

The famous Christmas reindeer

At one stage it was thought that Father Christmas (Santa Claus) lives in the North Pole. In 1925 it was discovered that there are no reindeer in the North Pole. But there are lots in Lapland, Finland. So today we know that the reindeer live around the secret village of Father Christmas and the elves somewhere on the Korvatunturi mountain in the Savukoski county of Lapland, Finland, which is on the Finnish-Russian border.

Long ago, **Father Christmas** and the elves discovered the special formula of Magical Reindeer Dust which make them fly. This dust is sprinkled on each of the reindeer shortly before they leave on Christmas eve. It gives them enough magic to fly right around the world. They can fly very fast: at about the speed of a Christmas light.

Names of the Christmas reindeer

Rudolph is the most famous reindeer. He is the leader of the other 8, whose names are **Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, and Vixen.**

The names of the 8 reindeer were published by Clement Clark Moore, an American poet and professor of theology, in his 1822 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Rudolph was first written about only in 1939 by Robert May, who included him in a story for the Montgomery Ward Christmas catalog. (Of course, the elves knew their names long, long before Moore and May did.)



The reindeer are cared for by one of the **Christmas elves**, Wunorse Openslae. He also designed Father Christmas's sleigh and maintains it for top performance.

