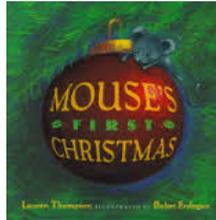


# Mouse's First Christmas



***Late one winter night, Mouse discovers new sights, smells, and tastes: sweet and sparkly cookies, jingly and glinty bells, and lots of boxy and ribbony presents. Mouse doesn't know what any of it means, until a whiskery and jolly guest arrives with a very special holiday message. Let's help that jolly guest make a grand entrance by building a fireplace for him to pop down!***

**Materials:** Mouse's First Christmas by Lauren Thompson    DUPLO bricks    Hula hoops    4 DUPLO Base Plates    4 Santas for each group    fireplace diagram

**Intro: Review** rules and procedures for LEGO Engineering. Introduce the book "Mouse's First Christmas". Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration such as ***"I wonder what is happening in this picture. What is Mouse doing? What do you think he is thinking about?"*** Read aloud and discuss the story. **Ask questions...**

What does a "first" Christmas mean?

What does Mouse find as he explores the house?

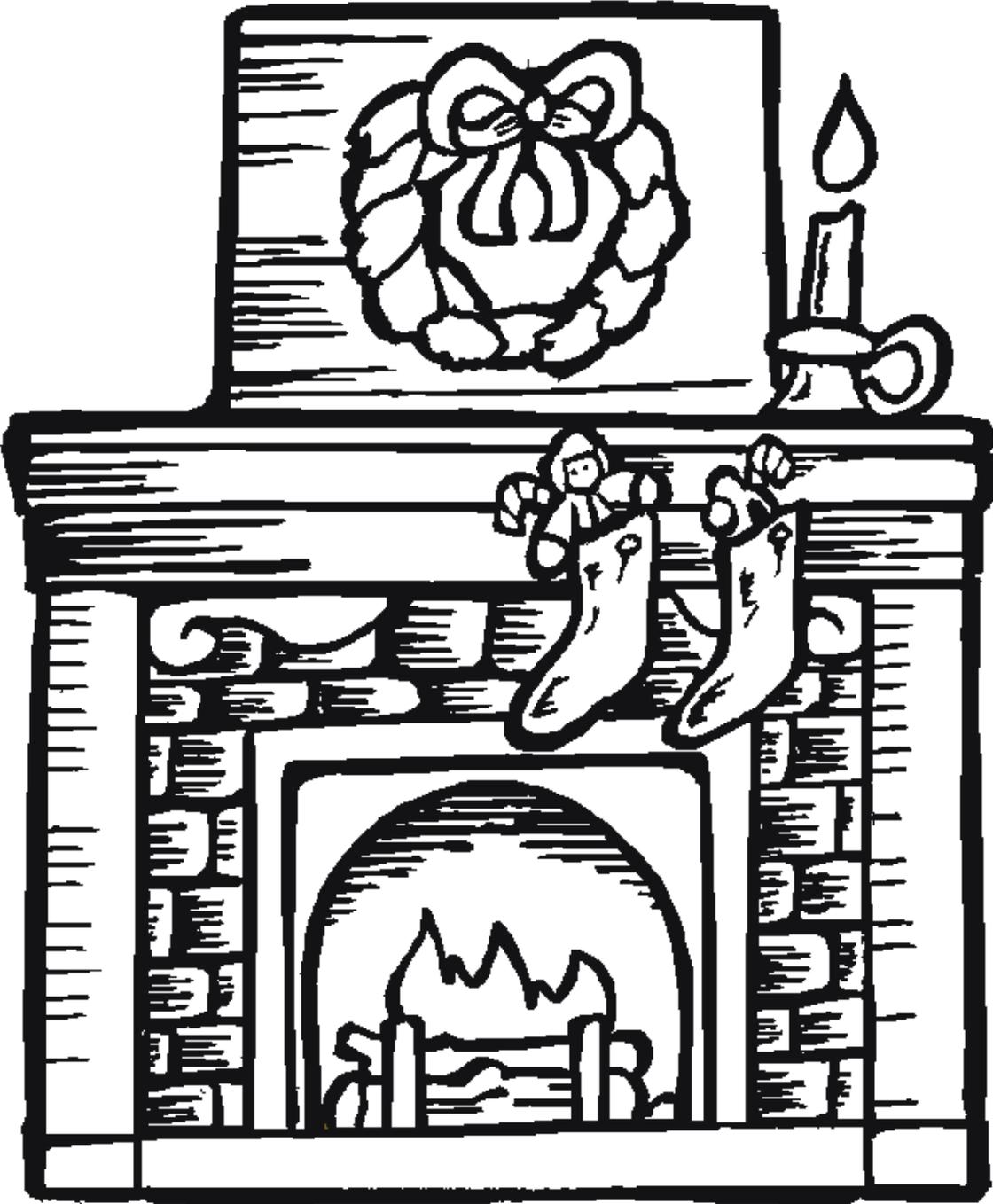
What did Mouse see? What did he hear? What did he touch? What did he smell? Who did he meet at the end? How do you think Santa got into Mouse's house?

**Challenge:** Each group will be responsible for *constructing a fireplace for Santa to come down*. Show the fireplace diagram and go over the different parts. Show students the “Santas”. Explain that the fireplaces must have a chimney, hearth, mantle and base. The chimney and hearth must be big enough to drop Santa down. How will they do this?

**Build:** Divide students into four work groups. Have groups work together to build a fireplace for Santa. Monitor each group by observation and asking pertinent questions: *“How can you decide how big to make the chimney for Santa? How will you know that he can fit? Your chimney is falling over, what can you do to keep it upright?”* Allow students time to build.

**Debrief:** Gather the students back together and discuss problems they had and how they solved them. Ask *“What worked best?” “What didn’t work?” “What did you wish you had more of?”*

**Presentation:** Visit each group’s construction. The group presenting are the called the “Sitters” because they sit and describe what they’ve done. The teacher and the rest of the class are called the “Standers” because they stand around the presenters in a circle to observe and ask questions. The standers and the sitters change depending on the group presenting. Which groups built a chimney, hearth, mantle and base that allowed Santa to drop into?



**CHIMNEY**

**HEARTH**

**MANTLE**

**BASE**