

# Christmas celebrations around the world

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from <http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/index.htm>



## Discussion

Is Christmas too commercial?

Do people just use it as a time to do things to excess, such as eating, drinking and spending?

## Reading

### Christmas in CHINA

Christians in China celebrate by lighting their houses with beautiful paper lanterns and decorating their Christmas trees, which they call "Trees of Light", with paper chains, paper flowers, and paper lanterns. Chinese Children hang muslin stockings and await a visit from Santa Claus, whom they call Dun Che Lao Ren (dwyn-chuh-lau-oh-run) which means "Christmas Old Man".

Since the vast majority of the Chinese people are not Christian, the main winter festival in China is the Chinese New Year which takes place towards the end of January. Now officially called the "Spring Festival", it is a time when children have new clothes, eat luxurious meals, receive new toys, and enjoy firecracker displays. An important aspect of the New Year celebration is the worship of ancestors. Portraits and paintings of ancestors are displayed in the main room of the home.

### Christmas in VENEZUELA

Venezuelans attend a daily early morning church service between December 16th and 24th called Misa de Aguinaldo ("Early Morning Mass.") In Caracas, the capital city, it is customary to roller-skate to this service and many neighbourhoods close the streets to cars until 8 a.m. before bedtime children tie one end of a piece of string to their big toe and hang the other out the window. The next morning, roller skaters give a tug to any string they see hanging. After Mass, everyone enjoys tostadas and coffee.



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## Christmas in WALES



Carolling is particularly popular in Wales where it is called eisteddfod and is often accompanied by a harp. In some rural areas a villager is chosen to be the Mari Llwyd. This person travels around the town draped in white and carrying a horse's skull on a long pole. Anyone given the "bite" by the horse's jaws must pay a fine.

## Christmas in IRAN

Iran, formerly Persia, is the land where the Three Wise Men are believed to have lived when Jesus was born today Christians in Iran begin fasting from animal products on December 1st this is called "Little Fast" "Big Fast" occurs during Lent, the six weeks preceding Easter after the church service of December 25th they enjoy Christmas dinner which they call "Little Feast" a traditional dish is a chicken stew called harasa gifts are generally not exchanged but children get new clothes which they wear proudly on Christmas Day



### Questions

1. What is Father Christmas called in China?
2. How do Venezuelans get to church on Christmas day?
3. Who has to pay a fine on Christmas day in Wales?
4. What do Christians in Iran receive?
5. Where did the Three Wise men live?
6. There is a spelling mistake in paragraph 2 (line 4) about China. What is it?
7. Put in the capital letters in the text about Venezuela.
8. Can Christians in Iran eat harasa on 15<sup>th</sup> December?
9. Replace the missing full stops in the text about Iran.

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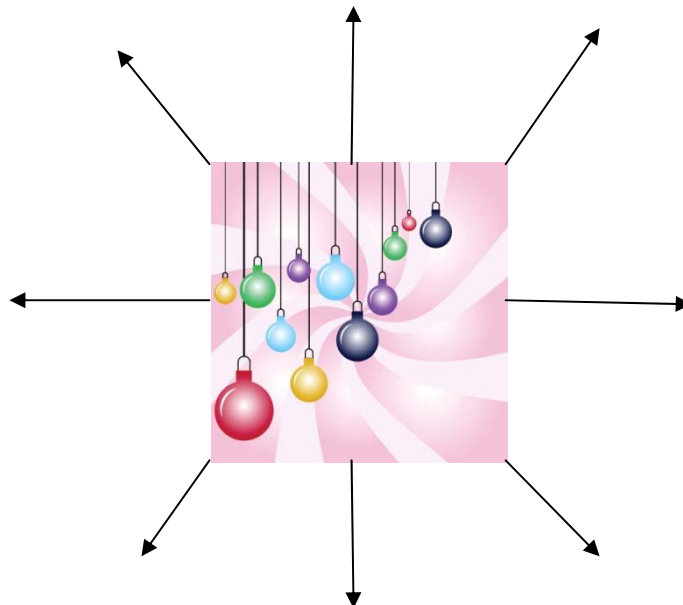


## Writing

Choose one of these topics to write about:

1. Christmas is too commercial.
2. I don't celebrate Christmas; this is how I spend the holidays.
3. Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year.
4. The true meaning of Christmas has been forgotten.
5. Christmas is an excuse for eating, drinking and spending too much.

## Plan



## Don't forget!

- Do a rough draft
- Use a dictionary to help with your spellings
- Use paragraphs
- Check your own work for mistakes before writing up in neat