

# Colors of Christmas

## SCAVENGER HUNT

**RED & GREEN** - two colors always associated with Christmas. You see these colors in mistletoe, Santa's suit, Rudolph's nose, Christmas trees, & many more places. **But where do you find the colors red & green in nature?** Explore the Museum Exhibits to find out!

DISCOVER

**RED:** An octopus uses these pigment cells in sacks just under the skin to change its appearance between multiple colors, including red!

DISCOVER

**GREEN:** This rare lizard is considered arboreal because it prefers to live up in the treetops. Its bright green color camouflages it among the green leaves of the forest canopy.

LOOKING  
UP

**RED:** When this type of heavenly body is cool, small, & burns slowly it glows red. Unlike ours, which has a yellow burn just right for life!

FOUNDATIONS

**RED & GREEN:** Different types of these minerals “glow” when exposed to ultraviolet light. Do you see which minerals in the display case glow red & green?

Rivers  
& STREAMS

**GREEN:** You might be tempted to take a picture with your head in this massive green reptile's mouth in the Museum Exhibits, but not in real life! This animal has a bite force of 2,125 pounds per square inch.

ARCTIC DESERT

**RED:** The red in this diagram represents warm blood flowing through a web of arteries & veins warming the cold blood in nearby veins. This web or “Wonderful Net” is also called by this name.

ARCTIC DESERT

**GREEN:** What if this tall, green, spiky plant were your Christmas tree? Your home would need a 60-foot ceiling & a floor that supports 14,000 pounds.

OCEANS

**RED:** Three types of red fish swim each day in the Museum's Ocean Tank. There are plenty of the first type, which are easy to find. The other two are a little sneakier, hiding in the corals. Can you find all three?

**GREEN:** One name for this type of green coral is “sea mat” because they form together in tight clusters that resemble a carpet or mat. Imagine this color of bright green carpet in your house!



**RED:** Look at the mural to see lightning strike & red fire begin. It’s hard to believe that something so devastating is actually needed. This type of tree requires fire to reach its next phase of growth.



**GREEN:** Be careful! One of those vines might be poison ivy! You will find plenty of green growth such vines, shrubs, & briars in this part of the forest, because they need more light to grow.



**RED:** Count the spots - one, two, three . . . nine! This red and black bug is an excellent animal ambassador as it is the official insect of six different states.



**GREEN:** How do you think this green insect breathes underwater? Look closely, and you can see a small bubble under its abdomen. Think of the bubble like a scuba tank providing air as this insect swims away!

**ANSWERS:** Discover Red - Chromatophores; Discover Green - Mexican alligator lizard; Looking Up Red - A star; Foundations Red & Green - Fluorescent minerals; Rivers & Streams Green - American alligator; Arctic/Desert Red - Rete mirabilis; Arctic/Desert Green - Saguaro cactus; Oceans Red - Bigeye soldierfish, freckled hawkfish, coral hind; Oceans Green - Green button polyps; Forests Red - Longleaf pine; Forests Green - Forest edge; Insects Red - Nine-spotted ladybug; Insects Green - Green diving beetle