



Name: _____

Christmas Around the World

Christmas is a special holiday that is celebrated in many countries around the world. Each country has its own unique traditions and customs for celebrating this festive season. Let's take a journey and explore how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world.

Germany

In Germany, Christmas is known as "Weihnachten." The celebration begins on December 6th with St. Nicholas Day. Children leave their shoes outside the door, hoping to find them filled with sweets and small gifts when they wake up the next morning. On Christmas Eve, families come together to decorate the Christmas tree with ornaments and lights. They exchange gifts, sing carols, and enjoy a traditional feast of roasted goose or duck.



Mexico

In Mexico, Christmas is a time for colorful festivities. The celebration starts on December 16th with "Las Posadas," which reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. Each night, a procession takes place, where participants dress as Mary and Joseph and go from house to house, asking for shelter. On Christmas Eve, families gather for a late-night feast with traditional dishes like tamales and "ponche," a hot fruit punch.

Australia

In Australia, Christmas falls during the summer season. While it may be hot outside, Aussies still embrace the holiday spirit. Many people spend Christmas day at the beach or have a barbeque with family and friends. People decorate their houses with lights, and it is common to see inflatable Christmas decorations in front yards. Santa Claus is often depicted wearing "Boardies," which are shorts popular in Australia.

Japan

Christmas in Japan is not a national holiday, but it is still widely celebrated. Unlike other countries, the celebration is seen as a time for spreading happiness rather than a religious holiday. In Japan, people exchange gifts, decorate their homes with lights and ornaments, and enjoy a special Christmas cake. KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) is also very popular on Christmas Eve, with many people placing orders weeks in advance.

Sweden

In Sweden, the Christmas season begins on December 13th with "Lucia Day." Young girls dress in white robes with candles on their heads and sing beautiful songs. They bring light to the darkness of winter and symbolize hope. Swedish families also celebrate by decorating their homes with candles, stars, and straw ornaments. On Christmas Eve, a festive meal called "julbord" is enjoyed, featuring dishes like meatballs, herring, and rice pudding.



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Italy

In Italy, Christmas is a time for religious celebrations and feasts. One of the most famous traditions is the "Feast of the Seven Fishes" on Christmas Eve, where families gather to eat a meal of seven different types of seafood dishes. Another popular tradition is the "La Befana," a friendly witch who delivers gifts to children on Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 6th.

Spain

In Spain, Christmas celebrations begin on December 8th. One of the most important traditions is the "La Nochebuena," or Christmas Eve, where families come together for a big feast that often includes roasted lamb or pig. Another unique tradition is the "Three Kings' Day" on January 6th, where children receive gifts from the Three Wise Men.

India

In India, Christmas is celebrated by Christians, as well as many non-Christians who join in the festivities. One of the most popular traditions is the decorating of banana or mango trees instead of traditional Christmas trees. People also exchange gifts and enjoy a special Christmas meal, which often includes dishes like biryani, curry, and sweets like gulab jamun.



Brazil

In Brazil, Christmas falls during the summer season, so many people celebrate by going to the beach or having a barbecue. One unique tradition is the "Papai Noel," the Brazilian version of Santa Claus, who is often depicted wearing a red silk suit. Another popular tradition is the "Folia de Reis," a musical play that tells the story of the Three Wise Men.

Greece

In Greece, the Christmas season is filled with religious celebrations. One of the most important traditions is the "Kalikantzari," mischievous goblins who are believed to come out during the 12 days of Christmas. To ward off the goblins, people hang a cross or a piece of basil above their doors. On Christmas Eve, families gather for a big feast that includes dishes like roasted lamb and honey-dipped cookies called "melomakarona."

These are just a few examples of the unique Christmas traditions found around the world. Each country has its own special way of celebrating this festive season, making it a truly global holiday.



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- How is Christmas celebrated in Germany?
 - By exchanging gifts and singing carols.
 - By dressing as Mary and Joseph and going from house to house.
 - By decorating the Christmas tree and enjoying a traditional feast.
 - By spending the day at the beach or having a barbeque.
- What is the traditional dish eaten on Christmas Eve in Germany?
 - Tamales
 - Roasted goose or duck
 - Ponche, a hot fruit punch
 - Meatballs and herring
- Which country celebrates Christmas during the summer season?
 - Germany
 - Mexico
 - Australia
 - Japan
- What is a traditional Swedish Christmas meal?
 - Roasted goose or duck
 - Tamales
 - Meatballs, herring, and rice pudding
 - Biryani, curry, and gulab jamun
- Which country celebrates the "Feast of the Seven Fishes" on Christmas Eve?
 - Italy
 - Spain
 - India
 - Brazil
- What is the traditional Christmas tree alternative in India?
 - Banana or mango trees
 - Artificial Christmas trees
 - Pine trees
 - Bamboo trees

7. Compare and contrast Christmas in Australia with Christmas where you live. _____

