

L: How is Christmas celebrated around the world?

Success:

- Read and understand that different countries celebrate the Christian tradition of Christmas in different ways.
- Understand that different religions have different festivals at this time of year.
- Reflect on your own traditions and beliefs.



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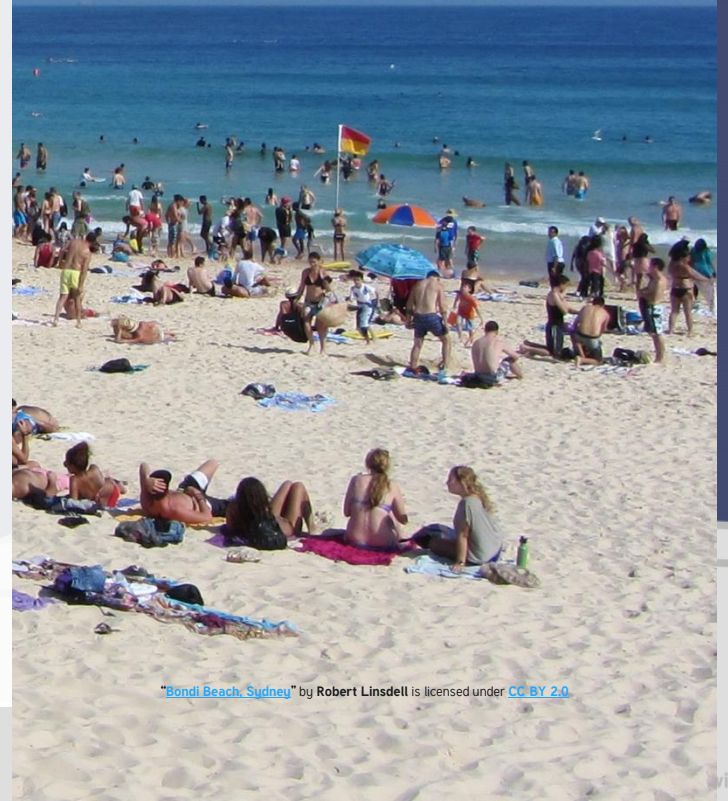




Australia

- The temperature in Australia on Christmas Day can range between 30-40°C with the hottest temperature recorded on Christmas Day in South Australia at 40.7°C.
- Children have their summer holidays from mid-December through to early February
- Some people go camping over Christmas!
- Bondi Beach is famous for families having their Christmas lunch on the beach.
- A typical Christmas menu could include seafood, glazed ham, cold chicken, duck or turkey, cold deli meats, pasta, salads, desserts of all types, fruit salad, ice cream plus Christmas treats such as mince pies. Some Australian families follow tradition of a roast dinner and Christmas pudding even in the warm summer weather.

Christmas Around the World



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Australia

- Some Australian families have the tradition of creating Christmas light displays in their streets for everyone to enjoy. One street in Sydney has raised more than \$35,000 for charity by charging an entry fee to see their light displays on the homes in the street.



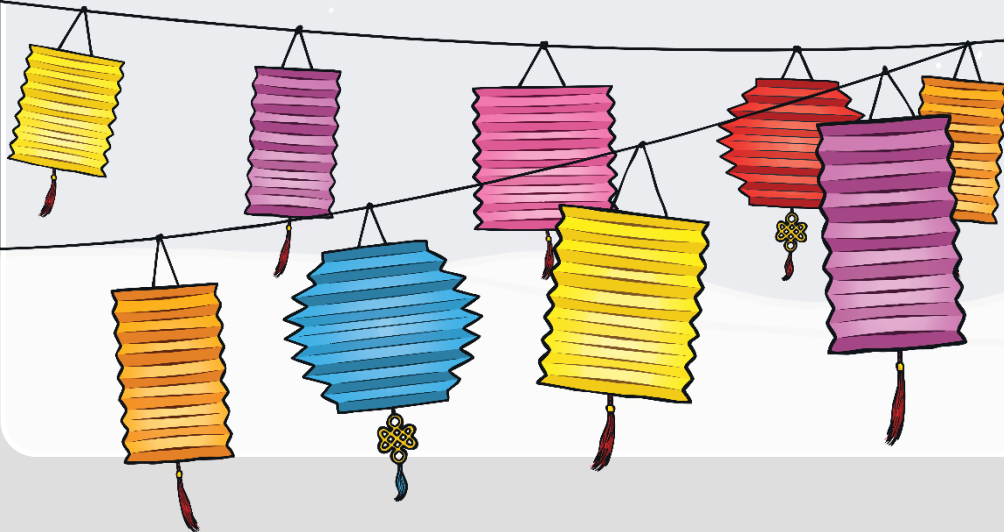
- When Santa gets to Australia he changes into a t-shirt, shorts and thongs (flip-flops). He then gives his reindeers a rest, calling on the help of his kangaroo friends or as they are known as the 'Six White Boomers' (a popular Australian Christmas carol).





China

- Christians in China often celebrate by lighting their houses with paper lanterns.
- Christmas trees are called 'trees of light' and are decorated with paper chains, paper flowers and paper lanterns.
- Lots of people in China do not celebrate Christmas. The main winter festival is called Chinese New Year and takes place in February. Many Chinese people worship their ancestors during Chinese New Year.





Denmark

- The Christmas feast in Denmark is usually celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve.
- It is common to have special rice pudding dessert in which a single almond is hidden. Whoever finds the almond will have good luck for a whole year.
- Instead of Santa Claus, the bringer of gifts in Denmark is known as Julemanden.
- Julemanden arrives in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and flies over his back.
- Julemanden is accompanied by a group of elf helpers called Julenisser.





Germany

- According to legend, on Christmas Eve in Germany, rivers turn to wine, animals speak to each other, tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open up to reveal precious gems and church bells can be heard ringing in the bottom of the sea. Only the pure of heart can witness the Christmas magic.
- In many homes, children will be distracted while a Christmas tree is brought out and decorated on Christmas Eve. Presents are then put underneath. Traditionally, plates are laid out for each member of the family with fruit, nuts, chocolate and biscuits. Often, carols are then sung, sparklers are lit, the Christmas story is read and then the gifts are opened.

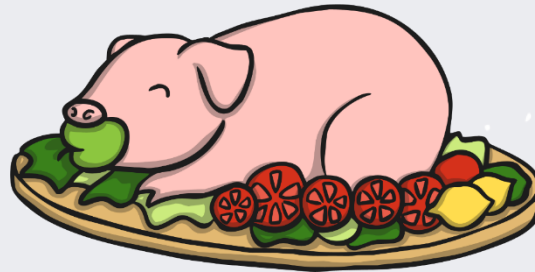
Christmas Around the World





Germany

- On Christmas Day, many families enjoy a banquet of roast goose, breads and marzipan.
- There are lots of huge Christmas fairs in Germany which are very beautiful.
- After the presentation of the tree, there is a huge feast of dishes like suckling pig, white sausage, macaroni salad and many more.





India

- Many Christians in India choose to decorate mango and banana trees at Christmas time.
- Decorations are colourful and bright.
- In some parts of India, small clay oil-burning lamps are used as Christmas decorations. They are placed on the edges of roofs and on the tops of walls.
- Churches are decorated with poinsettias (red Christmas flowers) and candles for the Christmas Evening service.



Christmas Around the World





Japan

- Lots of people in Japan celebrate Christmas, although only 1% of the population is Christian.
- Lots of homes are decorated with Christmas trees and mistletoe.
- Lots of people in Japan enjoy exchanging gifts at Christmas.



Christmas Around the World



"Tokyo Tower and Roppongi Christmas Light Festival" by Manish Prabhune is licensed under CC BY 2.0



Japan

- On Christmas Day, many people in Japan eat fried chicken for dinner! Local fast food restaurants can be fully booked months in advance.



- A Buddhist monk named Hotei-oshō acts like Santa Claus. He brings presents to each house for children. Some think he has eyes in the back of his head so that children behave when he is nearby.



Christmas Around the World



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Mexico

- Several weeks before Christmas, there are huge markets set up in towns and cities in Mexico which offer crafts, food and flowers for the Christmas season. Some people travel for days to get to these markets.
- The poinsettia is a red flower native to Mexico that is used widely in Mexico as a Christmas decoration. It has been connected with Christmas since the 17th century.



Christmas Around the World



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Mexico

- The main Christmas celebration in Mexico is called Las Posadas. People re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for somewhere to stay in Bethlehem. They go house to house getting refused until they finally reach a house where an altar and nativity scene have been set up.
- Once they have reached the right house, a traditional prayer is spoken and the party begins. Food and drink are served and then children take it in turns to break open the piñata.



Christmas Around the World



"Templo Santa María, Sancti Spiritus, Ajajón, Estado de Puebla, México" is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)



Netherlands

- In the Netherlands, Santa Claus is known as 'Sinterklaas'.
- Sinterklaas arrives three weeks before the 5th December on a steamboat from Spain.
- Between his arrival and the 5th December, many children fill their shoes with hay and sugar for Sinterklaas's horse and awake to find them filled with little presents or nuts and candy.





Netherlands

- On the 4th December, Sinterklaas appears in person in children's homes asking the children about their behaviour over the past year.
- On the evening of the 5th of December, Sinterklaas will sometimes visit the houses to talk to the children.
- People in the Netherlands also celebrate Christmas from 24th-26th December.
- Sometimes, there is a 'Sunday School' service in church where the Christmas Story is read.
- On Christmas Eve, Many children in the Netherlands believe Santa delivers more presents from Lapland!

Christmas Around the World



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The Philippines

- In the Philippines, the Christmas season begins in September. Christmas carols are played on the radio and many people put up Christmas trees and decorate their homes with lights and a lantern ornament called a 'parol'. Parols are most often star-shaped but they can come in lots of different shapes and sizes.
- In the nine days before Christmas, Catholic churches hold services at dawn (very early in the morning). This series of masses is called Simbang Gabi. Some people believe that if they go to all of these services then their Christmas wishes will come true.
- People usually eat their Christmas meal with their family on Christmas Eve. They call this Noche Buena. They eat traditional dishes and also fruits like grapes and apples.



Hong Kong

- Christmas services are held at the cathedral and other churches. Some services are in Cantonese and some are in English.
- Hong Kong is decorated with lots of lights and decorations. Shops and attractions take part in a big celebration called 'Winterfest'.
- Boxing Day is a public holiday in Hong Kong.

Christmas Around the World





Brazil

- Each Christmas, thousands of people go to see the world's tallest floating Christmas tree in a lagoon in Rio de Janeiro.
- It is 85 metres tall and contains 3.1 million bulbs.

Christmas Around the World





Ethiopia

- Christmas is celebrated on 7th January in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. It is called Ganna or Genna.
- Many Christians fast for up to 44 days before Christmas. During this time, they don't eat meat, fat, eggs and dairy products and they pray and try to do good things. They break their fast with the Christmas feast.
- The Christmas feast often includes injera (a traditional Ethiopian flatbread) and w'et, a stew made with chicken, beef, lamb or other meat, plus vegetables and peas or lentils.

