

Christmas traditions around the world

1. Read the text and do the quiz about Christmas traditions.

Christmas Traditions in Australia

In Australia, December 25 falls during summer vacation, so many of the Christmas attractions take place outdoors. The most popular event of the Christmas season is called Carols by Candlelight. People come together at night to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside. The stars shining above add to the sights and sounds of this wonderful outdoor concert.

Christmas Traditions in China

Christians in China call Christmas Sheng Dan Jieh, which means Holy Birth Festival. They decorate their homes with evergreens, posters, and bright paper chains. Families put up a Christmas tree, called a "tree of light," and decorate it with beautiful lanterns, flowers, and red paper chains that symbolize happiness. They cut out red pagodas to paste on the windows, and they light their houses with paper lanterns, too.

Christmas Traditions in England

The day before Christmas is very busy for families in England. They wrap presents, bake cookies, and hang stockings over the fireplace. Then gather around the tree and someone tells a story, "A Christmas Carol." Children write a letter to Father Christmas with their wishes and toss their letter into the fire so their wishes can go up the chimney. After the children fall asleep on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas comes to visit and brings presents to all good children and coal to the naughty ones.

Christmas Traditions in Germany

Four Sundays before Christmas, German families make an Advent wreath of fir or pine branches that has four colored candles. They light a candle on the wreath each Sunday, sing Christmas songs, and eat Christmas cookies. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, homes are filled with the delightful smells of baking loaves of sweet bread, cakes filled with candied fruits, and spicy cookies called lebkuchen.

Christmas Traditions in Holland

Dutch children in Holland await the arrival of Sinterklaas on St. Nicholas Day on December 6. Sinterklaas is a bishop who wears red robes and a tall, pointed mitre on his head. Sinterklaas travels by ship from Spain to Amsterdam's harbor every winter. He brings his white horse and a huge sack full of gifts for the children. Families celebrate St. Nicholas Eve at home with lots of good food, hot chocolate, and a letterbanket, a "letter cake" made in the shape of the first letter of the family's last name.

Christmas Traditions in Mexico

The weather is warm and mild in Mexico during the Christmas season. Families shop for gifts, ornaments, and good things to eat in the market stalls, called puestos. They decorate their homes with lilies and evergreens. Family members cut designs in brown paper bags to make lanterns, or farolitos. They place a candle inside and then set the farolitos along sidewalks, on windowsills, and on rooftops and outdoor walls to illuminate the community with the spirit of Christmas. (źródło: <http://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/holidays-christmas/christmas-traditions-around-the-world-ga.htm>)

Christmas traditions around the world QUIZ

1. ***What's the weather like during Christmas in Australia?***
 - a. It's foggy and rainy.
 - b. It's December so it's cold and snowy
 - c. It's summer and it's warm and sunny
2. ***The most popular event during Christmas season in Australia is called....?***
 - a. Carols by Candlelight
 - b. Holy Birth Festival
 - c. Advent
3. ***Mexicans decorate their houses with paper lanterns which are called...?***
 - a. Letterbanket
 - b. Puestos
 - c. Farolitos
4. ***What do English children hang over the fireplace?***
 - a. Letters to Father Christmas
 - b. Stockings
 - c. Paper lanterns
5. ***What do German families make four Sundays before Christmas?***
 - a. Decorations for the Christmas tree
 - b. Red paper chains and lanterns
 - c. An Advent pine wrath with four red candles
6. ***What do Chinese call the Christmas tree?***
 - a. "A tree of light"
 - b. Sheng Dan Jieh
 - c. Mitre
7. ***Who visits children in Holland on December 6th?***
 - a. The Spirit of Christmas
 - b. Sinterklaas
 - c. Letterbanket
8. ***What do naughty children in England get from the Father Christmas?***
 - a. Presents
 - b. Spicy cookies
 - c. Coal
9. ***What is a letterbanket?***
 - a. Christmas Carol outdoor concerts in Australia
 - b. Traditional cake made in Holland in a shape of the 1st letter of families name.
 - c. Spicy cookies baked in Germany during Christmas season
10. ***How does Sinterklaas comes to children in Holland?***
 - a. By ship from Spain to Amsterdam.
 - b. By sleigh pulled by reindeer
 - c. Children in Holland don't believe in Sinterklaas.