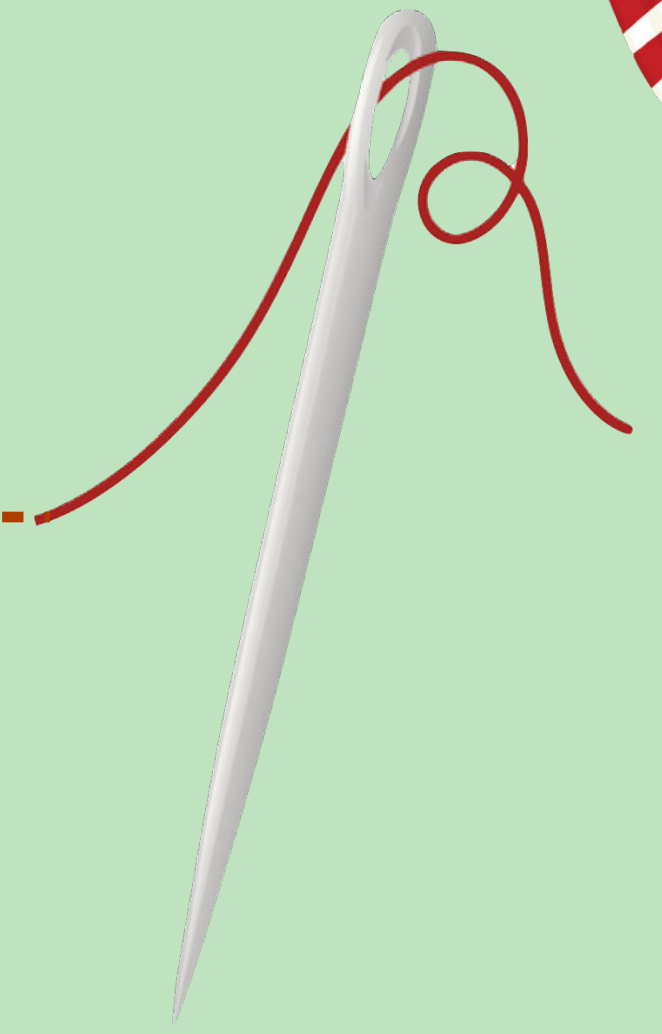


SEASONAL

STOCKINGS



Learning Objective:

To explore and analyse existing products





What is a Christmas stocking?

What is the function of it
(what do we use it for?)

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



A Christmas stocking is an empty sock-shaped bag that is hung up in people's homes before Christmas, for Santa to fill with toys and treats on Christmas Eve (...if you've been good...)!



Where did this tradition come from?

Let's have a look...



This is the legend that many people believe the tradition of Christmas stockings came from:

A long time ago, a poor man whose wife had recently died was worried about not having enough money to help his three daughters get married. St Nicholas, who was wandering through the town where the man and his girls lived, heard the villagers talking about the poor widow's problems, and wanted to help, but he knew that the man would not simply take money from him. So, one night, he slid down the chimney of the family's house, and left gold coins in each of the girls' stockings, which they had left by the fire to dry. In the morning, when the girls discovered the gold coins, the family celebrated - the daughters could now get married, and the poor man did not need to worry any more.



Due to this legend, for many years, children have hung up their socks and stockings on Christmas Eve in the hope that they will be filled with small gifts and treats by the morning.



Some people believe that, if you have not behaved well throughout the year, you will only be given a lump of coal in your stocking!

Nowadays, a wide range of Christmas stockings in different colours, styles and shapes can be bought. However, some people prefer handmade stockings that can be used year after year.



What would you expect a Christmas stocking to look like?



What size would it be?

How might it be decorated?



What fabric would it be made from?



How could the fabric be joined?



What colours would it be?

Who would use it?



Think, pair, then share your ideas.



The colour, fabric, size, decoration and joins used for a Christmas stocking can be divided into two main categories:

FUNCTION

This relates to how suited it is to its purpose.



VISUAL APPEAL

This means how attractive and eye-catching it is!



Which of the above aspects do you think belong in each category?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



FUNCTION

Size: it needs to be big enough to fit several small items in.

Joins: it needs to be strong and secure enough so it can hold the weight of several small items.

Fabric: this can be important for both the function and visual appeal of the stocking - it can help the stocking to be secure, as well as looking attractive.

VISUAL APPEAL

Decoration: it needs to be bright and eye-catching.

Colour: it needs to be in keeping with the festive season's traditional colours.

Which of these categories do you think is the most important for a Christmas stocking? Why?



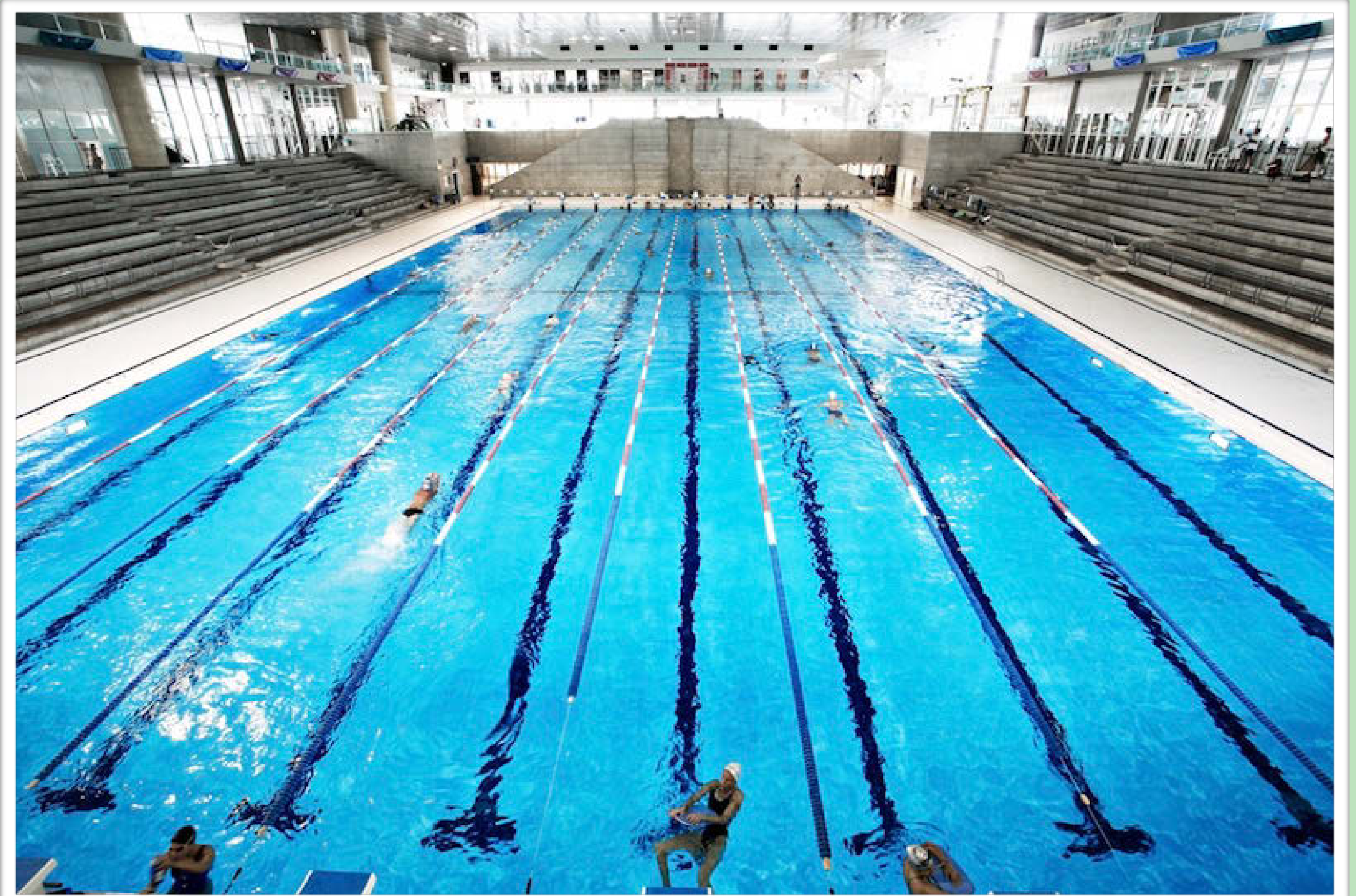


Today you are going to explore and analyse existing Christmas stockings, thinking carefully about both the function and visual appeal of each one.



Plenary:

According to the Guinness World Records, the largest Christmas stocking was 51.35 metres long and 21.63 metres wide. In order to fulfil the guidelines that the stocking needed to be full of presents, balloons containing sweets were stuffed inside!



This is an Olympic-sized swimming pool, measuring 50 metres by 25 metres. The stocking was a bit longer than this, and almost as wide!

Can you imagine it?!



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