

Christmas in Italy



During the Christmas holiday in Italy, an old custom is caroling and playing songs using traditional instruments. Children go out to sing dressed up like shepherds. They wear sandals and hats. The children use a traditional instrument called shepherds pipes.

It is common for families to decorate their homes with flowers and a manger scene. Stockings are hung in homes too. Children place their stockings near a fireplace or near a

Christmas in Sweden



In Sweden, many homes are decorated with straw and Christmas items two days before Christmas. Many homes have Christmas trees and ornaments made of straw. Some people place a straw goat in their home to guard their Christmas tree. Many straw Christmas decorations symbolize a manger scene with a crib.

The Christmas season begins St. Lucia's Day, which is on December 13th. People in Sweden will honor the brave St. Lucia. They honor her because she brought food to people who were hungry. She wore candles on her head to light her way. In Sweden, many families have the oldest girl in the family dress in all white. The

Christmas in France



Throughout the country of France there are homes decorated with manger scenes and cities dressed up with holiday lights. Even the Eiffel Tower is lit up with lights. The Eiffel Tower is over 300 meters tall and is located near the center of the city of Paris. It is one of the tallest man-made iron structures in the world. In recent years, the city of Paris, holds a laser light show at the Eiffel Tower during Christmastime.

In some areas of France, the Christmas season begins or is

Christmas in England



In England, homes are decorated with evergreen trees. In other places, the same evergreens are called Christmas trees. The tradition of using evergreen trees started because people believed they were magical. This belief formed because they stayed green year-round. Before Christmas Day, children write letters with their wishes to "Father Christmas". It was an old custom to toss the letter with their wishes into the fireplace. The children would then watch their wishes go up the chimney.

In some homes, children continue this custom. In other homes, children now mail their letter to Father Christmas. Did you know the ritual of mailing Christmas cards started in England?

A special day, which happens five weeks before Christmas, is called Stir-Up Sunday. On this day, people throughout England make

CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY



Did you know Germany is the place where the tradition of Christmas trees began? In Germany, it is common to see homes decorated with several Christmas trees.

Many people will also decorate their homes with Advent wreaths. The wreath is laid flat and not hung. It is made of holly and has four red candles in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas. In Germany, many people start getting ready for Christmas before the first of December. Homes with children may also have an Advent calendar. Children use an Advent calendar to count the days up to Christmas. One window is opened each day. Inside each window children see a different Christmas picture.

Christmas in Mexico



For many years, homes in Mexico are decorated with poinsettias and manger scenes. Poinsettias are plants known for their green leaves which turn a brilliant red color at the top. In North America, the plant was named after Joel Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico. He brought the plant to the United States around 1825. The poinsettia is native to Mexico. Many different legends are attached to it.

In Mexico, the Christmas season runs from the beginning of December to the first week of January. Many children and adults in Mexico take part in a celebration called, Las Posadas, which means inn. Las Posadas lasts nine evenings. The final night is Nochebuena which is what we call Christmas Eve. Throughout Mexico, there are different versions of Las Posadas. A common version is where

HAPPY KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a week long holiday that starts on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Kwanzaa is a newer holiday with traditional values. It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. He created it to promote the seven basic values of African cultures. Now people around the world recognize this holiday. Through this holiday individuals, families, and whole communities of people are strengthened.

The core values of Kwanzaa are called "Nguzo Saba". In Swahili this means Seven Principles. Swahili is a language spoken in many countries in Africa. Each day of Kwanzaa highlights a different principle. A candle is lit each of the seven days of Kwanzaa.



Principles

- Unity
- Self-Determination
- Work & Responsibility
- Cooperative Economics
- Purpose
- Creativity

Christmas in Puerto Rico

The Christmas season on the island of Puerto Rico can last a long time. In November, people begin decorating with lights and manger scenes. The season continues through December 25th which is Christmas Day. It ends on Three Kings Day on January 6th.

Puerto Ricans have many Christmas traditions. They visit family and friends. They attend parties and festivals. Many people even start Christmas caroling in late November. A "parranda" is caroling Puerto Rican style. This is when a group of people come together and go from house to house singing Christmas carols. The people from each house join in the caroling and the group grows through the evening.

In Puerto Rico people speak Spanish. On Christmas Day, they say "Feliz Navidad". This means Merry Christmas. Children receive presents from Santa Claus. In Puerto Rico, he is even called Santa Claus. He wears a red coat, has a white beard, and has reindeer pull his sled.

Many children also receive gifts on January 6th. During this time, some Puerto Rican children will dress and place it in a box for their beds. It symbolizes the gifts for Three Kings Day.

Christmas in Ireland



In Ireland, people begin decorating their homes on December 8th. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and manger scenes. Some people place candles in windowsills on Christmas Eve. Christmas celebrations run from December 24th through January 6th. On Christmas Eve, many families and friends may get together for a meal consisting of fish.

People in Ireland speak Irish. On Christmas Day, they say "Nollaig Shona Duit" which means "Happy Christmas to You". In Dublin, the Capital of Ireland, people gather to swim in Sandycove. The cove is like a lake which measures 40 feet across.

Family and friends throughout Ireland gather on Christmas Day. They eat a dinner which may have goose, ham, or spiced beef. Some people have a Christmas cake, pudding, and mince pies. Children in some parts of Ireland receive presents from Santa Claus who is called "Daidi na Nollaig". They know him as "Father Christmas". In some homes, children will leave out milk and mince pies for Santa. Children also leave out a carrot for the reindeer.

On December 26th, some people recognize St. Stephen's Day which may also be called Wren Day. On this day, boys dress up in masks made of straw and wear colorful clothing to look like a wren. Sometimes they carry a fake wren and go through their village to ask for money. In other places they may perform a traditional dance. The Christmas season ends on January 6th which is what they call "Little

18 Passages Holidays Around the World

Each passage has:
1 page of Common Core Aligned Questions,
1 Graphic Organizer for Text Evidence
& Full Answer Key

Dear Teachers,

Can you believe December is here? December is such a memorable and magical month. Use the unit to compliment any Holidays Around the World studies you may be doing in your classrooms. Ten years ago my team of TEN second grade teachers did a "Holidays Around the World" week-long study. This packet has information I collected from my team of ten, family members, and online studies. I am not an expert but my husband and I, both have diverse backgrounds. Note: I had to avoid the word "Nativity" so I substituted it with "manger scene". A manger is a long box that is open at the top. Many people know it as a trough cattle and horses eat out of. This is something you may or may not want to discuss with your students. It is my sincere hopes that you and your students enjoy this unit. If you have any suggestions for modification please send me an email at teacher247@icloud.com.

Each title below has one page for reading, one page of questions, and one page that is a cute graphic organizer to compliment the passage contents. These passages are not leveled. I recommend reading aloud to the lower primary grades. Second and up may want to read with the purpose of transporting the information and making text-to-self and text-to-world connections.

*Happy Holidays,
24/7 Teacher*

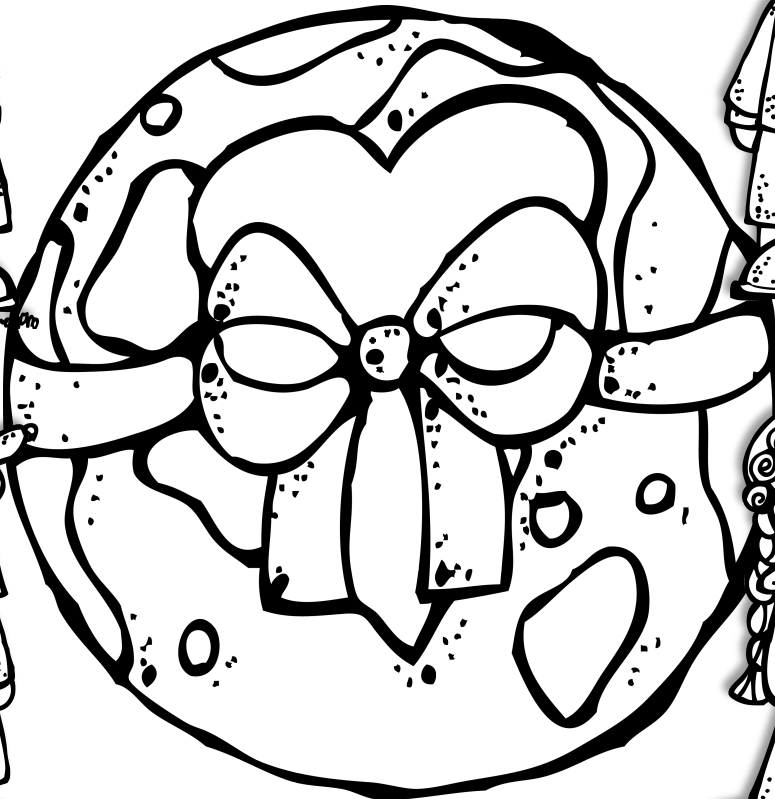
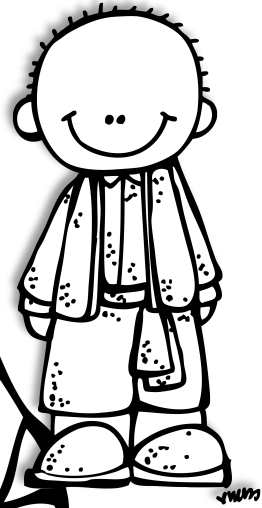
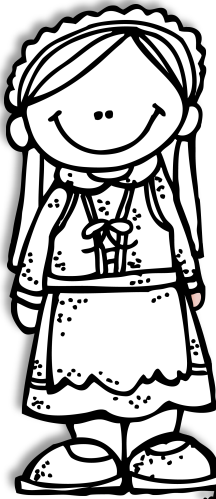
Click the title to go the passage

Christmas in Italy	Christmas in Ireland
Christmas in England	Christmas in Poland
Christmas in Germany	Christmas in Finland
Christmas in Mexico	Christmas in Japan
Christmas in Spain	Christmas in the Philippines
Christmas in Sweden	Christmas in Puerto Rico
Christmas in France	Christmas in Brazil
All About Hanukkah	Happy Kwanzaa
Christmas in Australia	Christmas in the United States

Click **here** for the passages without border for Close Reading and annotating.
Click **here** for the answer keys.

Name: _____

Holidays Around the World



Name _____

Christmas in Italy

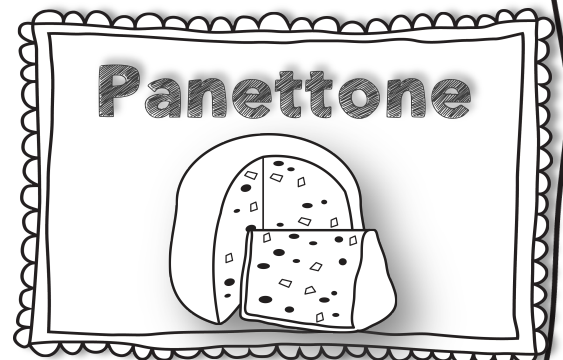


During the Christmas holiday in Italy, an old custom is caroling and playing songs using traditional instruments. Children go out to sing dressed up like shepherds. They wear sandals and hats. The children use a traditional instrument called shepherds pipes.

It is common for families to decorate their homes with flowers and a manger scene. Stockings are hung in homes too. Children place their stockings near a fireplace or near a center area within their home. In Italy,

children believe an old lady called La Befana fills their stockings with presents on January 6th.

A character similar to our Santa Claus brings presents. He is called, Babbo Natale. Many children get to open presents on Christmas morning. On Christmas Day, it is tradition for families to eat a Christmas cake. The cake is called panettone. It is a fruity sponge like cake. People say "Buon Feste Natale" which is Italian for Merry Christmas.



Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.3

1. How is Babbo Natale significant to Christmas in Italy?

RI.1

2. How are homes decorated in Italy?

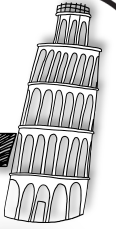
RI.1

3. What do Italians eat during the Christmas holiday?

RI.1

3. What is panettone?

- Restate the question or prompt.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove your answer.
- Explain each part of the question.



Name _____

"Buon Feste Natale"

Write one fact about
Christmas in Italy.

If you could ask the
children in Italy one
question, what would it be?

Food

**Santa-like
Character**

Name _____

Christmas in England



In England, homes are decorated with evergreen trees. In other places, the same evergreens are called Christmas trees. The tradition of using evergreen trees started because people believed they were magical. This belief formed because they stayed green year-round.

Before Christmas Day, children write letters with their wishes to "Father Christmas". It was an old custom to toss the letter with their wishes into the fireplace. The children would then watch their wishes go up the chimney.

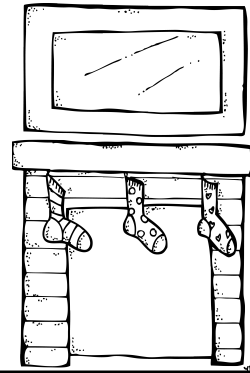
In some homes, children continue this custom. In other homes, children now mail their letter to Father Christmas. Did you know the ritual of mailing Christmas cards started in England?

A special day, which happens five weeks before Christmas, is called Stir-Up Sunday. On this day, people throughout England make Christmas desserts. One of the desserts is called plum pudding, which is a cake-like dessert. Sometimes people put a coin in the plum pudding. It is said that the person who finds the coin will have good luck.

On Christmas Day, English families and friends come together to eat a lunchtime feast. Many people place a colorful Christmas cracker next to their plate. The cracker is a paper-covered tube which makes a loud cracking noise. The sound happens when the ends are pulled. Inside the tube, guests may find a paper hat to wear during the meal. Some people will also put a riddle or other small knick-knacks inside.

Did you know the people of England speak English? On Christmas they say, "Happy Christmas" which means Merry Christmas. In some homes, they hang stockings just like we do. In other homes they hang pillowcases at the ends of their beds. Children wake up on Christmas morning with their stockings or pillowcases filled with gifts from "Father Christmas". He is like our Santa Claus.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.



RI.1

1. How are homes decorated in England?

RI.1

2. What is Stir-Up Sunday?

RI.1

3. What is a Christmas cracker?

RI.8

4. How does the author support the statement, "The tradition of using evergreen trees started because people believed they were magical."

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Happy Christmas!"



Decorations

A large, empty oval shape intended for a child to draw Christmas decorations.

If you could ask a child in England one question about Christmas, what would it be?

A large, empty circle shape intended for a child to write a question about Christmas.

Christmas Cracker

A large, empty oval shape intended for a child to draw a Christmas cracker.

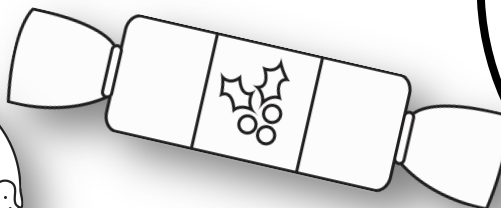
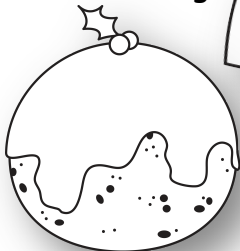
Santa-Like Character

A large, empty oval shape intended for a child to draw a Santa-like character.

Write one fact about Christmas in England.

A large, empty circle shape intended for a child to write a fact about Christmas in England.

Plum Pudding



Christmas Cracker



Name _____

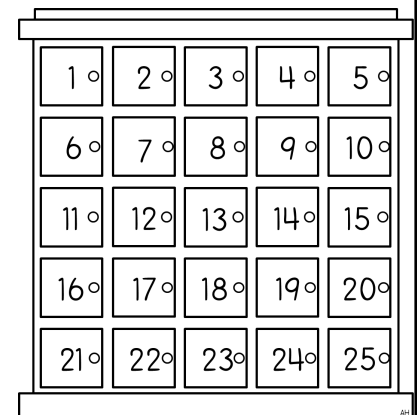
CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY

Did you know Germany is the place where the tradition of Christmas trees began? All over the world many homes have at least one Christmas tree during Christmastime. In Germany, it is common to see homes decorated with several Christmas trees.

Many people will also decorate their homes with Advent wreaths. The wreath is laid flat and not hung. It is made of holly and has four red candles in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas. In Germany, many people start getting ready for Christmas before the first of December. Homes with children may also have an Advent calendar. Children use an Advent calendar to count the days up to Christmas. One window is opened each day. Inside each window children see a different Christmas picture.

Many German children write notes to Christkindl or Christkind. He is like our Santa Claus. These letters are left on windowsills. Some say the character is invisible while others say he's a winged man who wears a white robe and golden crown. On Christmas Eve, gifts are left for children on Christmas morning.

On Christmas Day, people in Germany say, "Froehliche Weihnachten". That is the German way of saying, "Merry Christmas". Gingerbread comes from Germany. In December across Germany, the aroma of gingerbread fills the air. Families and friends across the world enjoy gingerbread throughout the Christmas season.



Advent Calendar

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. How do people decorate their homes in Germany?

2. Describe Christmas for children in Germany. What do they do?

3. What do people eat during the Christmas season in Germany?

4. What are two Christmas items seen around the world that got their start in Germany?

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

"Froehliche Weihnachten!"

Name _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

If you could ask one question to a child in Germany about Christmas, what would it be?



Write about each of the below.

Write one fact about Christmas in Germany.

Food

Decorations

Santa-like Character

Name: _____

Christmas in Mexico

For many years, homes in Mexico are decorated with poinsettias and manger scenes. Poinsettias are plants known for their green leaves which turn a brilliant red color at the top. In North America, the plant was named after Joel Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico. He brought the plant to the United States around 1825. The poinsettia is native to Mexico. Many different legends are attached to it.



In Mexico, the Christmas season runs from the beginning of December to the first week of January. Many children and adults in Mexico take part in a celebration called, Las Posadas, which means inn. Las Posadas lasts nine evenings. The final night is Nochebuena which is what we call Christmas Eve. Throughout Mexico, there are different versions of Las Posadas. A common version is where people dress up like shepherds and walk in a parade. Throughout the parade, they sing and ask to enter three different homes. The first two homes don't let them in. The third house lets everyone enter. Then they take part in a feast which sometimes includes a roasted pig. In some places in Mexico the children will get to break open a piñata. The piñata is often shaped like a star and has candy or small gifts inside. By the time the festivities are over, it is Christmas Day.

In Mexico, people speak Spanish and say "Feliz Navidad". This means Merry Christmas in English. In recent years, people in Mexico recognize Santa Claus. In some parts he is called Santa Claus and in other parts he is called San Nicolas or Papi Noel. He dressed in the traditional red coat and has a long white beard and is believed to be the person who brings gifts to children.

On January 6th, people throughout Mexico celebrate Three Kings Day. In Spanish they call it, "Dia de los Tres Reyes". On this day children receive gifts. Friends and families come together to eat a round sweet bread called "Rosca de Reyes" which means Three Kings' Bread.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.3

1. What is the reason the author mentions the name, "Joel Poinsett"?

RI.1

2. How do people decorate their homes during the Christmas season in Mexico?

RI.1

3. Describe San Nicolas. Use evidence from the text.

RI.1

4. Tell about what the children in Mexico do during the Christmas season.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

Christmas in the Mexico

Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Feliz Navidad!"

Write one fact about
Christmas in Mexico.

Write about each of the
topics in each box.

Food

Decorations

Santa-like Character

Write about gift giving in Mexico.



Name _____

Christmas in Spain

In Spain, they practice many traditions both old and new. Many homes are decorated with lights, Christmas trees, holly, and manger scenes.

A countrywide tradition is the Christmas Lottery. This lottery has been held in almost the exact same way as when it started in 1812. The Christmas Lottery is known to some as, “El Gordo”, which means The Fat One. Others call it, “Loteria de Navidad”, which means Christmas Lottery. It is one of the longest running lotteries in the world.

Christmas Eve is known as “Nochebuena” which means “Good Night”. Many families in Spain celebrate Christmas Eve by lighting tiny oil lamps and having a large feast. The main entree for the Christmas Eve feast consists of fish, pork, or lamb. A common treat is turrón. It is a sweet dessert made with almonds.

Christmas Day is spent in a calm manner. In Spanish they say, “Feliz Navidad”, which means Merry Christmas. Some families in Spain recognize a character-like Santa called Papa Noel. He leaves children small presents, but the main day for giving presents happens on Three Kings Day. In Spain they call it, “El Dia de Reyes”.

On January 5th, the eve of Three Kings Day, children may leave a shoe on their windowsills. The shoe is filled with straw, carrots, and barley for the horses of the Three Kings. The next morning the straw, carrots, and barley are gone and the shoe is filled with small presents.



RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. What do children in Spain do during the Christmas season?

2. How do people decorate their homes during the Christmas season in Spain?

3. Describe Santa Claus. Use evidence from the text.

4. Describe the lottery during Christmastime in Spain.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

"Feliz Navidad!"

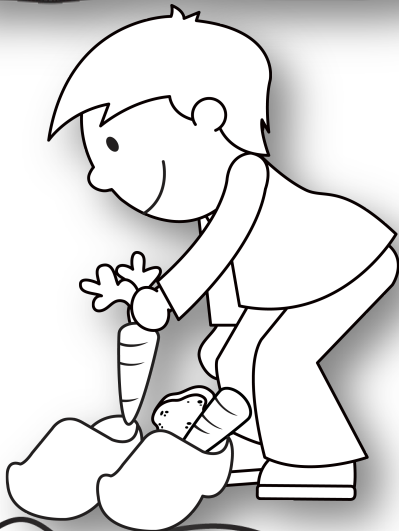
Directions: Describe each of the following.

Food

Write about the traditions in Spain.

Decorations

If you could ask one question to a child
in Spain about Christmas,
What would it be?



Name _____

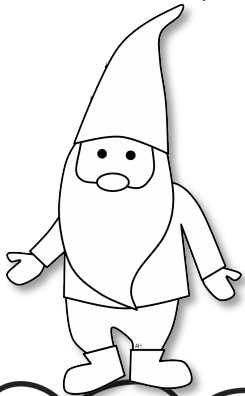
Christmas in Sweden

In Sweden, many homes are decorated with straw and Christmas items two days before Christmas. Many homes have Christmas trees and ornaments made of straw. Some people place a straw goat in their home to guard their Christmas tree. Many straw Christmas decorations symbolize a manger scene with a crib.



The Christmas season begins St. Lucia's Day, which is on December 13th. People in Sweden will honor the brave St. Lucia. They honor her because she brought food to people who were hungry. She wore candles on her head to light her way. In Sweden, many families have the oldest girl in the family dress in all white. The girl wears a wreath with candles on her head. She walks through the home to each person's room to serve them with coffee and buns.

On Christmas Eve, families have a buffet style smorgasbord. After the Christmas Eve dinner, some families will have someone dress up as a "tomte" or Christmas gnome. This person hands out presents to children. The tomte is a character similar to an elf and resembles Santa Claus. He is dressed in other colorful clothes, has a white beard, and gives presents from a sack.



On Christmas Day, people say Merry Christmas as "God Jul I Sverige" or "Gledelig Jul".

RI.1

Directions: Find the underlined word in the text.
Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. How are homes decorated in Sweden?

2. Why is St. Lucia Day celebrated?

3. Describe what children do during Christmastime.

4. How do families recognize St. Lucia Day?

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

“God Jul I Sverige”



Traditions:

Decorations:



Straw Goat

Write one fact about Christmas in Sweden.

Name _____

Christmas in France

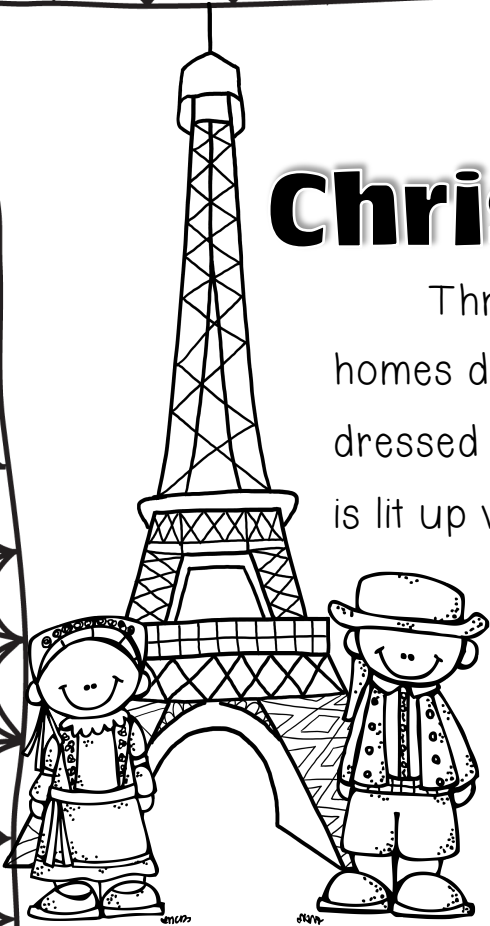
Throughout the country of France there are homes decorated with manger scenes and cities dressed up with holiday lights. Even the Eiffel Tower is lit up with lights. The Eiffel Tower is over 300

meters tall and is located near the center of the city of Paris. It is one of the tallest man-made iron structures in the world.

In recent years, the city of Paris, holds a laser light show at the Eiffel Tower during Christmastime.

In some areas of France, the Christmas season begins or is recognized on St. Nicholas Day which falls on the 6th of December. On this day, children sometimes get small gifts and sweet treats. In France, it is somewhat uncommon to find homes with Christmas trees. Some homes practice the old tradition of lighting a Yule Log on Christmas Eve. A traditional Yule Log is made out of Cherry Wood. It is very large! Because fireplaces in France are uncommon now, many families make a Yule Log cake. The cake is called, "Buche de Noel", which means Yule Log.

On Christmas Eve, many children leave a shoe near a fireplace or manger scene. On Christmas morning, the shoe overflows with presents from Father Christmas who is known as "Pere Noel". In France people say "Joyeux Noel" which means Merry Christmas.



Directions: Find the underlined word in the text.
Answer the questions in complete sentences.

RI.3

1. Why does the author refer to the Eiffel Tower?

RI.3

2. Describe the beginning of the Christmas season.

RI.3

3. How has the yule log changed through the years? Why?

RI.1

4. When do children get presents in France?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.



If you could ask a child in France one question about Christmas, what would it be?

A large, empty oval shape intended for a student to write their answer to the question above.

Write one fact about Christmas in France.

A large, empty oval shape intended for a student to write a fact about Christmas in France.

Name _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Joyeux Noel!"

Decorations

A large, empty oval shape intended for a student to describe Christmas decorations.

Food

A large, empty oval shape intended for a student to describe Christmas food.

Santa-Like Character

A large, empty oval shape intended for a student to describe a Santa-like character.

Yule Log



This boy and girl are dressed in traditional clothing of Israel.

Name _____



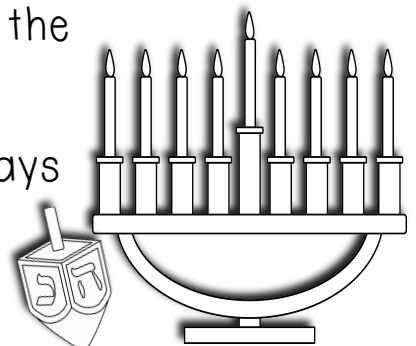
All About Hanukkah

Across the world, Jewish families celebrate Hanukkah. This eight day holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights. The start of Hanukkah falls during late November to early December. Hanukkah first started in Israel.

Hanukkah is not a Christmas holiday. This Jewish holiday started long before Christmas. Throughout Hanukkah, families will eat many different fried foods. Fried foods are eaten to recognize the importance of oil. Families enjoy potato pancakes called “latkes”. They also eat delicious jelly-filled doughnuts called “sufganiots”. Gifts of gold covered chocolate coins called “gelt” are given to children.

People exchange gifts with one another during each night of Hanukkah. Common presents are books, games, and money. Families enjoy playing with a small toy called a “dreidel”. Also known as a “sevivon,” a dreidel is a small four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side.

Families who recognize Hanukkah will have a set of candles. A candelabrum called a “Menorah”, is also known in the ancient language of Hebrew as a Hanukkah. The candles are lit from left to right during the eight days of Hanukkah. The center candle is called a “shamash”. It is used to light the others.



RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Where did Hanukkah begin?

2. Which holiday started first: Hanukkah or Christmas?

3. What is a dreidel?

4. Fully explain what gelt is as described in the text.

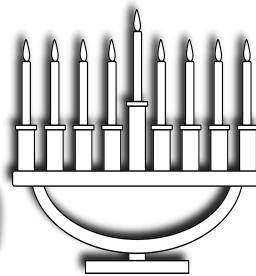
Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____



All About Hanukkah



Presents

A large rectangular box with a decorative border made of small vertical lines. It is intended for drawing or writing about Hanukkah presents.

Food

A large rectangular box with a decorative border made of small vertical lines. It is intended for drawing or writing about Hanukkah food.

Traditions

A large rectangular box with a decorative border made of small vertical lines. It is intended for drawing or writing about Hanukkah traditions.

Fun

A large rectangular box with a decorative border made of small vertical lines. It is intended for drawing or writing about Hanukkah fun.

Name _____

Christmas in Australia



Christmas in Australia happens during their summertime. It is said that Santa changes into more comfortable clothing when he arrives there. It is also said that he gives his reindeer a break and uses six kangaroos who are called the “six white boomers”.

Children in Australia even sing a song called “Six White Boomers”.

In Australia, homes are decorated with a Christmas Bush. This Christmas Bush is a native Australian tree. It has small green leaves and cream colored flowers. Across the country, cities and homes are decorated with lights. Just like in America, Christmas wreaths are hung on doors.

Like many other countries across the world, Christmas in Australia is a time families and friends come together. People say “Happy Christmas” which is the same as “Merry Christmas”. In many homes throughout the country, people will enjoy meals with roast duck, turkey, ham, seafood, and pork. For dessert, many people enjoy Christmas cakes, puddings, and custards. Because the weather can reach up to 90 degrees, some people have barbecues and picnics on Christmas Day.



RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Why does Santa Claus change clothes in Australia?

2. What are the “six white boomers”?

3. Why does Santa Claus use kangaroo instead of his reindeer in Australia?

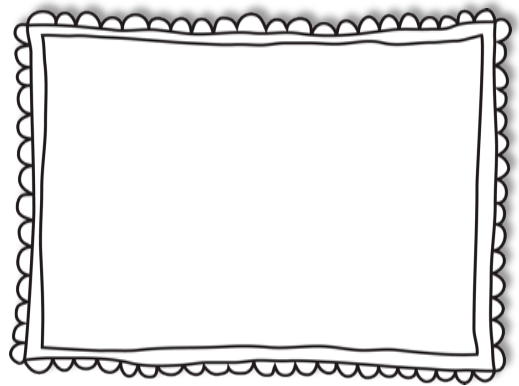
4. Why do people have barbecues and picnics on Christmas in Australia?

Did You R-A-C-E?

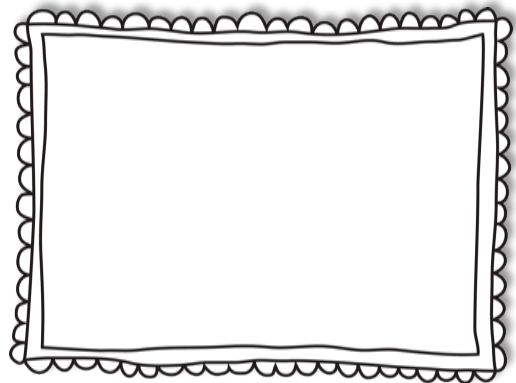
- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.



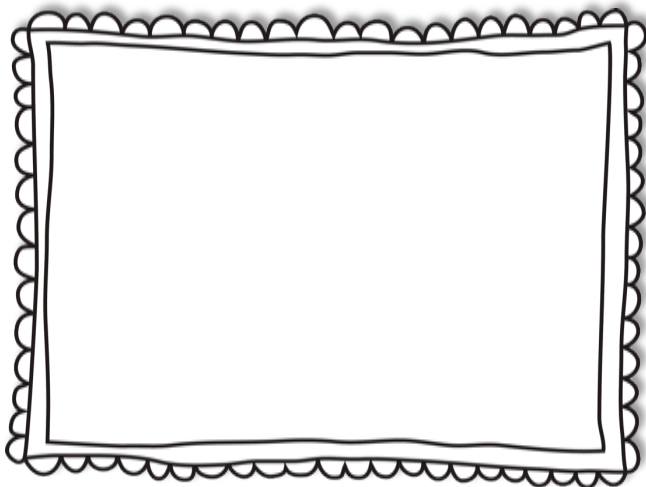
Santa



Food

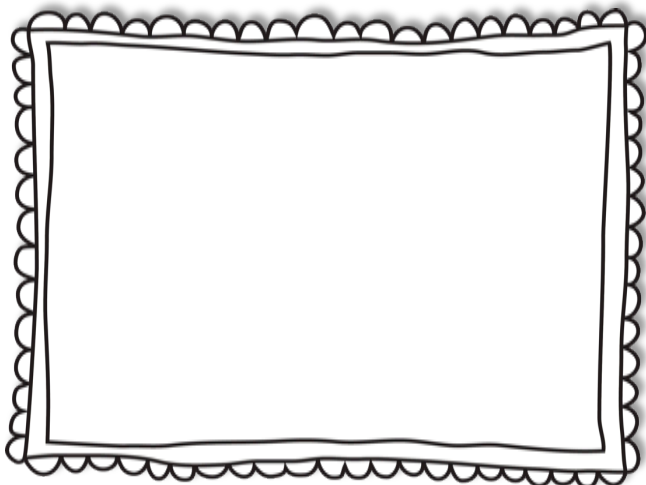


Decorations



"Happy Christmas!"

Traditions



Name _____

Christmas in Ireland

In Ireland, people begin decorating their homes on December 8th. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and manger scenes. Some people place candles in windowsills on Christmas Eve. Christmas celebrations run from December 24th through January 6th.

On Christmas Eve, many families and friends may get together for a meal consisting of fish. Some children will leave out milk and mince pies for Santa. Children also leave out a carrot for the reindeer.

People in Ireland speak Irish. On Christmas Day, they say “Nollaig Shona Duit” which means “Happy Christmas to You”. In Dublin, the Capital of Ireland, people gather to swim in Sandycove. The cove is like a lake which measures 40 feet across.

Family and friends throughout Ireland gather on Christmas Day. They eat a dinner which may have goose, ham, or spiced beef. Some people have a Christmas cake, pudding, and mince pies. Children in some parts of Ireland receive presents from Santa Claus who is called “Daidi na Nollaig”. They know him as “Father Christmas”.

On December 26th, some people recognize St. Stephan’s Day which may also be called Wren Day. On this day, boys dress up in masks made of straw and wear colorful clothing to look like a wren. Sometimes they carry a fake wren and go through their village to ask for money. In other places they may perform a traditional dance. The Christmas season comes to an end on January 6th which is what they call “Little Christmas”. On this day, many people take down their Christmas decorations and give small gifts.



RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. How are homes decorated in Ireland?

2. What do people do on Christmas Eve?

3. What do people do on Christmas Day?

4. Describe the end of the Christmas season.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

“Nollaig Shona Duit”

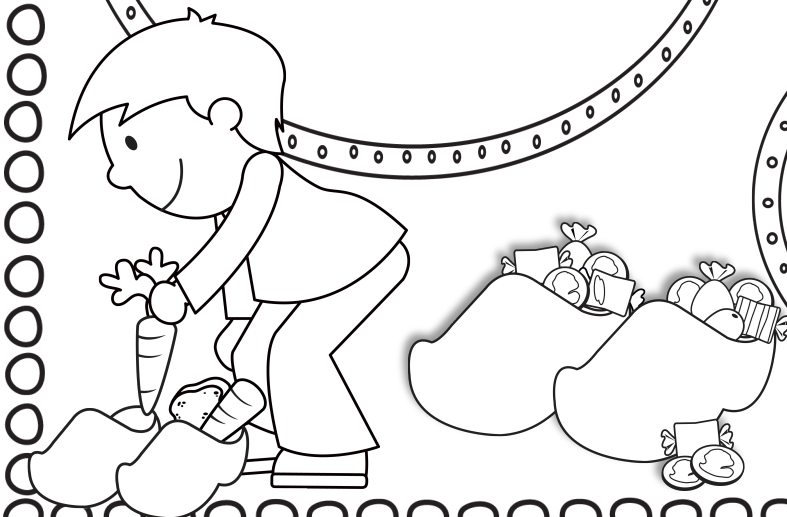
Traditions

Decorations

Food

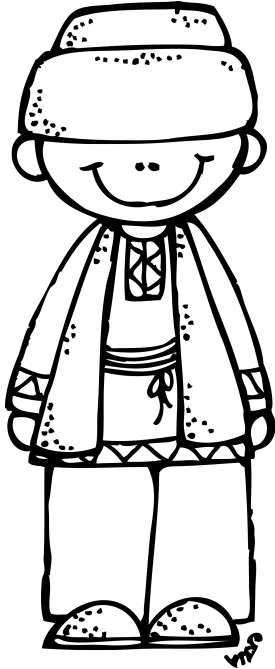
Write one fact about
Christmas in Ireland.

Santa-Like Character



Name _____

Christmas in Poland



In Poland, people decorate their homes with Christmas trees, manger scenes, mistletoe, candles, and wreaths. Some people in Poland choose to put up their Christmas tree on Christmas Eve.

Throughout Poland, many people continue Christmas celebrations until January 6th. On this day, they have star carriers called “gwiazdory”, walk through villages.

In some places throughout Poland, children celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6th. In Poland, Santa Claus is known as St. Nicholas. Like Santa Claus, he leaves presents during the night. He walks with a long cane and looks a lot like our Santa Claus.

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, families may gather for a feast which happens after the first star of the evening is shown. Some people pour wax onto water and tell fortunes from the shapes that appear. It is also tradition for people to clean their home real good on Christmas Eve. Some families enjoy a “Star Supper”. They may eat rye bread and a sauerkraut dish with noodles or cabbage.

In Poland, people speak Polish. On Christmas Day people say “Wesolych Swiat” which is Polish for Merry Christmas.

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Describe the Santa Claus character in Poland.

2. How do people in Poland decorate their homes?

3. What language do people in Poland speak?

4. What do people do on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name: _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Wesołych Świąt!"

St. Nicholas
Day

Christmas
Eve and
Christmas
Day

Same

Decorations

Food

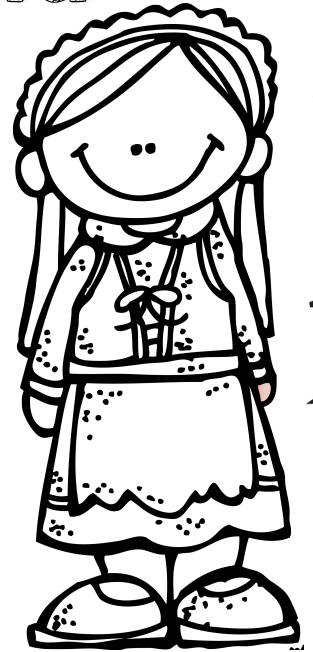


Name _____

Christmas in Finland

In Finland, Christmas celebrations begin in many homes the week before Christmas. Families begin by cleaning their homes thoroughly. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and lights. Farmers also tie sheaf grain, nuts, and seeds to a pole for birds.

In Finland, people speak Finnish or the Swedish language. In north Finland there is a city called Korvatunturi. In English it is called Lapland. This city lies within the Arctic Circle. Inside the city is a park called "Christmas Land" and village called "Santa Claus Village". Many children believe Santa Claus, also called Father Christmas, lives there with his elves. Children in Finland and from all over the world write letters to Father Christmas. An old Finnish character, remembered but not widely recognized, is a Christmas goat called "Joulupukki". Legend says that this goat used to ask for presents and in later years started giving out presents.



On Christmas Eve, some families gather to eat rice porridge and plum fruit juice for breakfast. After children go to bed on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas comes with elves to leave gifts. On Christmas Day, many people say "Hyvaa Joulua" which means "Merry Christmas". Many families gather to eat dinner. They eat a feast with casseroles, cod fish, ham, or turkey. On Christmas Day, children get presents from Father Christmas. An old tradition on Christmas Day is for people to go into a steam bath. A steam bath is a warm room with steam.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. What is in Lapland?

2. Where do Finnish children believe Father Christmas lives?

3. What do people in Finland do on Christmas Eve?

4. What do people do on Christmas Day?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

Christmas in Finland

Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Hyvää Joulua!"

Traditions

Food

Santa Claus

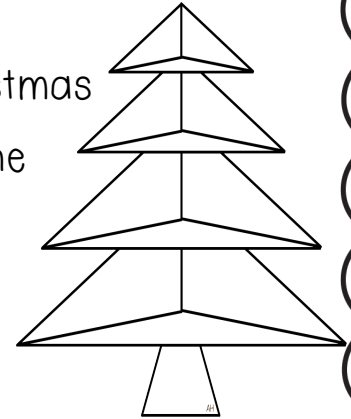


Name _____

Christmas in Japan

Japan is another country that celebrates Christmas. In Japan, Christmas is not a federal holiday, but more of a recreational holiday. Christmas was first introduced when Europeans visited in the 1600's. It is celebrated with Christmas Eve and continues with Christmas Day on the 25th. The whole country of Japan has recently started celebrating the holiday more and more every year.

Origami
Christmas Tree



During Christmatime in Japan, many stores start selling lights, decorations, and Christmas trees. Some parks and public places will decorate with lights and snowmen. Many families make origami decorations.

Christmas Eve is especially important to young women. During Christmas Eve, young couples treat this like an extraordinary date. They will go out to eat and exchange gifts.

Young children experience Christmas with presents from a character like Santa Claus called "Hotei-Osho". Hotei-Osho is a Buddhist monk and places presents in front of every child's home. On Christmas, people open gifts and enjoy a traditional Christmas cake made with sponge cake, whipped cream, and strawberries. During Christmas, people greet each other by saying "Meri Kurisumasu". It means "Merry Christmas" in Japanese.



Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.1

1. When did Japan begin celebrating the Christmas holiday?

2. How do Japanese decorate for the Christmas season?

3. What do people in Japan do on Christmas Eve?

4. What do people do on Christmas Day?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

Christmas in Japan

Directions: Describe each of the following.

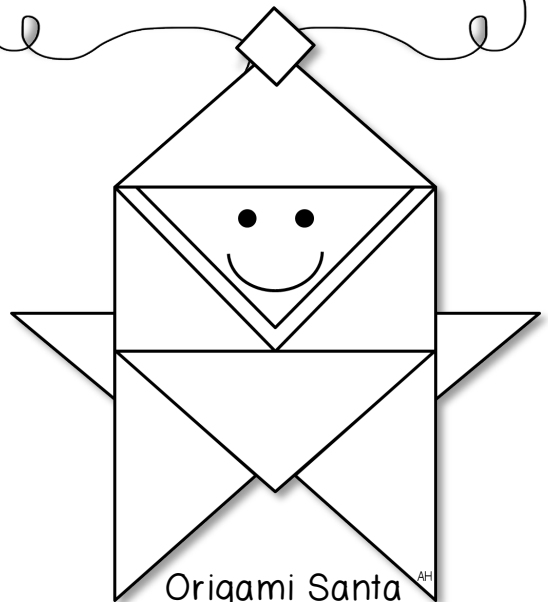
“Meri Kurisumasu”

Traditions

Food

Santa Claus
Character

Decorations



Origami Santa ^{AH}

Name _____

Christmas in Puerto Rico

The Christmas season on the island of Puerto Rico can last a long time. In November, people begin decorating with lights and manger scenes. The season continues through December 25th which is Christmas Day. It ends on Three Kings Day on January 6th.

Puerto Ricans have many Christmas traditions. They visit family and friends. They attend parties and festivals. Many people even start Christmas caroling in late November. A “parranda” is caroling Puerto Rican style. This is when a group of people come together and



go from house to house singing Christmas carols. The people from each house join in the caroling and the group grows through the evening.

In Puerto Rico people speak Spanish. On Christmas Day, they say “Feliz Navidad”. This means Merry Christmas. Children receive presents from Santa Claus. In Puerto Rico, he is even called Santa Claus. He wears a red coat, has a white beard, and has reindeer pull his sled.

Many children also receive gifts on January 6th. During this time, some Puerto Rican children will collect grass and place it in a box under their beds. It symbolizes feeding camels for Three Kings Day.

RI.1

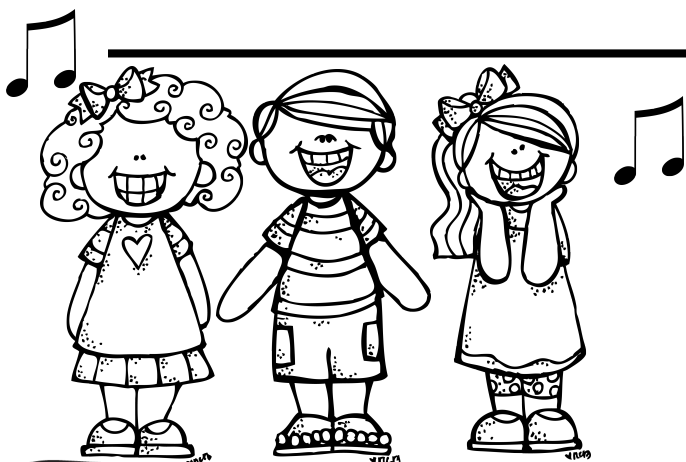
Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. How do people decorate their homes in Puerto Rico?

2. What is a parranda?

3. When do children in Puerto Rico get presents?

4. Describe Santa Claus in Puerto Rico.



Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Feliz Navidad!

Name _____

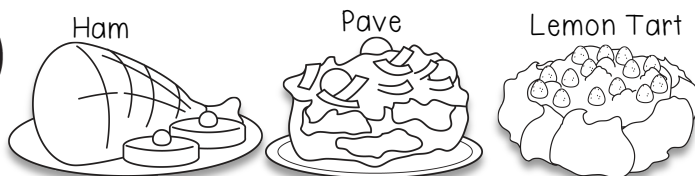
Directions: Describe each of the following.

Parranda



Food

Decorations



Name _____

Christmas in Brazil

Brazil is one of the largest countries in South America that celebrates Christmas. The country has been celebrating the holiday for hundreds of years. Cities in Brazil will decorate with lights and large decorated Christmas trees.

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, many children will place a sock out the window for Papai Noel or Father Noel to fill or exchange it for a gift. Like Santa Claus, he brings gifts for children on Christmas Day, December 25th. Because the weather in Brazil is tropical, Papai Noel is dressed in light silk clothing.

Throughout December, there are many festivals and “churrascos” or barbecues. On both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Brazilians will have traditional foods that usually include a turkey. They also have hams, rice, salads, tropical fruits and vegetables. For dessert, many people enjoy a lemon tart and “pave”. Pave is a layered dessert with cookies, creams, and fruit.

At the beginning of December, there is also a tradition to have an amigo secreto. People will write their names on paper and draw the names randomly. The person’s name they get, will become their “amigo secreto” or secret friend. On Christmas Day, they will reveal themselves and give their friend a gift. The people of Brazil speak Portuguese. In Portuguese they say “Feliz Natal” which means Merry Christmas.

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. What evidence in the text shows that Brazil is warm during the Christmastime?

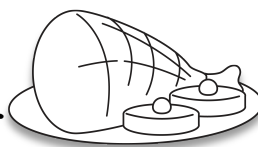
2. Why do people in Brazil have “churrascos”?

3. What evidence shows the meaning of Papai Noel?

4. Describe an “amigo secreto”?

Did You R-A-C-E?

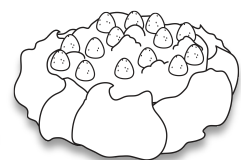
- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.



Ham



Pave



Lemon Tart

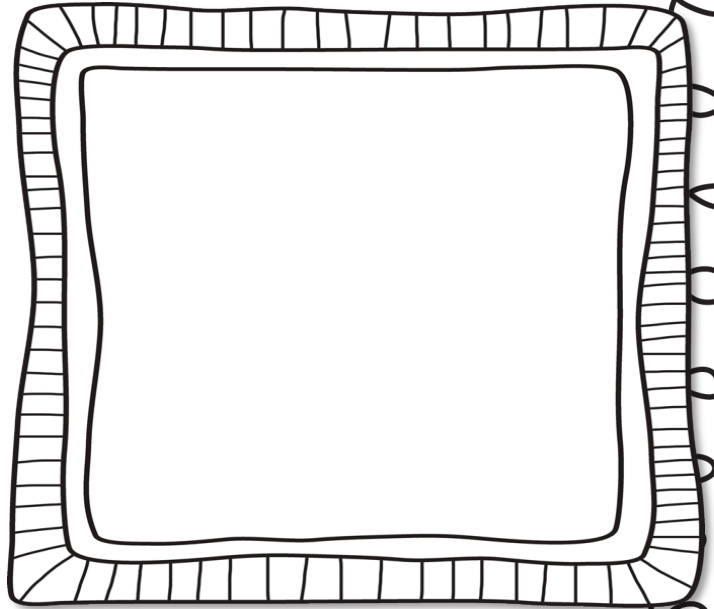
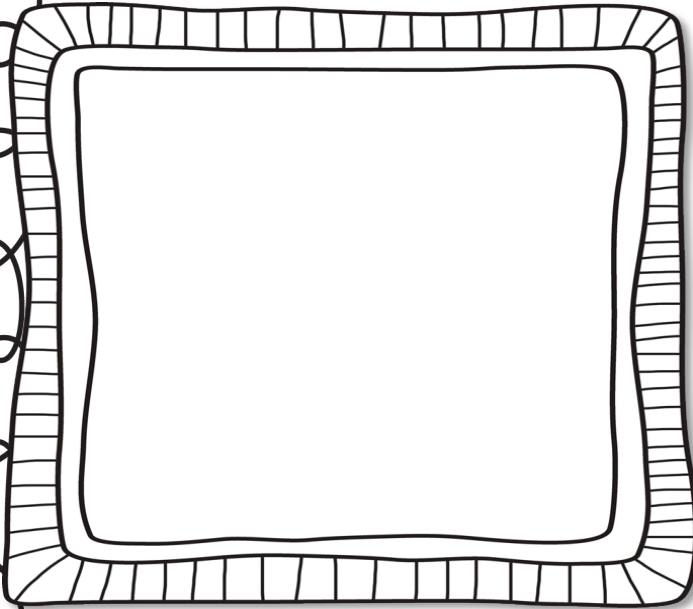
Name _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Feliz Natal!"

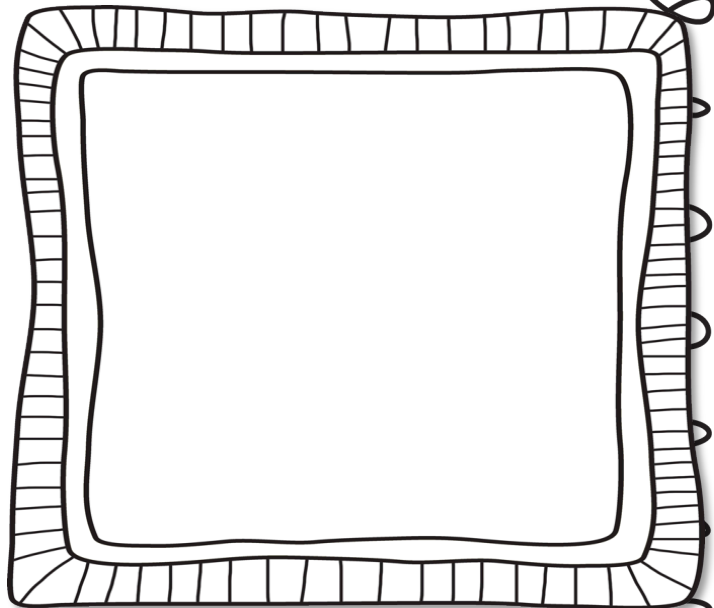
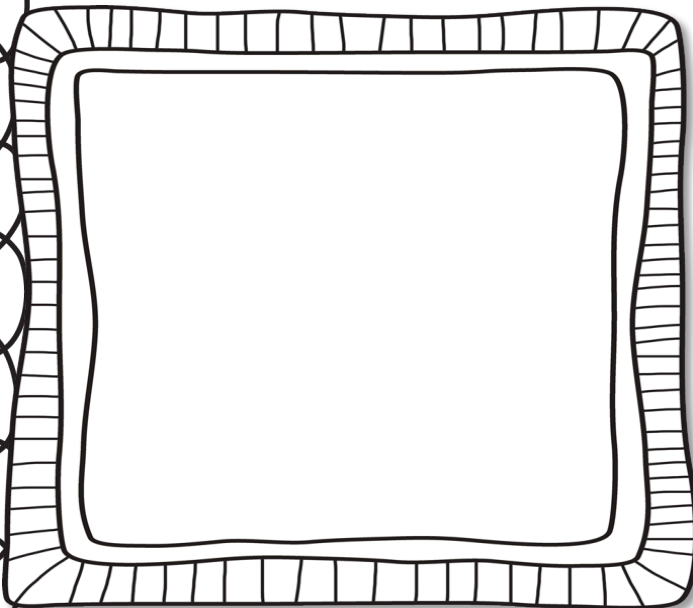
Traditions

Food



Christmas Eve

Christmas



Name _____

Christmas in the Philippines

The Philippines has the longest Christmas season in the world. People start Christmas caroling as early as September and call it “pangangaroling”. The Christmas season will end on the third week of January for a special day called “Santo Nino de Cebu”. For the Philippines, many traditions have been the same for centuries.

The Christmas season in the Philippines has many decorations. Some homes will decorate and display a five pointed star called a “parol”. The parols will usually have two decorated tails hanging at the bottom tips of the star. Other decorations people use are manger scenes and Christmas trees. On Christmas Eve in the Philippines, people will have feasts.

Just like countries all over the world, children in the Philippines receive presents from Santa Claus. In the Philippines, Santa Claus is spelled as Santa-Klaus. He wears a red coat and has a white beard.

On Christmas, people open presents. In the Philippines it is tradition to visit and pay respects to elders. This is called “Pagmamano” and for the young people that practice it, the elders usually give money in return. Christmas Day continues with meals, parties, songs, and games. Most people in the Philippines speak two languages. They speak English and the native language called “Tagalog”. Tagalog has many Spanish words. They say “Merry Christmas” and “Maligayang Pasko” in Tagalog.



Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.1

1. Describe how each Christmas holiday begins in the Philippines.

2. How are homes decorated in the Philippines?

3. What do people in the Philippines do on Christmas Eve?

4. Describe what people do on the day of Christmas?

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

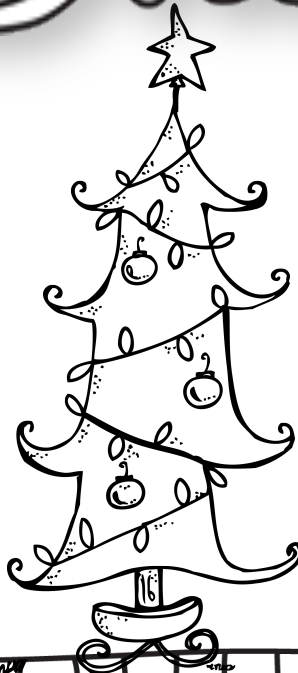
Directions: Describe each of the following.

"Maligayang Pasko!"

Traditions

Christmas Season

Write about the Christmas season.

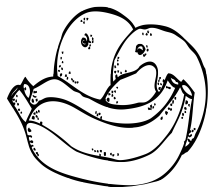


Name: _____

Happy Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week long holiday that starts on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Kwanzaa is a newer holiday with traditional values. It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. He created it to promote the seven basic values of African cultures. Now people around the world recognize this holiday. Through this holiday individuals, families, and whole communities of people are strengthened.

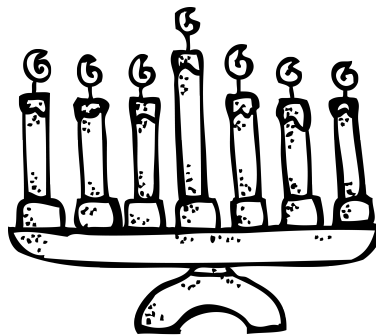
The core values of Kwanzaa are called “Nguzo Saba”. In Swahili it means Seven Principles. Swahili is a language spoken in many countries in Africa. The days of Kwanzaa include feasts, visiting family, and community events. Each day of Kwanzaa highlights a different principle. A candle is lit each of the seven days of Kwanzaa.



The crops symbolize work.



Gifts symbolize the seven principles



The candleholder symbolizes ancestors.

Principles

Unity

Self-Determination

Work & Responsibility

Cooperative Economics

Purpose

Creativity

Faith

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Is Kwanzaa a Christmas holiday?

2. Who is Dr. Maulana Karenga?

3. Why was Kwanzaa created?

4. What happens each day of Kwanzaa?



Did You R-A-C-E?

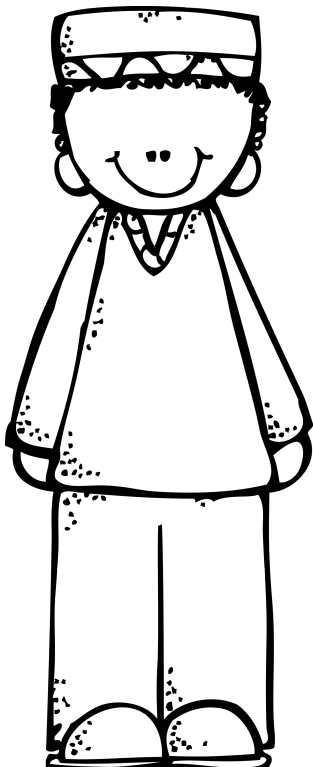
- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Name _____

Directions: Describe each of the following.

Happy Kwanzaa

Purpose of the holiday:



What do people do during Kwanzaa?



Name _____

Christmas in the United States

Christmas is the most popular holiday in the United States. It has been celebrated since the first colonists started populating North America. They brought many of their Christmas traditions from numerous places around the world. These traditions have become a common practice among most Americans. The Christmas holiday in the United States is so large that it has influenced many other countries around the world.

The Christmas season begins the day after Thanksgiving on the last week of November. There are a few places that even celebrate Christmas in July. The first thing many people do for Christmas is “go on a shopping spree”. All stores will have holiday sales and Americans take advantage while prices are low. People will even buy gifts for themselves. Many Americans will donate their time and gifts to family, friends, people in need, and even strangers.

There are traditions in the U.S. that have remained the same. Decorations are displayed everywhere from homes, parks, and stores. Schools will usually have Christmas or holiday concerts. People go Christmas caroling. There are many parades that include Santa Claus. Christmas trees, Santa Claus, and Christmas music are found almost everywhere. During the week of Christmas to New Year’s Day, people will have feasts, exchange gifts, and have Christmas parties. Americans travel more during the holiday than any other time of the year to visit others, attend sporting events, and do other activities.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. When did Christmas in the United States begin?

2. Cite evidence from the text to show two things people give during Christmastime.

3. What do people do during the week of Christmas?

4. The author stated, "The first thing many people do for Christmas is "go on a shopping spree". How does the author support this statement?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

"Merry Christmas"



Activities
during
Christmastime

Beginning of
Christmas

Giving

Passages without Border

You can use this with your students for text coding and/or annotating in the margins.

Name _____

Christmas in Italy

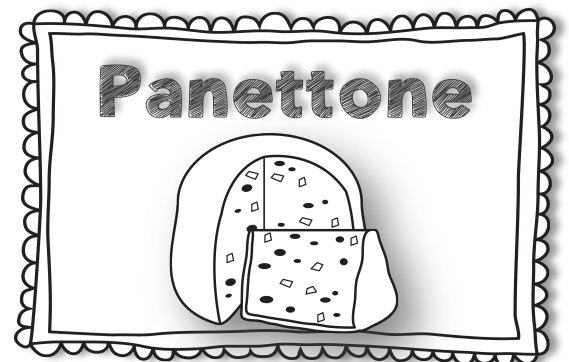


During the Christmas holiday in Italy, an old custom is caroling and playing songs using traditional instruments. Children go out to sing dressed up like shepherds. They wear sandals and hats. The children use a traditional instrument called shepherds pipes.

It is common for families to decorate their homes with flowers and a manger scene. Stockings are hung in homes too. Children place their stockings near a fireplace or near a center area within their home. In Italy,

children believe an old lady called La Befana fills their stockings with presents on January 6th.

A character similar to our Santa Claus brings presents. He is called, Babbo Natale. Many children get to open presents on Christmas morning. On Christmas Day, it is tradition for families to eat a Christmas cake. The cake is called panettone. It is a fruity sponge like cake. People say “Buon Feste Natale” which is Italian for Merry Christmas.



Name _____

Christmas in England



In England, homes are decorated with evergreen trees. In other places, the same evergreens are called Christmas trees. The tradition of using evergreen trees started because people believed they were magical. This belief formed because they stayed green year-round.

Before Christmas Day, children write letters with their wishes to “Father Christmas”. It was an old custom to toss the letter with their wishes into the fireplace. The children would then watch their wishes go up the chimney.

In some homes, children continue this custom. In other homes, children now mail their letter to Father Christmas. Did you know the ritual of mailing Christmas cards started in England?

A special day, which happens five weeks before Christmas, is called Stir-Up Sunday. On this day, people throughout England make Christmas desserts. One of the desserts is called plum pudding, which is a cake-like dessert. Sometimes people put a coin in the plum pudding. It is said that the person who finds the coin will have good luck.

On Christmas Day, English families and friends come together to eat a lunchtime feast. Many people place a colorful Christmas cracker next to their plate. The cracker is a paper-covered tube which makes a loud cracking noise. The sound happens when the ends are pulled. Inside the tube, guests may find a paper hat to wear during the meal. Some people will also put a riddle or other small knick-knacks inside.

Did you know the people of England speak English? On Christmas they say, “Happy Christmas” which means Merry Christmas. In some homes, they hang stockings just like we do. In other homes they hang pillowcases at the ends of their beds. Children wake up on Christmas morning with their stockings or pillowcases filled with gifts from “Father Christmas”. He is like our Santa Claus.

Name _____



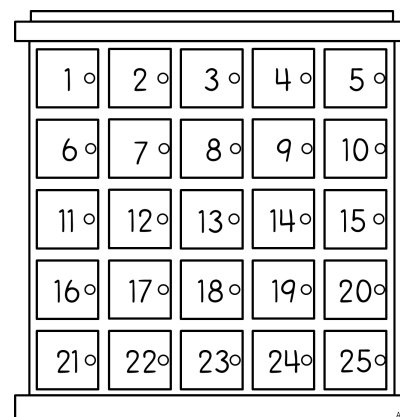
CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY

Did you know Germany is the place where the tradition of Christmas trees began? All over the world many homes have at least one Christmas tree during Christmastime. In Germany, it is common to see homes decorated with several Christmas trees.

Many people will also decorate their homes with Advent wreaths. The wreath is laid flat and not hung. It is made of holly and has four red candles in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday leading up to Christmas. In Germany, many people start getting ready for Christmas before the first of December. Homes with children may also have an Advent calendar. Children use an Advent calendar to count the days up to Christmas. One window is opened each day. Inside each window children see a different Christmas picture.

Many German children write notes to Christkindl or Christkind. He is like our Santa Claus. These letters are left on windowsills. Some say the character is invisible while others say he's a winged man who wears a white robe and golden crown. On Christmas Eve, gifts are left for children on Christmas morning.

On Christmas Day, people in Germany say, "Froehliche Weihnachten". That is the German way of saying, "Merry Christmas". Gingerbread comes from Germany. In December across Germany, the aroma of gingerbread fills the air. Families and friends across the world enjoy gingerbread throughout the Christmas season.



Advent Calendar

Name: _____

Christmas in Mexico

For many years, homes in Mexico are decorated with poinsettias and manger scenes. Poinsettias are plants known for their green leaves which turn a brilliant red color at the top. In North America, the plant was named after Joel Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico. He brought the plant to the United States around 1825. The poinsettia is native to Mexico. Many different legends are attached to it.



In Mexico, the Christmas season runs from the beginning of December to the first week of January. Many children and adults in Mexico take part in a celebration called, Las Posadas, which means inn. Las Posadas lasts nine evenings. The final night is Nochebuena which is what we call Christmas Eve. Throughout Mexico, there are different versions of Las Posadas. A common version is where people dress up like shepherds and walk in a parade. Throughout the parade, they sing and ask to enter three different homes. The first two homes don't let them in. The third house lets everyone enter. Then they take part in a feast which sometimes includes a roasted pig. In some places in Mexico the children will get to break open a piñata. The piñata is often shaped like a star and has candy or small gifts inside. By the time the festivities are over, it is Christmas Day.

In Mexico, people speak Spanish and say "Feliz Navidad". This means Merry Christmas in English. In recent years, people in Mexico recognize Santa Claus. In some parts he is called Santa Claus and in other parts he is called San Nicolas or Papi Noel. He dressed in the traditional red coat and has a long white beard and is believed to be the person who brings gifts to children.

On January 6th, people throughout Mexico celebrate Three Kings Day. In Spanish they call it, "Dia de los Tres Reyes". On this day children receive gifts. Friends and families come together to eat a round sweet bread called "Rosca de Reyes" which means Three Kings' Bread.

Name _____

Christmas in Spain



In Spain, they practice many traditions both old and new. Many homes are decorated with lights, Christmas trees, holly, and manger scenes.

A countrywide tradition is the Christmas Lottery. This lottery has been held in almost the exact same way as when it started in 1812. The Christmas Lottery is known to some as, “El Gordo”, which means The Fat One. Others call it, “Loteria de Navidad”, which means Christmas Lottery. It is one of the longest running lotteries in the world.

Christmas Eve is known as “Nochebuena” which means “Good Night”. Many families in Spain celebrate Christmas Eve by lighting tiny oil lamps and having a large feast. The main entree for the Christmas Eve feast consists of fish, pork, or lamb. A common treat is turrón. It is a sweet dessert made with almonds.

Christmas Day is spent in a calm manner. In Spanish they say, “Feliz Navidad”, which means Merry Christmas. Some families in Spain recognize a character-like Santa called Papa Noel. He leaves children small presents, but the main day for giving presents happens on Three Kings Day. In Spain they call it, “El Dia de Reyes”.

On January 5th, the eve of Three Kings Day, children may leave a shoe on their windowsills. The shoe is filled with straw, carrots, and barley for the horses of the Three Kings. The next morning the straw, carrots, and barley are gone and the shoe is filled with small presents.

Name _____

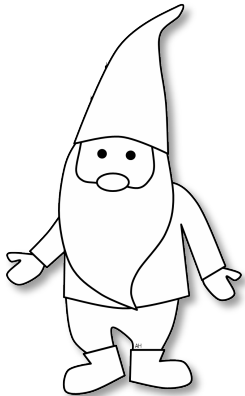
Christmas in Sweden

In Sweden, many homes are decorated with straw and Christmas items two days before Christmas. Many homes have Christmas trees and ornaments made of straw. Some people place a straw goat in their home to guard their Christmas tree. Many straw Christmas decorations symbolize a manger scene with a crib.



The Christmas season begins St. Lucia's Day, which is on December 13th. People in Sweden will honor the brave St. Lucia. They honor her because she brought food to people who were hungry. She wore candles on her head to light her way. In Sweden, many families have the oldest girl in the family dress in all white. The girl wears a wreath with candles on her head. She walks through the home to each person's room to serve them with coffee and buns.

On Christmas Eve, families have a buffet style smorgasbord. After the Christmas Eve dinner, some families will have someone dress up as a "tomte" or Christmas gnome. This person hands out presents to children. The tomte is a character similar to an elf and resembles Santa Claus. He is dressed in colorful clothes, has a white beard, and gives presents from a sack.



On Christmas Day, people say Merry Christmas as "God Jul I Sverige" or "Gledelig Jul".

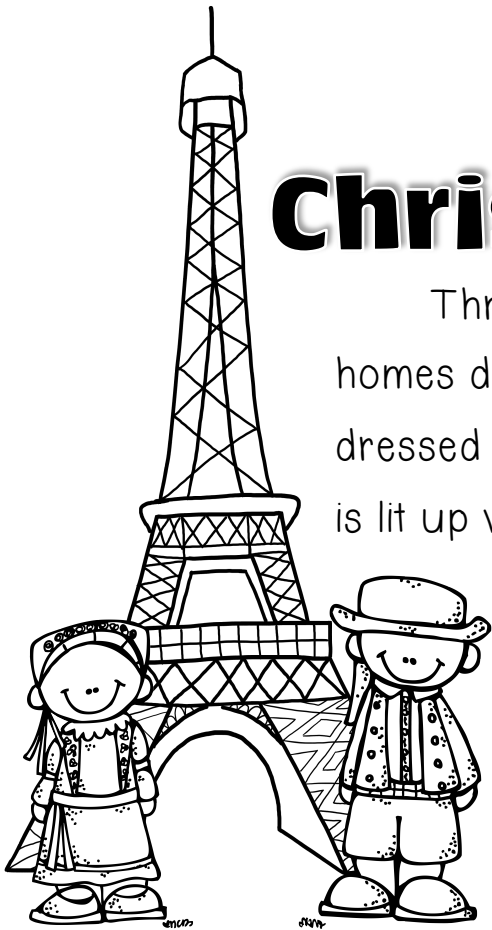
Name _____

Christmas in France

Throughout the country of France there are homes decorated with manger scenes and cities dressed up with holiday lights. Even the Eiffel Tower is lit up with lights. The Eiffel Tower is over 300

meters tall and is located near the center of the city of Paris. It is one of the tallest man-made iron structures in the world.

In recent years, the city of Paris, holds a laser light show at the Eiffel Tower during Christmastime.



In some areas of France, the Christmas season begins or is recognized on St. Nicholas Day which falls on the 6th of December. On this day, children sometimes get small gifts and sweet treats. In France, it is somewhat uncommon to find homes with Christmas trees. Some homes practice the old tradition of lighting a Yule Log on Christmas Eve. A traditional Yule Log is made out of Cherry Wood. It is very large! Because fireplaces in France are uncommon now, many families make a Yule Log cake. The cake is called, “Buche de Noel”, which means Yule Log.

On Christmas Eve, many children leave a shoe near a fireplace or manger scene. On Christmas morning, the shoe overflows with presents from Father Christmas who is known as “Pere Noel”. In France people say “Joyeux Noel” which means Merry Christmas.

This boy and girl are dressed in traditional clothing of Israel.

Name _____



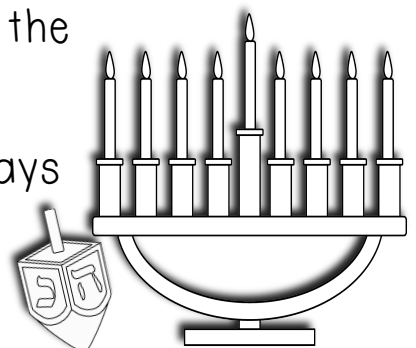
All About Hanukkah

Across the world, Jewish families celebrate Hanukkah. This eight day holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights. The start of Hanukkah falls during late November to early December. Hanukkah first started in Israel.

Hanukkah is not a Christmas holiday. This Jewish holiday started long before Christmas. Throughout Hanukkah, families will eat many different fried foods. Fried foods are eaten to recognize the importance of oil. Families enjoy potato pancakes called “latkes”. They also eat delicious jelly-filled doughnuts called “sufganiots”. Gifts of gold covered chocolate coins called “gelt” are given to children.

People exchange gifts with one another during each night of Hanukkah. Common presents are books, games, and money. Families enjoy playing with a small toy called a “dreidel”. Also known as a “sevivon,” a dreidel is a small four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side.

Families who recognize Hanukkah will have a set of candles. A candelabrum called a “Menorah”, is also known in the ancient language of Hebrew as a Hanukkah. The candles are lit from left to right during the eight days of Hanukkah. The center candle is called a “shamash”. It is used to light the others.



Name _____

Christmas in Australia

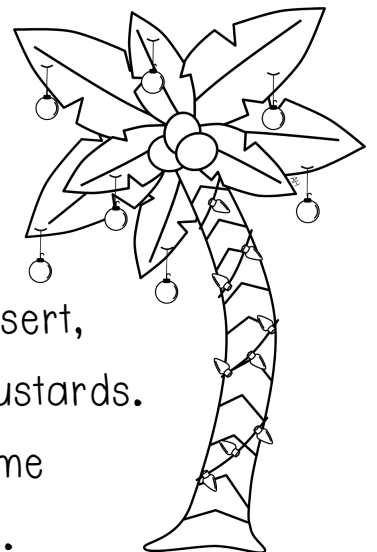


Christmas in Australia happens during their summertime. It is said that Santa changes into more comfortable clothing when he arrives there. It is also said that he gives his reindeer a break and uses six kangaroos who are called the “six white boomers”.

Children in Australia even sing a song called “Six White Boomers”.

In Australia, homes are decorated with a Christmas Bush. This Christmas Bush is a native Australian tree. It has small green leaves and cream colored flowers. Across the country, cities and homes are decorated with lights. Just like in America, Christmas wreaths are hung on doors.

Like many other countries across the world, Christmas in Australia is a time families and friends come together. People say “Happy Christmas” which is the same as “Merry Christmas”. In many homes throughout the country, people will enjoy meals with roast duck, turkey, ham, seafood, and pork. For dessert, many people enjoy Christmas cakes, puddings, and custards. Because the weather can reach up to 90 degrees, some people have barbecues and picnics on Christmas Day.



Name _____

Christmas in Ireland

In Ireland, people begin decorating their homes on December 8th. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and manger scenes. Some people place candles in windowsills on Christmas Eve. Christmas celebrations run from December 24th through January 6th.

On Christmas Eve, many families and friends may get together for a meal consisting of fish. Some children will leave out milk and mince pies for Santa. Children also leave out a carrot for the reindeer.

People in Ireland speak Irish. On Christmas Day, they say “Nollaig Shona Duit” which means “Happy Christmas to You”. In Dublin, the Capital of Ireland, people gather to swim in Sandycove. The cove is like a lake which measures 40 feet across.

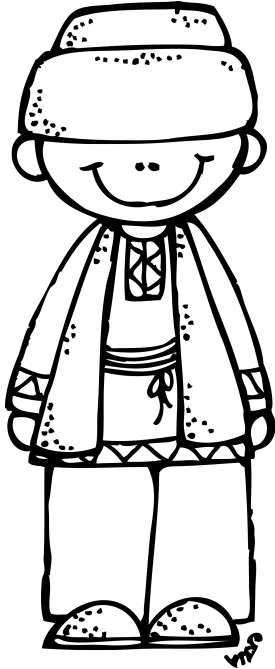
Family and friends throughout Ireland gather on Christmas Day. They eat a dinner which may have goose, ham, or spiced beef. Some people have a Christmas cake, pudding, and mince pies. Children in some parts of Ireland receive presents from Santa Claus who is called “Daidi na Nollaig”. They know him as “Father Christmas”.

On December 26th, some people recognize St. Stephan’s Day which may also be called Wren Day. On this day, boys dress up in masks made of straw and wear colorful clothing to look like a wren. Sometimes they carry a fake wren and go through their village to ask for money. In other places they may perform a traditional dance. The Christmas season comes to an end on January 6th which is what they call “Little Christmas”. On this day, many people take down their Christmas decorations and give small gifts.



Name _____

Christmas in Poland



In Poland, people decorate their homes with Christmas trees, manger scenes, mistletoe, candles, and wreaths. Some people in Poland choose to put up their Christmas tree on Christmas Eve.

Throughout Poland, many people continue Christmas celebrations until January 6th. On this day, they have star carriers called “gwiazdory”, walk through villages.

In some places throughout Poland, children celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6th. In Poland, Santa Claus is known as St. Nicholas. Like Santa Claus, he leaves presents during the night. He walks with a long cane and looks a lot like our Santa Claus.

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, families may gather for a feast which happens after the first star of the evening is shown. Some people pour wax onto water and tell fortunes from the shapes that appear. It is also tradition for people to clean their home real good on Christmas Eve. Some families enjoy a “Star Supper”. They may eat rye bread and a sauerkraut dish with noodles or cabbage.

In Poland, people speak Polish. On Christmas Day people say “Wesołych Świąt” which is Polish for Merry Christmas.

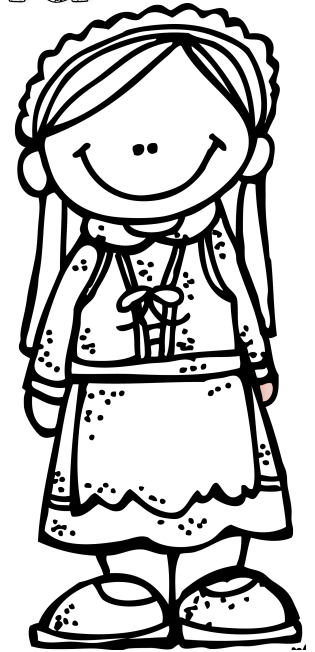
Name _____

Christmas in Finland

In Finland, Christmas celebrations begin in many homes the week before Christmas. Families begin by cleaning their homes thoroughly. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and lights. Farmers also tie sheaf grain, nuts, and seeds to a pole for birds.

In Finland, people speak Finnish or the Swedish language. In north Finland there is a city called Korvatunturi. In English it is called Lapland. This city lies within the Arctic Circle. Inside the city is a park called "Christmas Land" and village called "Santa Claus Village". Many children believe Santa Claus, also called Father Christmas, lives there with his elves. Children in Finland and from all over the world write letters to Father Christmas. An old Finnish character, remembered but not widely recognized, is a Christmas goat called "Joulupukki". Legend says that this goat used to ask for presents and in later years started giving out presents.

On Christmas Eve, some families gather to eat rice porridge and plum fruit juice for breakfast. After children go to bed on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas comes with elves to leave gifts. On Christmas Day, many people say "Hyvaa Joulua" which means "Merry Christmas". Many families gather to eat dinner. They eat a feast with casseroles, cod fish, ham, or turkey. On Christmas Day, children get presents from Father Christmas. An old tradition on Christmas Day is for people to go into a steam bath. A steam bath is a warm room with steam.

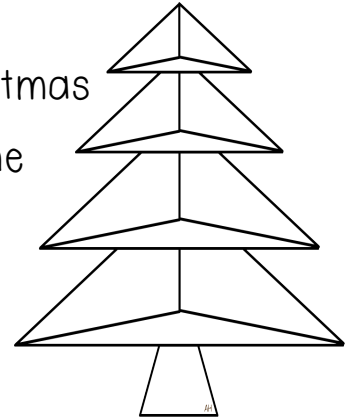


Name _____

Christmas in Japan

Japan is another country that celebrates Christmas. In Japan, Christmas is not a federal holiday, but more of a recreational holiday. Christmas was first introduced when Europeans visited in the 1600's. It is celebrated with Christmas Eve and continues with Christmas Day on the 25th. The whole country of Japan has recently started celebrating the holiday more and more every year.

Origami
Christmas Tree



During Christmatime in Japan, many stores start selling lights, decorations, and Christmas trees. Some parks and public places will decorate with lights and snowmen. Many families make origami decorations.

Christmas Eve is especially important to young women. During Christmas Eve, young couples treat this like an extraordinary date. They will go out to eat and exchange gifts.

Young children experience Christmas with presents from a character like Santa Claus called "Hotei-Osho". Hotei-Osho is a Buddhist monk and places presents in front of every child's home. On Christmas, people open gifts and enjoy a traditional Christmas cake made with sponge cake, whipped cream, and strawberries. During Christmas, people greet each other by saying "Meri Kurisumasu". It means "Merry Christmas" in Japanese.

Name _____

Christmas in Puerto Rico

The Christmas season on the island of Puerto Rico can last a long time. In November, people begin decorating with lights and manger scenes. The season continues through December 25th which is Christmas Day. It ends on Three Kings Day on January 6th.

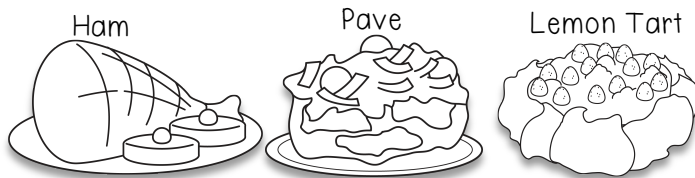
Puerto Ricans have many Christmas traditions. They visit family and friends. They attend parties and festivals. Many people even start Christmas caroling in late November. A “parranda” is caroling Puerto Rican style. This is when a group of people come together and



go from house to house singing Christmas carols. The people from each house join in the caroling and the group grows through the evening.

In Puerto Rico people speak Spanish. On Christmas Day, they say “Feliz Navidad”. This means Merry Christmas. Children receive presents from Santa Claus. In Puerto Rico, he is even called Santa Claus. He wears a red coat, has a white beard, and has reindeer pull his sled.

Many children also receive gifts on January 6th. During this time, some Puerto Rican children will collect grass and place it in a box under their beds. It symbolizes feeding camels for Three Kings Day.



Name _____

Christmas in Brazil

Brazil is one of the largest countries in South America that celebrates Christmas. The country has been celebrating the holiday for hundreds of years. Cities in Brazil will decorate with lights and large decorated Christmas trees.

On Christmas Eve, December 24th, many children will place a sock out the window for Papai Noel or Father Noel to fill or exchange it for a gift. Like Santa Claus, he brings gifts for children on Christmas Day, December 25th. Because the weather in Brazil is tropical, Papai Noel is dressed in light silk clothing.

Throughout December, there are many festivals and “churrascos” or barbecues. On both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Brazilians will have traditional foods that usually include a turkey. They also have hams, rice, salads, tropical fruits and vegetables. For dessert, many people enjoy a lemon tart and “pave”. Pave is a layered dessert with cookies, creams, and fruit.

At the beginning of December, there is also a tradition to have an amigo secreto. People will write their names on paper and draw the names randomly. The person’s name they get, will become their “amigo secreto” or secret friend. On Christmas Day, they will reveal themselves and give their friend a gift. The people of Brazil speak Portuguese. In Portuguese they say “Feliz Natal” which means Merry Christmas.

Name _____

Christmas in the Philippines

The Philippines has the longest Christmas season in the world. People start Christmas caroling as early as September and call it “pangangaroling”. The Christmas season will end on the third week of January for a special day called “Santo Nino de Cebu”. For the Philippines, many traditions have been the same for centuries.

The Christmas season in the Philippines has many decorations. Some homes will decorate and display a five pointed star called a “parol”. The parols will usually have two decorated tails hanging at the bottom tips of the star. Other decorations people use are manger scenes and Christmas trees. On Christmas Eve in the Philippines, people will have feasts.

Just like countries all over the world, children in the Philippines receive presents from Santa Claus. In the Philippines, Santa Claus is spelled as Santa-Klaus. He wears a red coat and has a white beard.

On Christmas, people open presents. In the Philippines it is tradition to visit and pay respects to elders. This is called “Pagmamano” and for the young people that practice it, the elders usually give money in return. Christmas Day continues with meals, parties, songs, and games. Most people in the Philippines speak two languages. They speak English and the native language called “Tagalog”. Tagalog has many Spanish words. They say “Merry Christmas” and “Maligayang Pasko” in Tagalog.

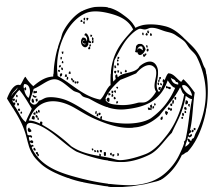


Name: _____

Happy Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week long holiday that starts on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Kwanzaa is a newer holiday with traditional values. It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. He created it to promote the seven basic values of African cultures. Now people around the world recognize this holiday. Through this holiday individuals, families, and whole communities of people are strengthened.

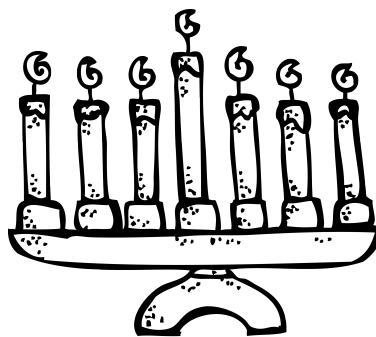
The core values of Kwanzaa are called “Nguzo Saba”. In Swahili this means Seven Principles. Swahili is a language spoken in many countries in Africa. Each day of Kwanzaa highlights a different principle. A candle is lit each of the seven days of Kwanzaa.



The crops symbolize work.



Gifts symbolize the seven principles



The candleholder symbolizes ancestors.

Principles

Unity

Self-Determination

Work & Responsibility

Cooperative Economics

Purpose

Creativity

Faith



Name _____

Christmas in the United States

Christmas is the most popular holiday in the United States. It has been celebrated since the first colonists started populating North America. They brought many of their Christmas traditions from numerous places around the world. These traditions have become a common practice among most Americans. The Christmas holiday in the United States is so large that it has influenced many other countries around the world.

The Christmas season begins the day after Thanksgiving on the last week of November. There are a few places that even celebrate Christmas in July. The first thing many people do for Christmas is “go on a shopping spree”. All stores will have holiday sales and Americans take advantage while prices are low. People will even buy gifts for themselves. Many Americans will donate their time and gifts to family, friends, people in need, and even strangers.

There are traditions in the U.S. that have remained the same. Decorations are displayed everywhere from homes, parks, and stores. Schools will usually have Christmas or holiday concerts. People go Christmas caroling. There are many parades that include Santa Claus. Christmas trees, Santa Claus, and Christmas music are found almost everywhere. During the week of Christmas to New Year’s Day, people will have feasts, exchange gifts, and have Christmas parties. Americans travel more during the holiday than any other time of the year to visit others, attend sporting events, and do other activities.

Answer Keys

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.3

1. How is Babbo Natale significant to Christmas in Italy?

Babbo Natale is significant to Italy because he brings
presents to children.

RI.1

2. How are homes decorated in Italy?

In Italy homes are decorated with flowers, a manger
scene, and stockings.

RI.1

3. What do Italians eat during the Christmas holiday?

During the Christmas holiday people eat panettone.

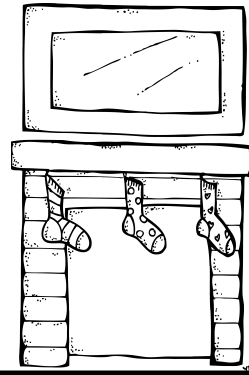
RI.1

3. What is panettone?

Panettone is a fruity sponge cake.

- Restate the question or prompt.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove your answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.



1. How are homes decorated in England?

In England, homes are decorated with

evergreen trees, and stockings,

2. What is Stir-Up Sunday?

Stir-Up Sunday is a day which happens five weeks

3. What is a Christmas cracker?

A Christmas cracker is a paper-covered tube which makes
a loud cracking noise when the ends are pulled.

4. How does the author support the statement, "The tradition of using evergreen trees started because people believed they were magical."

The author supported the statement in the
following sentence by stating how the belief formed
because they stayed green year-round.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. How do people decorate their homes in Germany?

In Germany, people decorate their homes with Christmas trees and Advent wreaths.

2. Describe Christmas for children in Germany. What do they do?

In Germany, children use an Advent calendar to count the days up to Christmas. They also write letters to Christkindl and leave it on their windowsill.

3. What do people eat during the Christmas season in Germany?

In Germany, people eat gingerbread throughout the Christmas season.

4. What are two Christmas items seen around the world that got their start in Germany?

Two Christmas items seen around the world that got their start in Germany are Christmas trees and gingerbread.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.3

1. What is the reason the author mentions the name, "Joel Poinsett"?

The reason the author mentions the name, "Joel Poinsett"
is because he was the person who brought the plant to
the United States.

RI.1

2. How do people decorate their homes during the Christmas season in Mexico?

People decorate their homes during the Christmas season
in Mexico with poinsettias and manger scenes.

RI.1

3. Describe San Nicolas. Use evidence from the text.

San Nicolas is like Santa Claus and dresses with a red coat
and has a long white beard. He leaves gifts for children.

RI.1

4. Tell about what the children in Mexico do during the Christmas season.

Children in Mexico dress up like shepherds and walk in
parades. They get to break open a piñata. They also get
presents on Christmas and Three Kings Day.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. What do children in Spain do during the Christmas season?

Children in Spain will eat a feast with their family, get presents from Papa Noel and leave a shoe filled with barley, straw, and carrots for the horses of the Three Kings.

2. How do people decorate their homes during the Christmas season in Spain?

People decorate their homes during the Christmas season in Spain with lights, Christmas trees, and manger scenes.

3. Describe Santa Claus. Use evidence from the text.

In Spain, Santa Claus is called Papa Noel. He leaves presents for children.

4. Describe the lottery during Christmastime in Spain.

The lottery during Christmastime in Spain is called El Gordo or Loteria de Navidad. It is one of the longest running lotteries in the world.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

RI.1

Directions: Find the underlined word in the text.
Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. How are homes decorated in Sweden?

In Sweden, homes are decorated with Christmas trees
and ornaments made with straw.

2. Why is St. Lucia Day celebrated?

St. Lucia Day is celebrated because she brought food to
people who were hungry.

3. Describe what children do during Christmastime.

Children eat with their family and get presents from a
character called a tomte.

4. How do families recognize St. Lucia Day?

Families recognize St. Lucia Day by having the oldest girl
in the family dress in all white and serve each person with
coffee and buns.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Find the underlined word in the text.
Answer the questions in complete sentences.

RI.3

1. Why does the author refer to the Eiffel Tower?

The author refers to the Eiffel Tower because it is lit up
with lights and there is a laser light show at the tower.

RI.3

2. Describe the beginning of the Christmas season.

The Christmas season begins on St. Nicholas Day which is
on December 6th. Children get gifts on this day.

RI.3

3. How has the yule log changed through the years? Why?

The Yule log has changed from a real log to a cake
because fireplaces are uncommon now.

RI.1

4. When do children get presents in France?

Children get presents on St. Nicholas Day and on
Christmas morning.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Where did Hanukkah begin?

Hanukkah started in Israel.

2. Which holiday started first: Hanukkah or Christmas?

Hanukkah started before Christmas.

3. What is a dreidel?

A dreidel is a small toy like a top. It has a hebrew letter on each of the four sides of it.

4. Fully explain what gelt is as described in the text.

Gelt is a gift of gold covered chocolate coins.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Why does Santa Claus change clothes in Australia?

Santa Claus changes clothes in Australia because it is summertime and the weather can reach up to 90 degrees.

2. What are the “six white boomers”?

The six white boomers are kangaroos used as reindeer.

3. Why does Santa Claus use kangaroo instead of his reindeer in Australia?

Santa Claus uses kangaroos instead of his reindeer in Australia because he is giving his reindeer a break.

4. Why do people have barbecues and picnics on Christmas in Australia?

People have barbecues and picnics on Christmas in Australia because it is hot outside.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. How are homes decorated in Ireland?

In Ireland, homes are decorated with Christmas trees and manger scenes.

2. What do people do on Christmas Eve?

On Christmas Eve many families and friends gather for a meal and some place candles on their windowsills.

3. What do people do on Christmas Day?

On Christmas Day, people may gather to swim in Sandycove, eat, and open presents.

4. Describe the end of the Christmas season.

The Christmas season ends with Little Christmas. Many people take down their Christmas decorations and give small gifts.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Describe the Santa Claus character in Poland.

In Poland, Santa Claus is known as St. Nicholas. He leaves presents during the night and uses a cane.

2. How do people in Poland decorate their homes?

People in Poland decorate their homes with Christmas trees, manger scenes, mistletoe, candles, and wreaths.

3. What language do people in Poland speak?

In Poland people speak Polish.

4. What do people do on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day?

On Christmas Eve, people gather for a feast after the first star appears. On Christmas Day, people say

Wesolych Swiat.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. What is in Lapland?

Lapland is a city which lies within the Arctic Circle. Inside the city is Christmas Land and a Santa Claus Village.

2. Where do Finnish children believe Father Christmas lives?

Finnish children believe Father Christmas lives in Santa Claus Village with his elves.

3. What do people in Finland do on Christmas Eve?

On Christmas Eve, people gather for breakfast.

4. What do people do on Christmas Day?

On Christmas Day, people gather to eat dinner and go into a steam bath.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.1

1. When did Japan begin celebrating the Christmas holiday?

Japan began celebrating the Christmas holiday after the
1600's when it was introduced by Europeans.

2. How do Japanese decorate for the Christmas season?

Japanese decorate for the Christmas season with lights,
Christmas trees, and origami Christmas decorations.

3. What do people in Japan do on Christmas Eve?

On Christmas Eve, young couples go out on a date and
exchange gifts.

4. What do people do on Christmas Day?

On Christmas, people gather to eat and open gifts.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

RI.1

1. Describe how each Christmas holiday begins in the Philippines.

The Christmas holiday begins in September with caroling.

2. How are homes decorated in the Philippines?

Homes are decorated with five pointed stars called parols,
manger scenes, and Christmas trees.

3. What do people in the Philippines do on Christmas Eve?

On Christmas Eve, people gather for a feast.

4. Describe what people do on the day of Christmas?

On Christmas, people gather to eat, open gifts, visit
elders, sing songs, and play games.

Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. How do people decorate their homes in Puerto Rico?

In Puerto Rico, people decorate their homes with lights
and manger scenes.

2. What is a parranda?

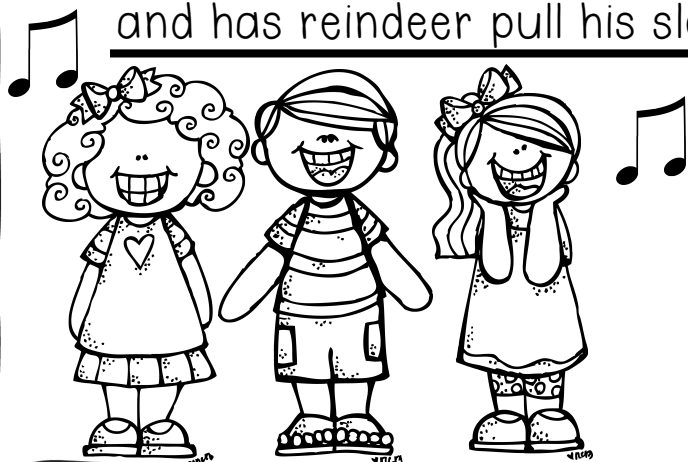
A parranda is caroling Puerto Rican style. People go from
house to house singing Christmas carols.

3. When do children in Puerto Rico get presents?

Children in Puerto Rico get presents on Christmas and on
January 6th.

4. Describe Santa Claus in Puerto Rico.

Santa Claus in Puerto Rico has a white beard, red coat,
and has reindeer pull his sled.



Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. What evidence in the text shows that Brazil is warm during the Christmastime?

Evidence that shows Brazil is warm during Christmas is
where the author said the weather is tropical, people have
barbecues, and Santa wears light silk clothing.

2. Why do people in Brazil have “churrascos”?

People in Brazil have churrascos because it is warm
outside.

3. What evidence shows the meaning of Papai Noel?

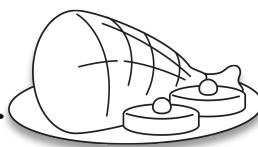
The evidence that shows the meaning of Papai Noel is where
the author said in the next sentence “Like Santa Claus...”.

4. Describe an “amigo secreto”?

It is when people pull names, give a gift to the person
whose name was pulled, and reveal on Christmas Day.

Did You R-A-C-E?

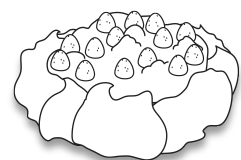
- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.



Ham



Pave



Lemon Tart

RI.1

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. Is Kwanzaa a Christmas holiday?

Kwanzaa is not a Christmas holiday.

2. Who is Dr. Maulana Karenga?

Dr. Maulana Karenga is the person who created Kwanzaa.

3. Why was Kwanzaa created?

Kwanzaa was created to promote the seven basic values of African cultures.

4. What happens each day of Kwanzaa?

On each day of Kwanzaa a different principle is highlighted.



Did You R-A-C-E?

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the text.

1. When did Christmas in the United States begin?

Christmas in the United States began when the first colonists started populating North America.

2. Cite evidence from the text to show two things people give during Christmastime.

Two things people give during Christmastime are donations of time and gifts.

3. What do people do during the week of Christmas?

During the week of Christmas people go Christmas caroling, see parades, have feasts, exchange gifts, go to parties, and attend sporting events.

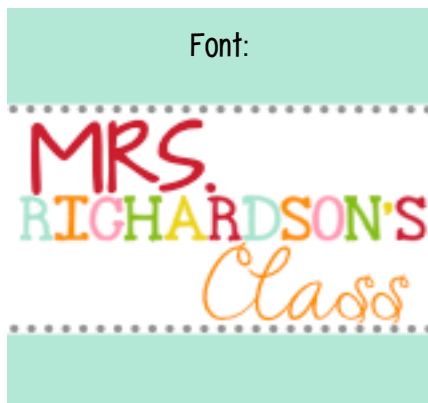
4. The author stated, "The first thing many people do for Christmas is "go on a shopping spree". How does the author support this statement?

The author supports the statement by writing that all stores will have holiday sales and Americans take advantage while prices are low.

The author states that people even buy gifts for themselves.

- Restate the question or prompt where appropriate.
- Answer in a complete sentence.
- Cite evidence to prove the answer.
- Explain each part of the question.

Graphics Provided By:



Click here to follow on Facebook
for exclusive FB Only Giveaways.

