

CHRISTMAS LETTER SORTING MACHINE

Step 5: Once the letters are passed into the ScanTronix Letter Reading System, the name of the sender will be scanned and checked against the Naughty or Nice database. The arrow will swing to either Nice or Naughter and the letter will be pushed towards one side of the conveyor belt.

Step 1: The letters are poured into the sorting chute by a special delivery elf. This job is vital; if any letters are spilled at this point they will never reach Santa.

Step 6a: Any letters from children on the Nice list are sent into the delivery chute directly to Santa Claus's bedroom. Here, he will open them at his leisure and make a note of any requests.

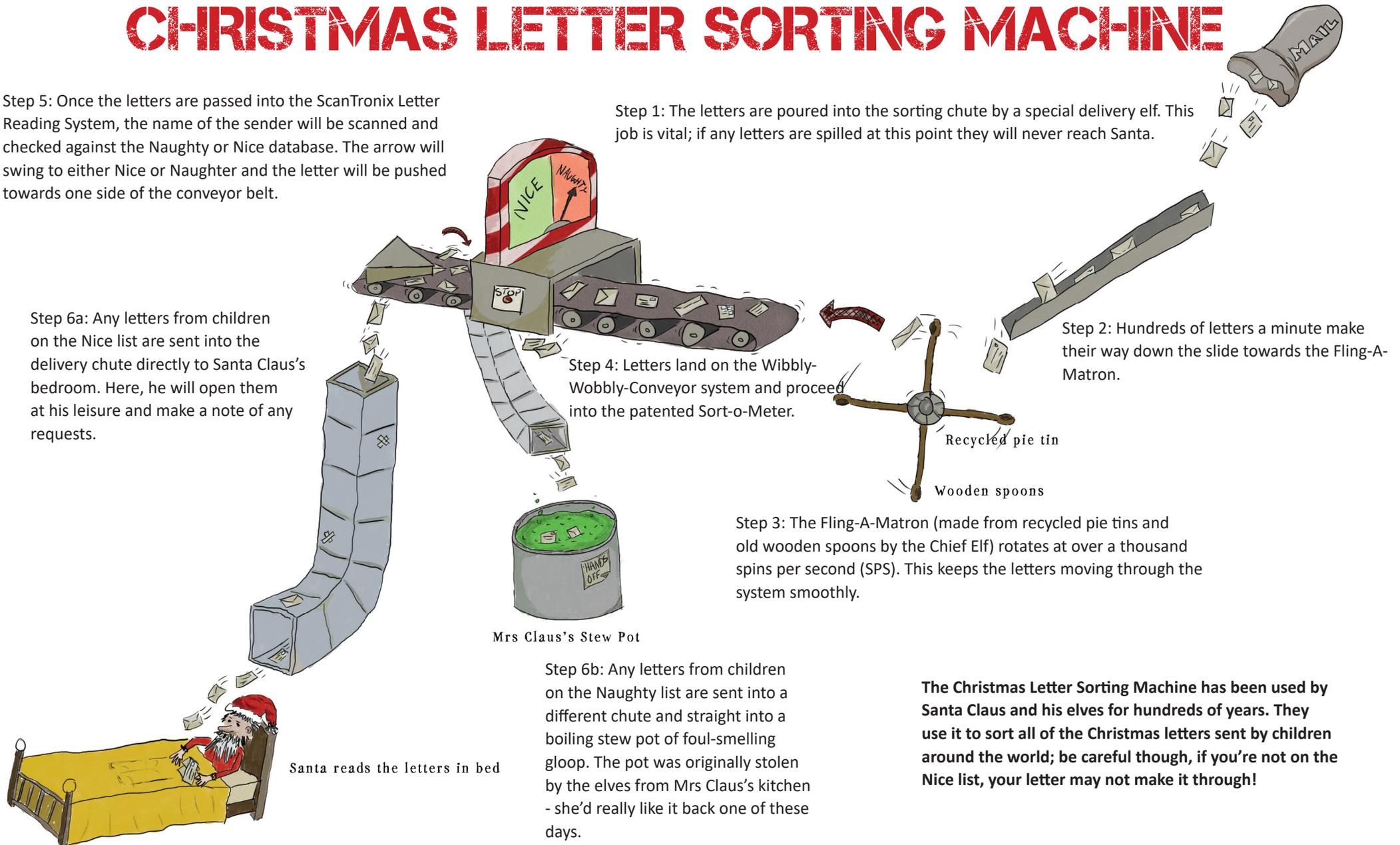
Step 4: Letters land on the Wobbly-Wobbly-Conveyor system and proceed into the patented Sort-o-Meter.

Step 2: Hundreds of letters a minute make their way down the slide towards the Fling-A-Matron.

Step 3: The Fling-A-Matron (made from recycled pie tins and old wooden spoons by the Chief Elf) rotates at over a thousand spins per second (SPS). This keeps the letters moving through the system smoothly.

Step 6b: Any letters from children on the Naughty list are sent into a different chute and straight into a boiling stew pot of foul-smelling gloop. The pot was originally stolen by the elves from Mrs Claus's kitchen - she'd really like it back one of these days.

The Christmas Letter Sorting Machine has been used by Santa Claus and his elves for hundreds of years. They use it to sort all of the Christmas letters sent by children around the world; be careful though, if you're not on the Nice list, your letter may not make it through!



RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Who originally owned the stew pot?
2. How fast does the Thing-A-Matron spin?
3. How many steps are there in the entire process?
4. What does SPS mean?
5. Who or what decides if the letters go to Santa or the stew pot?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Which word tells you that Santa doesn't rush to open the letters?

I

How does Mrs Claus feel about her pot being used for the naughty letters? How do you know?

V

Find a word that tells you the special delivery elf's job is important.

E

Explain how the ScanTronix Letter Reading System decides if letters should go one way or the other.

P

If your letter was put into the system, which way do you think it would go? Why? What about your best friends'?

Answers:

1. Mrs Claus
2. 1,000 spins per second (SPS)
3. 7
4. Spins per second
5. ScanTronix Letter Reading System

V: (At his) leisure

I: Unhappy - she would sooner get her pot back

V: Vital

E: It scans the name and checks it against the naughty or nice database

P: Any relevant prediction