Has 9 reindeer - Rudolph joins in 1939
- Drives a sleigh not a wagon
- Gifts being given secretly via a chimney into stockings



How does Santa Navigate?

We need to be very grateful Christmas was deemed to be in winter

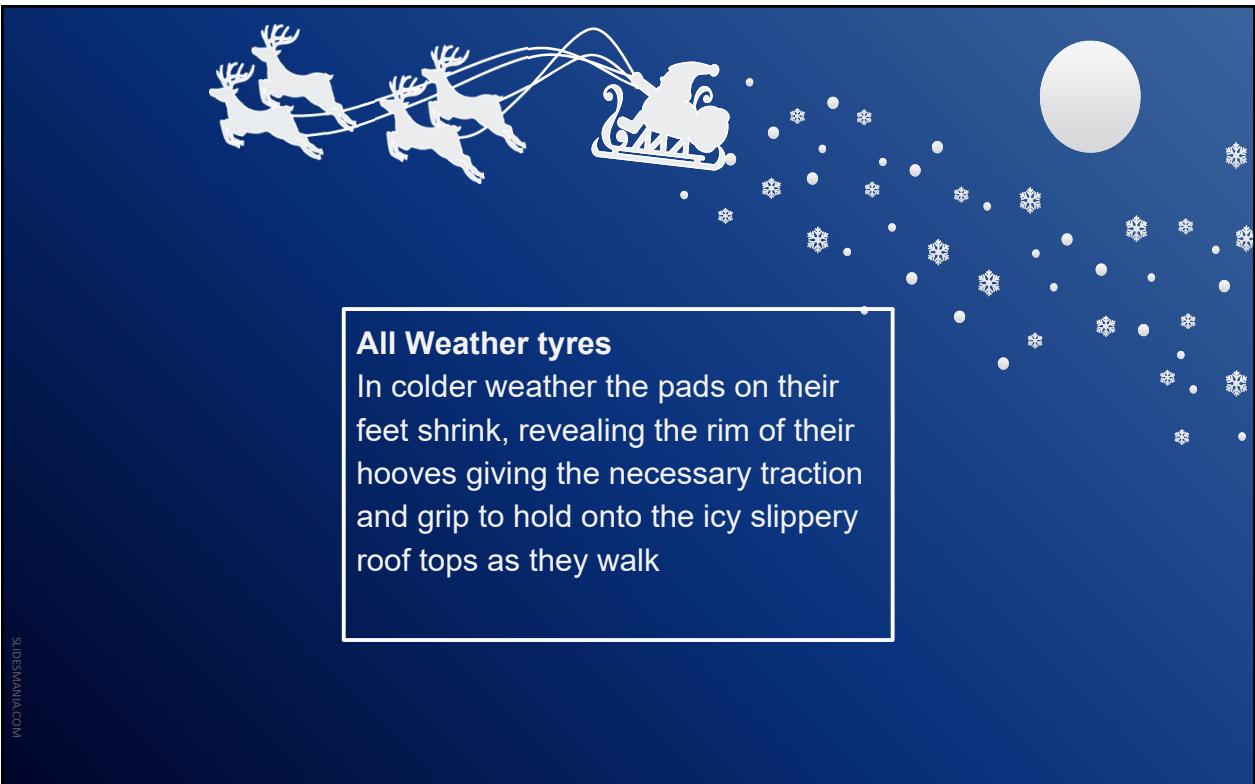


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First Santa needs Power

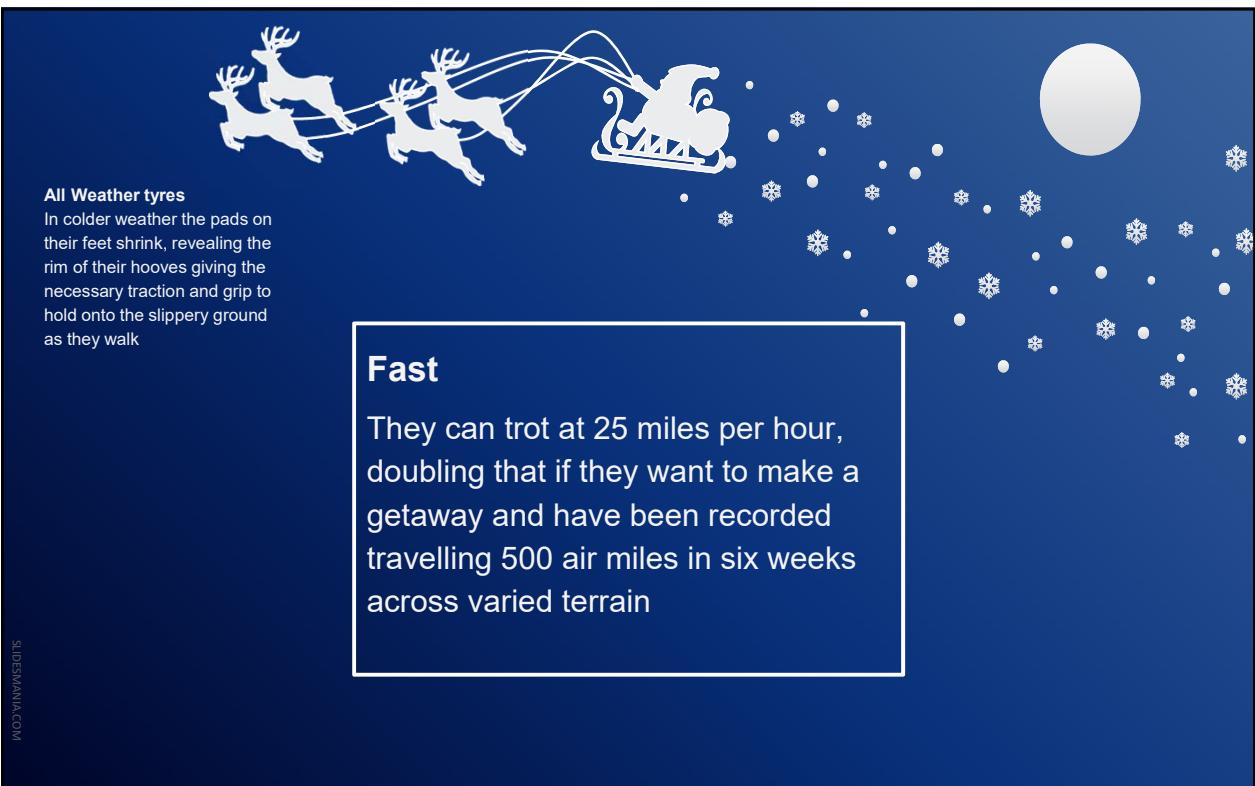


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All Weather tyres
In colder weather the pads on their feet shrink, revealing the rim of their hooves giving the necessary traction and grip to hold onto the icy slippery roof tops as they walk

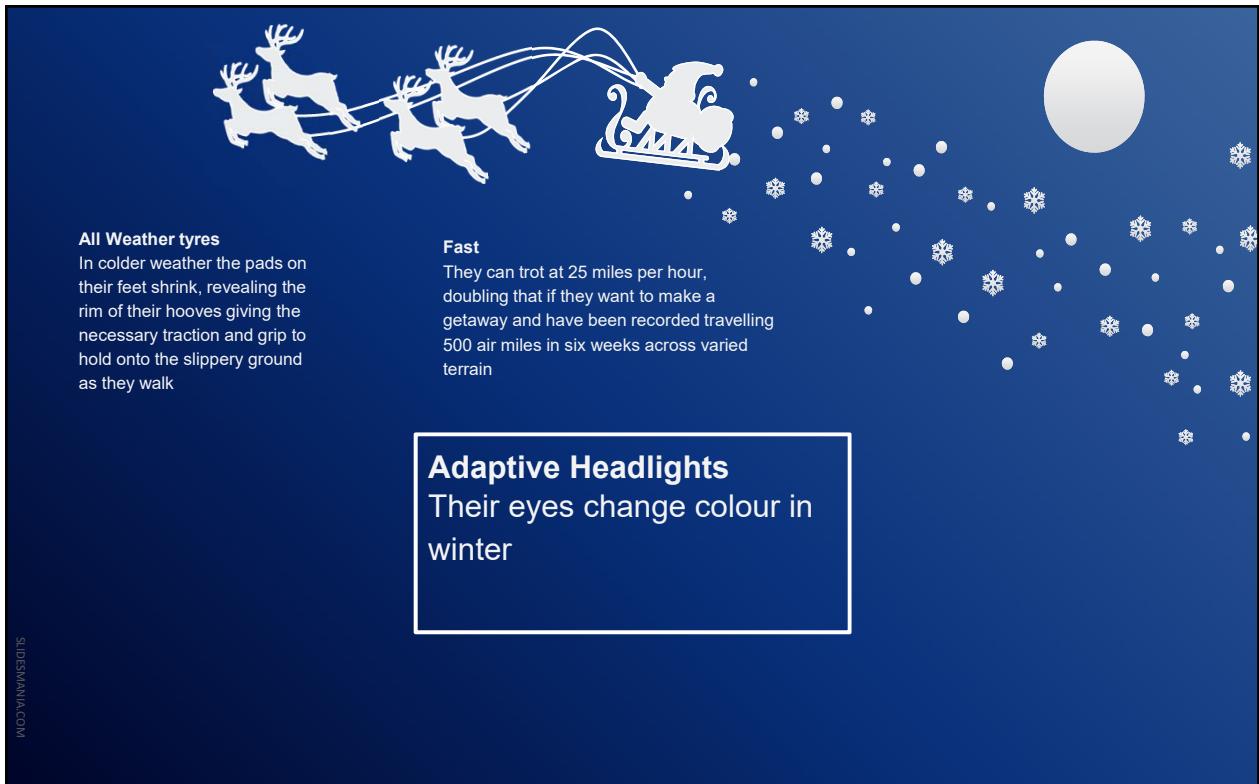
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All Weather tyres
In colder weather the pads on their feet shrink, revealing the rim of their hooves giving the necessary traction and grip to hold onto the slippery ground as they walk

Fast
They can trot at 25 miles per hour, doubling that if they want to make a getaway and have been recorded travelling 500 air miles in six weeks across varied terrain

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No internal body clock, they don't release melatonin into their bloodstream so no jet lag!

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But where to go?

The Magic of Santa allows him to know

- All the children that have been good (or bad - but he usually forgives them)
- Who's asleep and who's not
- Those who truly believe in him and the Christmas magic
- Where the best mince pies, carrots, whisky and sherry are to be found

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Steering

סימן

St Nicholas By Clement Clarke Moore

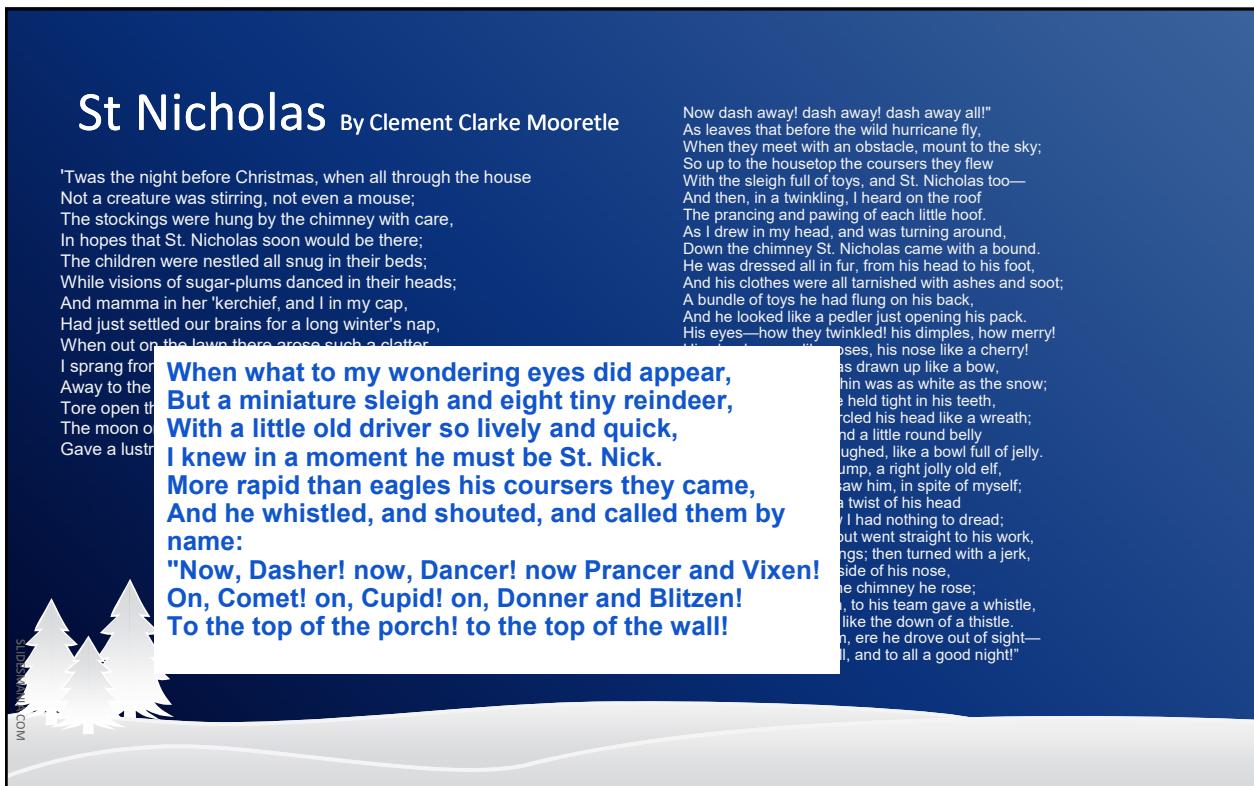
'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

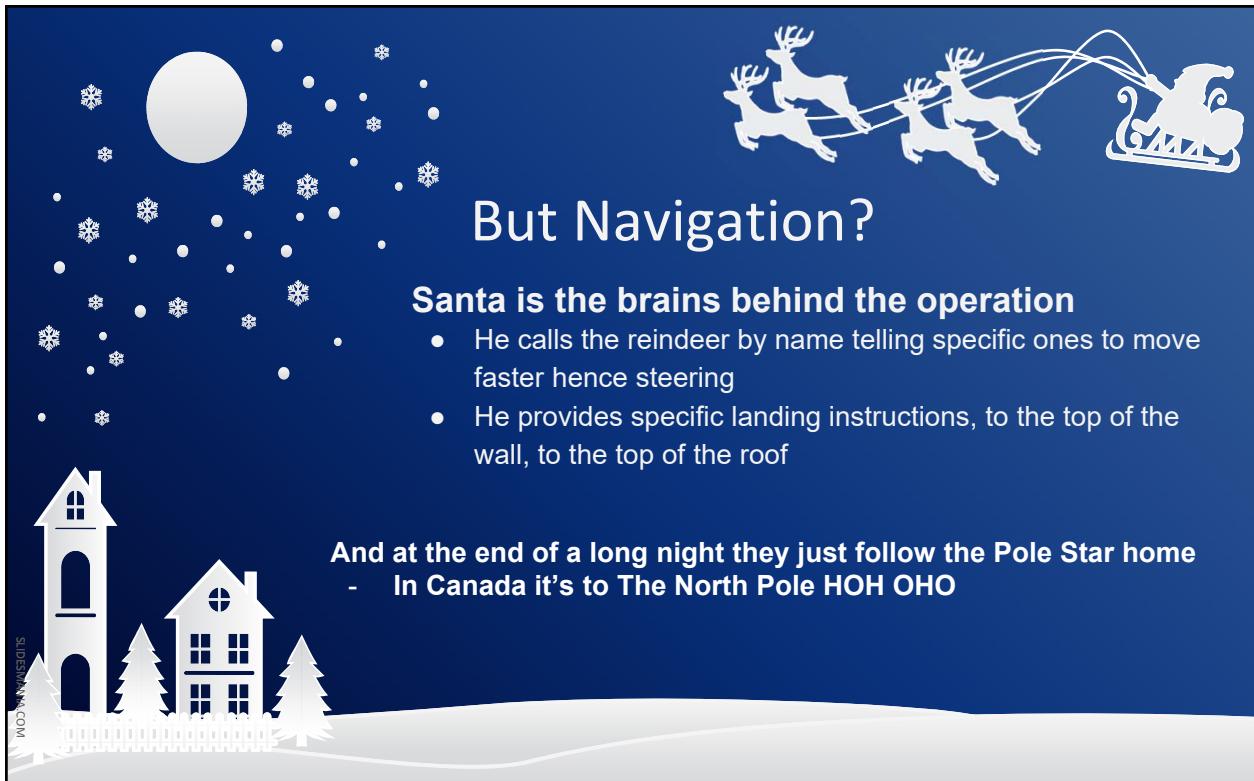
When out of
I sprang from
Away to the
Tore open the
The moon o
Gave a lustr

When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by
name:
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!"

Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!

oses, his nose like a cherry!
as drawn up like a bow,
hin was as white as the snow;
e held tight in his teeth,
rcled his head like a wreath;
nd a little round belly
ughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
ump, a right jolly old elf,
aw him, in spite of myself;
a twist of his head
I had nothing to dread;
ut went straight to his work,
ngs; then turned with a jerk,
ide of his nose.
e chimney he rose;
, to his team gave a whistle,
like the down of a thistle.
n, ere he drove out of sight—
ll, and to a all good night!





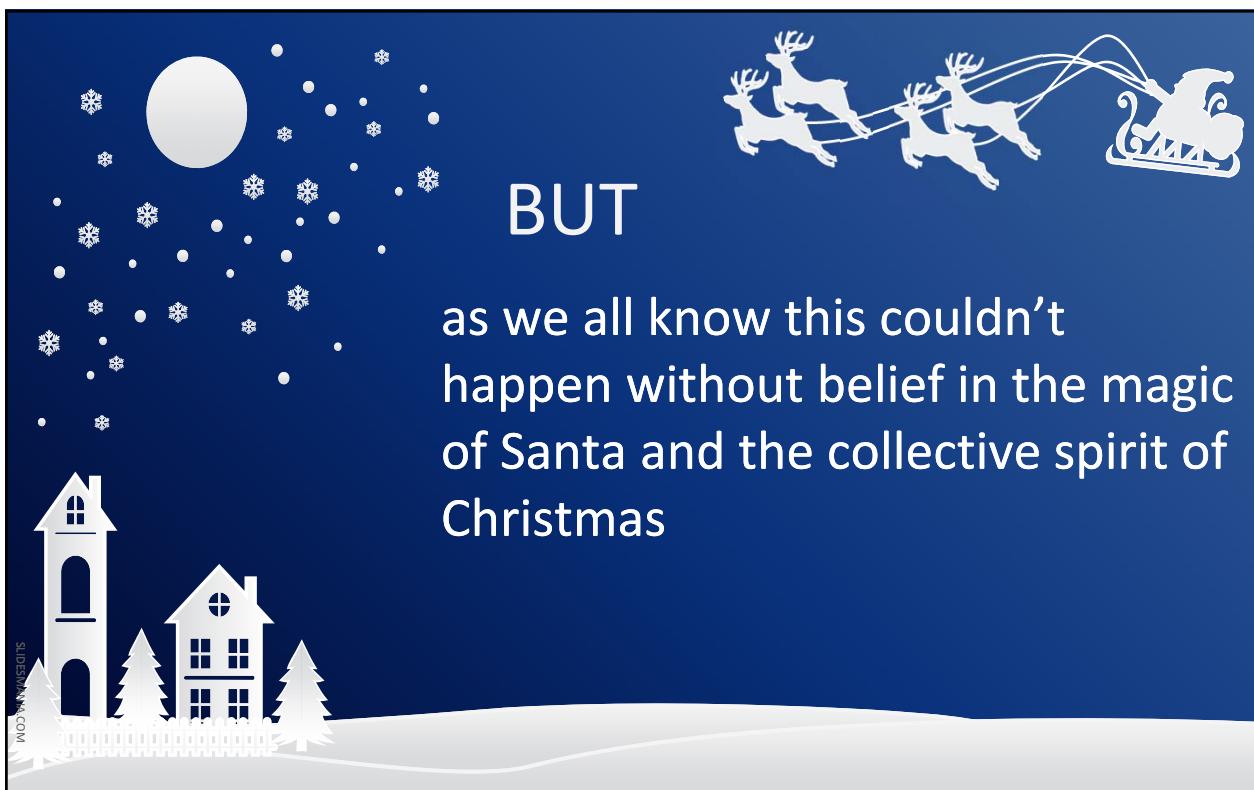
But Navigation?

Santa is the brains behind the operation

- He calls the reindeer by name telling specific ones to move faster hence steering
- He provides specific landing instructions, to the top of the wall, to the top of the roof

And at the end of a long night they just follow the Pole Star home

- In Canada it's to The North Pole HOH OHO



BUT

as we all know this couldn't
happen without belief in the magic
of Santa and the collective spirit of
Christmas

Teamwork really does make the dream work!

