How the Grinch Stole Christmas

The materials in this resource pack are based on the Dr. Seuss book ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas’ and the 1966 cartoon of the same name. They are designed for lower level young learners.

I would suggest introducing the vocabulary first (using the flashcards), then tell the simplified story. You could show them the Grinch cartoon too. Once they're familiar with the story, introduce the script, allot roles and begin rehearsing. You'll need to teach and practice the song in conjunction with learning the play.

Alternately, you can pick and choose which activities and resources to use in whichever way best suits your students and time frame.

Good luck, and I hope your Students enjoy learning with the resources.

Brian Boyd
Resources

Flash Cards: To elicit or present the vocabulary from the story at first. They can then be used as props to support the telling of the story and performing of the play.

Mask Template: Print, laminate and cut out the Grinch mask (including eye holes). Glue a stick to one side for a student to hold.

The Story: A very simple version of 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'. The story is told almost entirely in the present simple tense, and it uses lots of repetition. I suggest telling the story (and also showing the 1966 Grinch cartoon) before presenting the play script - so students already feel familiar and comfortable with the story when they first encounter the play script version.

The Play: There are two versions. The student version has only the dialogue, and includes illustrations. The teacher version has 'stage directions' suggesting how to perform this in a small space at the front of the classroom.

Song Lyrics: A simple version of 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas', to be sung as part of the play.
The Whos
The Grinch
Merry X'mas
Happy New Year
This is the template for the Grinch mask. Print, cut and laminate.
How the Grinch Stole Christmas

(a simple version to be accompanied with flashcards)

This is Whoville. Whoville is a happy town.

These are the Whos. The Whos live in Whoville. They are happy people.

Tomorrow is Christmas. The Whos like Christmas a lot. They like Christmas cake. They like Christmas trees and Christmas presents. They like candy canes, Christmas cards and Christmas stockings too.

This is the Grinch. The Grinch isn't happy. His heart is very small. He doesn't like Whoville. He doesn't like the Whos and he doesn't like Christmas.

The Grinch wants to stop Christmas. No more Christmas cake. No more Christmas trees. No Christmas presents. No candy canes, Christmas cards or Christmas stockings. No more Christmas!

In Whoville it's time for bed. Bedtime, everyone! It's time to sleep. The Whos say goodnight and go to bed. Goodnight!
Now the Whos are asleep and here comes the Grinch. He’s got a big bag. The Grinch is in the kitchen. He puts the Christmas cake and the candy canes in his bag. Now he’s in the living room. He puts the Christmas tree and the Christmas cards in his bag. The Grinch goes to the bedroom. He puts the Christmas presents and the Christmas stockings in his bag.

The Grinch is finished. Goodbye Whoville and goodbye Christmas.

It’s Christmas morning. Merry Christmas! The Whos wake up. They’re happy.

BUT … Where’s the Christmas cake? Where’s the Christmas tree? No Christmas presents and no candy canes. The Christmas cards and Christmas stockings are gone too. Boo hoo!
Now the Grinch is happy. No more Christmas. Christmas is finished. Christmas is ... wait ... what's that?

The Whos are singing.

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a happy new year.

The Grinch feels sorry. His heart grows bigger. And bigger. And BIGGER. He goes back to Whoville. He gives the Whos their Christmas cake and their Christmas tree. He gives them the presents and the candy canes. Here are the Christmas cards and the Christmas stockings.

Merry Christmas, Whos.
Merry Christmas, Grinch.
Merry Christmas, everyone!
Narrator 1: This is Whoville. The people in Whoville like Christmas.
Narrator 2: The boys and girls in Whoville like Christmas.
Narrator 3: The Mums and Dads in Whoville like Christmas.
Narrator 1: In Whoville, the cats and dogs like Christmas too.

Who 1: My name is Haruki Who. I like Christmas cake and Christmas trees.
Who 2: My name is Haruna Who. I like Christmas presents and candy canes.
Who 3: My name is Hideki Who. I like Christmas cards and Christmas stockings.
Narrator 2: And this is the Grinch.

The Grinch is NOT happy.

Grinch: Grrrrrrrrrr. I don’t like Christmas. I don’t like Christmas cake. I don’t like Christmas trees. I don’t like Christmas presents. I don’t like candy canes. I don’t like Christmas cards and I don’t like Christmas stockings.

Narrator 3: The Grinch wants to stop Christmas. No more Christmas cake, no more Christmas trees, no more Christmas presents, no more candy canes, no more Christmas cards and no more Christmas stockings.

Grinch: Ha! No more CHRISTMAS! Ha ha ha ha!
Narrator 1: In Whoville, it’s bedtime.
Narrator 1: Goodnight, Whoville
All: Goodnight!

Narrator 1: The Who’s are sleeping.
The Grinch is in the kitchen.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas cake. Ha!
Narrator 2: The Grinch is in the living room.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas tree. Ha, ha!
Narrator 3: The Grinch is in the bedroom.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas presents. Ha, ha, ha!
Narrator 1: The Grinch is in the kitchen.
Grinch: I’ve got the candy canes. Ha, ha, ha, ha!
Narrator 2: The Grinch is in the living room.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas cards. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
Narrator 3: The Grinch is in the bedroom.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas stockings. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Goodbye, Whoville … and goodbye, Christmas! Ha!
Narrator 3: It’s Christmas morning!

Who 1: Merry Christmas, Haruna. Merry Christmas, Hideki.

Who 2: Merry Christmas Haruki. Merry Christmas, Hideki.

Who 3: Merry Christmas, Haruki. Merry Christmas, Haruna.

Narrator 3: Merry Christmas, Whoville.

All: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Who 1: Hey! Where’s the Christmas cake? Where’s the Christmas tree?

Who 2: Wow! No Christmas presents and no candy canes.

Who 3: The Christmas cards and Christmas stockings are gone too.

All: Boo hoo!
Narrator 1: Now the Grinch is happy.

Grinch: Ha ha ha! No more Christmas! Christmas is finished! Christmas is ... wait ... what's that?

Who 1: We wish you a merry Christmas.

Who 1 + 2: We wish you a merry Christmas.

Who 1, 2 + 3: We wish you a merry Christmas.

All: And a happy new year!

Grinch: Oh! I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Whoville. Now I like Christmas.

Merry Christmas, Haruki. Merry Christmas, Haruna. Merry Christmas, Hideki.

All: Merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas.
How the Grinch Stole Christmas

This version for teachers has notes and suggestions.

The seven main characters can be at the front of the classroom. The three Whos can be on chairs in the middle, the Grinch can begin over to the left in the corner. The narrators can stand to the right.

Narrator 1: This is Whoville. The people in Whoville like Christmas.

Gestures to the three seated Whos.

Narrator 2: The boys and girls in Whoville like Christmas.
Narrator 3: The Mums and Dads in Whoville like Christmas.
Narrator 1: In Whoville, the cats and dogs like Christmas too.

Note: The three Whos have been given Japanese names here, as the script was written to use with Japanese students. Change them to suit your students.
Each Who stands up to introduce themselves.

Who 1: My name is Haruki Who. I like Christmas cake and Christmas trees.
Who 2: My name is Haruna Who. I like Christmas presents and candy canes.
Who 3: My name is Hideki Who. I like Christmas cards and Christmas stockings.

Note: The six flash cards can be on the board as prompts/reminders.

Narrator 2: And this is the Grinch. The Grinch is NOT happy.

The Whos sit down and the Grinch steps forward.
Grinch: Grrrrrrrr. I don’t like Christmas. I don’t like Christmas cake. I don’t like Christmas trees. I don’t like Christmas presents. I don’t like candy canes. I don’t like Christmas cards and I don’t like Christmas stockings.

Narrator 3: The Grinch wants to stop Christmas. No more Christmas cake, no more Christmas trees, no more Christmas presents, no more candy canes, no more Christmas cards and no more Christmas stockings.

Grinch: Ha! No more CHRISTMAS! Ha ha ha ha!

Narrator 1: In Whoville, it’s bedtime.
Narrator 1: Goodnight, Whoville
All: Goodnight!

*The Whos close their eyes and rest their heads on their hands to one side.*

Narrator 1: The Who’s are sleeping. The Grinch is in the kitchen.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas cake. Ha!
Narrator 2: The Grinch is in the living room.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas tree. Ha, ha!
Narrator 3: The Grinch is in the bedroom.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas presents. Ha, ha, ha!
Narrator 1: The Grinch is in the kitchen.
Grinch: I’ve got the candy canes. Ha, ha, ha, ha!
Narrator 2: The Grinch is in the living room.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas cards. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
Narrator 3: The Grinch is in the bedroom.
Grinch: I’ve got the Christmas stockings. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

*Goodbye, Whoville ... and goodbye, Christmas! Ha!*

*The Grinch tiptoes behind the seated (sleeping) Whos and takes each flash card from the board, placing it in a sack. He waves and returns to the corner.*
Narrator 3: It’s Christmas morning!

_The Whos wake up and stretch._

Who 1: Merry Christmas, Haruna. Merry Christmas, Hideki.
Who 2: Merry Christmas Haruki. Merry Christmas, Hideki.
Who 3: Merry Christmas, Haruki. Merry Christmas, Haruna.
Narrator 3: Merry Christmas, Whoville.
All: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

_They notice the missing flash cards._

Who 1: Hey! Where’s the Christmas cake? Where’s the Christmas tree?
Who 2: Wow! No Christmas presents and no candy canes.
Who 3: The Christmas cards and Christmas stockings are gone too.
All: Boo hoo!
Narrator 1: Now the Grinch is happy.

_The Grinch steps forward again. He addresses the audience._

Grinch: Ha ha ha! No more Christmas! Christmas is finished! Christmas is … wait … what’s that?

_The Grinch cups a hand to his ear._

Who 1: We wish you a merry Christmas.
Who 1 + 2: We wish you a merry Christmas.
Who 1, 2 + 3: We wish you a merry Christmas.
All: And a happy new year!

_The Grinch approaches the Whos._

All: Merry Christmas. We wish you a merry Christmas. (sing full song)
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

We all know that Santa’s coming,
We all know that Santa’s coming,
We all know that Santa’s coming,
And soon will be here!

Good tidings to you wherever you are;
Good tidings for Christmas, and a Happy New Year!