

Christmas traditions around the world

Our students' notes after some related reading

XMARKOULAKI1 DEC 13, 2020 06:06PM

Nigeria

Nigeria

Many different languages are spoken in Nigeria. In Hausa Happy/Merry Christmas is 'barka dà Kirsimati'; in Yoruba it's 'E ku odun, e ku iye'dun'; in Fulani it's 'Jabbama be salla Kirismati'; in Igbo (Ibo) 'E keresimesi Oma'; in Ibibio 'Idara ukapade isua' and it's Edo it's 'Iselogbe'. Read more on the website above.

How to say Merry Christmas or Happy Christmas In Different Languages on whychristmas.com

On this page 'Merry Christmas' or 'Happy Christmas' is shown in different languages from all around the world (apart from English)! If you know one that isn't listed, please Contact Us. Some languages below use different characters and alphabets, so I have also spelt them in English as best I can.

WHYCHRISTMAS



Brazil

Brazil

In Brazil, Santa Claus is called Papai Noel & Bom Velhinho (Good Old Man).

Many Christmas customs are similar to ones in the USA or UK even though it's summer and very hot at Christmas time in Brazil. Many people like to go to the beach.

Sometimes children leave a sock near a window. If Papai Noel finds your sock, he'll exchange it for a present!

Taking part in a 'Secret Santa', known as 'amigo secreto' (secret friend) is popular in Brazil at Christmas. It is traditional to give small gifts all through December using a pretend name

(apelidos). On Christmas Day, people reveal who their amigo secreto was!



Quebec, Canada

Quebec, Canada

In Quebec they celebrate Christmas by putting up a tree. Many people also decorate a tree with lights outside. Also by the time Christmas comes there is a lot of snow so it looks very festive. The Christmas dinner is called "Reveillon" (waking up) and it is eaten after the

Midnight Mass most likely at about two o'clock in the morning. Nowadays people usually eat turkey for dinner but in the old days they used to eat Tourtiere.

Verdun, France

Verdun, France

This is the 2019 Nativity crib. It is made of "santons". This Provençal crib was originally meant for Notre Dame de Paris. However, due to the terrible fire, the crib ended up in Notre Dame de Verdun.



Verdun, France

Verdun, France

You're right about the "crèche" or Nativity crib. There are bigger crèches in churches and cathedrals all over the country. Families enjoy going to church to have a look at the crib. For example, this is the crèche at Notre Dame de Verdun cathedral. As you can see, baby Jesus isn't there yet. He will be visible as of tomorrow, December 25th.



UK

UK by Maria Chr

In the UK (or Great Britain), families often celebrate Christmas together, so they can watch each other open their presents!

Most families have a Christmas Tree (or maybe even two!) in their house for Christmas. The decorating of the tree is usually a family occasion, with everyone helping. Christmas Trees were first popularised the UK by Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria. Prince Albert was German, and thought that it would be good to use one of his ways of celebrating Christmas in England.

Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe are also sometimes used to decorate homes or other buildings.

Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with Christmas lights over Christmas. Often a famous person switches them on. The most famous Christmas lights in the UK are in Oxford Street in London. Every year they get bigger and better. Thousands of people go to watch the big 'switch on' around the beginning of November.

Iceland, Iceland

Iceland

There is a weird tradition in Iceland that sparked my interest. In order to turn their children into good behavior, Icelanders are telling children a scary story. This scary story is about a huge and vicious cat called "The Yule Cat" which is described as lurking about the snowy countryside during Christmas time and eating people who have not received any new clothes to wear before Christmas Eve. This is an actually terrifying tradition if you think of the people that can't afford new clothes.



Los Angeles, Καλιφόρνια, Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες

Los Angeles, Καλιφόρνια, Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες

from Alina. In Los Angeles the Christmas holidays are magic. When it snows, they go out and play snowball fight, have a Christmas treasure hunt, or outdoor ice skating. Then they go home and have some hot chocolate and spend some time together. There is also a Holiday Parade that is full of fun and surprises. Moreover, visitors can enjoy holidays at Universal Studios Hollywood or they can visit Music Center where they can enjoy concerts and never see the same event twice. Families can spend their day in a "SNOW DAY AT LA", an outdoor winter wonderland in Elysian Park featuring winter tubing, The new Enchanted Crystal Winter Garden with giant glowing crystals, an interactive light show.



Μάλτα

Malta

Christmas in Malta is very important to the people and its sister island of Gozo. Most people on Malta are Catholics and go to a Midnight Mass Service. Usually the churches are full with people.

The churches are decorated with lights and nativity cribs, 'Presepjn' built by the churchgoers. The cribs are decorated with figures, called 'pasturi'. Today some of the cribs are mechanical and the figures in them move! The figure of the baby Jesus is put on the main altar at midnight on Christmas night!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy new year to all!!!



Καναδάς

Καναδάς Ηλίας

People in Canada send Christmas Cards to their friends and family.

Many Canadians open their gifts on Christmas Eve. Some only open their stocking on Christmas Eve. Others choose one gift to open, then save the rest until Christmas Day.

Canadians like to decorate their houses with Christmas Trees, lights and other decorations. There's often Christmas stockings hung by the fireplace, ready for Santa!

The main Christmas meal is often roast turkey with vegetables and 'all the trimmings' like mashed potatoes and vegetables. Traditional favorite Christmas desserts include Christmas/plum puddings and mincemeat tarts. Christmas crackers are popular with many people in Canada as well. A rich fruit Christmas Cake is also normally eaten around Christmas time!



Χαβάη, Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες

Χαβάη, Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες

It sounds to me extremely impressive to visit some day Hawaii during Christmas season. There are many reasons why it makes it special. You never have to worry about the bad weather. Celebrating Xmas without snow or cold weather may seem weird for some, but is normal in Hawaii. Few things that makes it more incredible is a Santa Claus dressed up with a festive hawaiian shirt, the light parades, and the celebrations that will put even the most strange people into the holiday spirit.



Γαλλία

France

In France a Nativity crib is often used to help decorate the house. France cribs have clay figures in them. During December some towns and cities, such as Marseilles, have fairs that sell Nativity figures. As well as having the normal Nativity figures in them, French scenes also have figures such as a Butcher, a Baker, a Policeman and a Priest!



Χαβάνη, Κουβέιτ

Χαβάνη, Κουβέιτ

Αυστρία

Αυστρία

Austria shares many Christmas traditions with its neighbor Germany, but also has many special Christmas customs of its own.

Every town will also have a large Christmas tree in the town square. In homes trees are decorated with gold and silver ornaments and stars made from straw!!



Πολωνία

Poland by Marianna

In Portugal every Christmas when the family sit to the table to eat the delicious meal. The father of each family must throw a spoonful of food to the ceiling. The more food gets stuck there, then the luckier the year is! ♥



Μαχαράστρα, Ινδία

India by Maria Voskaki

People in India on Christmas holidays usually decorate their houses with mango and banana trees, they also decorate them with mango leaves and small clay oil-burning lamps which are placed on the roofs of houses. The churches are decorated with poinsettias and lit with candles for the Christmas evening services.

Παρίσι, Γαλλία

Παρίσι, Γαλλία by Maria Voskaki

In France the Christmas tree has never been particularly popular. Though French people have other popular traditions. They make a delicious long-shaped cake called the buche de Noël. It is served at the réveillon.

Japan

Japan

In Japan at Christmas people queue up for many hours just to take some buckets of KFC chicken wings from their local KFC restaurant!



Ουκρανία

Ukraine

In Ukraine people decorate their trees with spider webs in order to celebrate the miracle that happened to a poor woman who couldn't afford decorating her tree so she went to sleep and when she woke up the spiders had decorated it for her



Κρήτη, Ελλάδα

Κρήτη, Ελλάδα

In Crete, Christmas is one of the most important days. Women prepare melomakarona, cookies and kourabiedes. All the children on Christmas Eve go to the houses of the people and sing the carols. On Christmas day everyone sits around the table and eats Christmas food. When they finish eating, they exchange their gifts. On New Year's day all the children sing the carols and wait for Santa Claus to bring them their presents.



South Africa

South Africa by George No.2

It is a well known fact that most countries that are located in Southern hemisphere, Christmas is celebrated during the summer season. South Africa is no exemption. With over 80% of South African population adheres to Christianity they celebrate Christmas like every other Christian in the world with the only difference that it is celebrated with barbecues at the beaches



Austria

Austria

Alpine countries like Austria have a legend that a devil-like creature called krampus joins their St. Nicholas festivities on December 6. Children are asked for a list of their good and bad deeds: Good children are rewarded with sweets, apples and nuts, and bad children worry what Krampus might bring on Christmas morning.

Iceland

Iceland

Similar to 12 days of Christmas in the U.S., icelandic children are visited by the 13 Yule Lads. After placing their shoes by the window, the little ones will head upstairs to bed. In the morning, they'll either have received candy (if they're good) or be greeted with shoes full of rotten potatoes if they're bad.

San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines

San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines

Every year, the city of San Fernando holds Ligligan Parul (or Giant Lantern Festival) featuring dazzling parol that symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. Each parol consists of thousands of spinning lights that illuminate the night sky. The festival has made San Fernando the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines"

Πολωνία

Πολωνία

Christmas in Poland, by Natalia!

The evening of December 24 is the most important of the year. The families meet for a gala dinner. Tradition says that dinner should start when the first star in the sky appears - it symbolizes the birth of Jesus. On this day, you do not eat meat, and there should be 12 dishes on the table (like the 12 apostles). We leave one plate empty - according to tradition - possibly for a person who needs help. Nobody should be alone this evening. It is said that the animals speak with a human voice this evening. It is the magical beginning of Christmas.

Philippines

Philippines

Greece

Greece

In Greece we have many Christmas traditions. One of them is to sing the carols to Christmas Eve. We go from house to house and sing. Every place has different carols. In Crete we have the Cretan carols. Every landlord give us money or treats.



Australia Zoo, Steve Irwin Way, Beerwah Κουίνσλαντ, Αυστραλία

Australia (by John)

Can you imagine that Christmas in Australia happen during the summer? Thats so strange for us! They decorate their gardens with reiders and christmas trees... They are decorating so much their houses and sometimes they are doing comprtitions for that. They also singing the carols and except child's who are singing, some famous singers take part of that.

Ιρλανδία

Chrismas in Ireland (by john)

Chrismas in Ireland are like Chrismas in America but a bit changed. As we all know, Americans put clothes near to the fireplace, but Irish put bags there and they wait for Santa to give them their presents! They also have a beer for Santa near them. They don't decorate a Christmas tree, but they have a decorated candle near the window to help all the poor families.



Norway

Norway

By John: In Norway people believe that in the Christmas Eve arrive evil spirits and witches. So because of the arrival of the witches who like to ride brooms, Norwegians hide all their brooms before they go to sleep.



they.

Αυστραλία

Christmas by tonia

Australian celebrate Christmas at sea, because in Australia it's summer. Christmas decoration has flowers and wreaths. Santa Nikolas hands out presents at Christmas, not New Year's Eve.



Τσεχία

Christmas in Tsehia,by Konstantina

Dozens of events of classical , jazz and traditional music , dance ,gastronomy and representation of life in the MAiddle Ages and the Renaissance are organised and take place every year throughout the Czech Republic .

Πορτογαλία

Portugal

The Portuguese celebrate a feast which called consoada,in the early morning of Christmas.They set places at the table for "the souls of the dead'.In some areas people leave some crumbs on the table for them.



UK

UK

In UK the Christmas is three days after the winter solstice,so the weather can be very cold .People spangle their houses with lights and coulored decorations to make the winter seem warmer.Also,they bring a small tree and decorate it with coulored balls and presents.



United Kingdom

United Kingdom (by Barbara Jones)

My childhood memories are of a traditional English Christmas. A huge Christmas tree, lots of presents and a big meal of turkey, roast vegetables Christmas pudding. My mum always insisted that we watched the Queen's Speech on Christmas Day afternoon!! We'd then watch a movie and have even more food - a Christmas tea of ham, salad, Christmas cake and trifle!! Christmas was, and still is, a big deal at my mum's house!



New Zealand

New Zealand (by Barbara Jones)

Christmas in NZ is a traditionally a time of sunshine, beaches, barbecues and swimming (when the weather behaves!) . People often use the time to go on holiday and kiwis will drive for hours to get to their destination! My favourite part of this time of year is the blossoming pohutukawa tree.



France

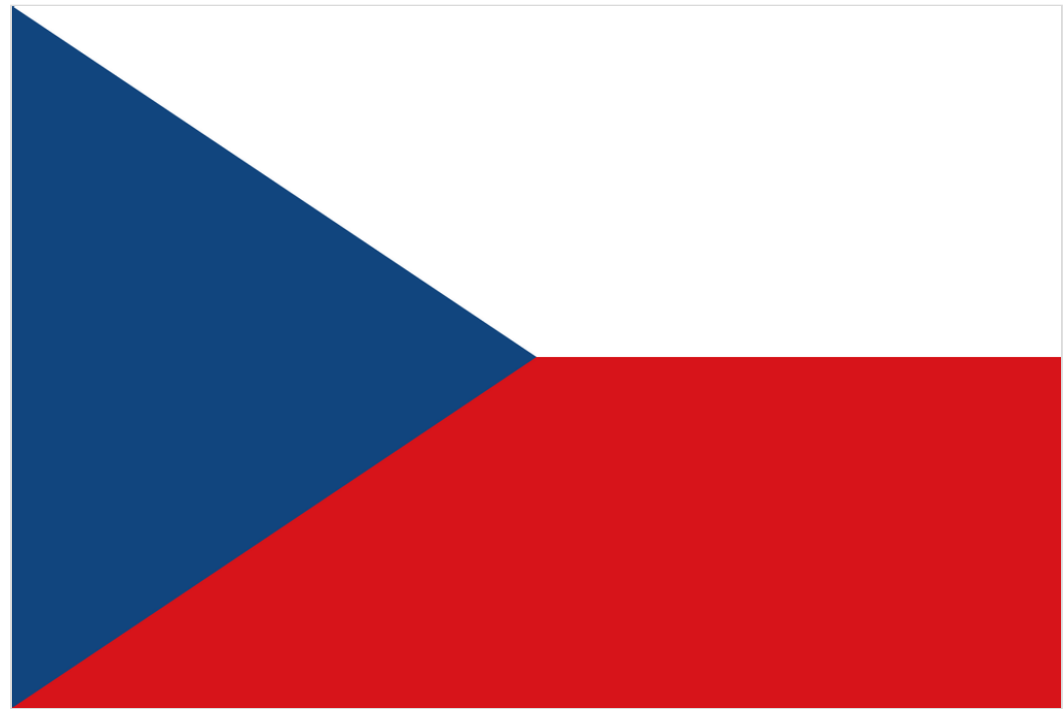
France

The christmas tree has never been popular in France and though the use of the Yule log has faded the French make a traditional Yule log- shaped cake called the buche de noel which means Christmas cake among other foods. There is great abundance and it is served at the grand feast of the season which is called reveillon.

Czech Republic

Czech Republic by George

Did you know that czech people have their traditional christmas meal on Christmas eve. Their dinner consists of fish soup and as an accompaniment either fried carp or potato salad



Γαλλία

France By Ilias

Nearly every French home at Christmastime displays a Nativity scene or creche, which serves as the focus for the Christmas celebration. The creche is often peopled with little clay figures called sandos or "little saints."



India

Christmas India

Christians in India decorate mango or banana trees at Christmas time. Sometimes they also decorate their houses with mango leaves. In some parts of India, small lamps are used as Christmas decorations; they are placed on the edges of flat roofs and on the tops of walls. Churches are decorated with poinsettias and lit with candles. It must be so beautiful! I would really like to visit this country one day!



Україна

Ukraine

In Ukrainian Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Веселого Різдва' Veseloho Rizdva (Merry Christmas) or 'Христос Рождається' Khrystos Rozhdayetsia (Christ is Born)! Looks weird to us, right? Well, be surprised, Christmas is celebrated on 7th January, because the main Church is the Orthodox Church and they use the old 'Julian' calendar for their church festivals. When Greeks schools open, Ukrainian ones celebrate Christmas! You can't start eating the meal until the first star is seen in the sky. So people (especially the hungry ones!) go outside as soon as it start getting dark in the afternoon to try and spot the first star. The star represents the journey of the Wise Men to find Jesus and that Jesus has been born, so Christmas can start! Their Santa is called Ded Moroz! Ukranian people also love to sing carols. The Ukrainian carol 'Shchedryk' is where the popular 'Carol of the Bells' came from. We all know that song! I hope you liked this!



Austria

Austria

Christmas in Austria is great and they are not called Christmas but "Frohliche Weihnachten"! Every town will also have a large Christmas Tree in the town square. In homes, trees are decorated with gold and silver ornaments and stars made from straw! Their Santa Claus, is not really a Santa but Christkind who is described as a golden-haired baby, with wings, who symbolizes the new born Christ. They eat 'Gebackener Karpfen' which is fried carp, goose, honey gingerbread cookies and many more things! I would like to pass a Christmas holiday there! How about you?



Yugoslavia Commerce ad, Sarajevska, Βελιγράδι, Σερβία

Yugoslavia Commerce ad, Sarajevska, Βελιγράδι, Σερβία

By Catherine: In Yugoslavia children celebrate the second Sunday before Christmas as Mother's Day. The children creep in and tie her feet to a chair and shout. Mothers must give them presents to get away. Children do it again with their fathers next week.



Ισπανία χριστουγεννιάτικα έθιμα' - Google Search

φύλλα εργασίας νηπιαγωγείο χριστούγεννα στην ισπανία ισπανικά
ισπανοί παραμονή χριστουγέννων πρωτοχρονιά χώρες κάλαντα έθιμο

GOOGLE



Finland

Finland

In Finland, Christmas is celebrated with different ways. Some of them are really impressive. Read more to find out! Of course, Rovaniemi, couldn't be missing! We all know this village right? It is in the picture too! Isn't it just amazing? Finnish Christmas would not be the same without gingerbread of all shapes and sizes! They usually are treated with spicy mulled wine which is called "Glögi"! Ice lanterns or lanterns made out of small snow balls are very beautiful and popular! An old wooden sauna surrounded by white snow and warm candle light, is the ideal place to hang out with some hot chocolate shared with friends and family! Finland is where Santa lives. Why don't you pay him a return visit for all those times he came to your house? Wouldn't it be nice?



Russia

Russia

By Joanna.M

In Russia Xmas is the most important feast after Easter.

In Russia Xmas starts on 7 January and the new year is celebrated on 6 January

Ισπανία

Spain

In Spain the children take their presents on 6 January. In Spain presents aren't brought by Santa Claus, but by the three wise kings.

México

México by Alexandra

The main Christmas celebration in Mexico is called las posadas which refers to processions reenacting Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. The processions begin

nine days before Christmas because the original journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem took nine days. Friends and family members divide themselves into two groups—pilgrims and innkeepers. The pilgrims travel from house to house asking for a shelter and are refused at each until they finally reach the house where an altar and Nativity scene have been set up. Here the pilgrims are admitted with great rejoicing, a traditional prayer is spoken and the party begins. Food and drink served and then children take turns trying to break open the pinata



Γερμανία

Germany

Hi! I am going to write about a crazy tradition in Germany! They dress up in really creepy straw devil's costumes, run at the road and scare each other! In old days it was a pagan tradition. People think that they should wear Santa hats because it looks more like a Halloween than a Christmas tradition.





Kirkwall, Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο

Kirkwall, Scotland (by Ben)

The Kirkwall Ba' (Ball) is a festive tradition celebrated in the streets of Kirkwall, capital of the Orkney Islands to the north of the Scottish mainland. FIFA has described it as "the world's most unbelievable game of football". There are two main matches: the boys' game is played on Christmas Day, and the men's one on New Year's Day. You can find out more about it in this video: <https://tinyurl.com/ybmwqq6t> Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Greece

Greece by Christina

Guess what? I am going to write about the delicious Christmas sweets we bake in Greece every year, the most famous of which are kourabiedes and melomakarona! Kourabiedes are biscuits covered in sugar (some say sugar looks a lot like snow in this case), while melomakarona are a kind of biscuit again, saturated in syrup and covered in dried nuts (the recipe depends on the creator most of the times). Both Christmas treats are mouth watering and they are consumed in very large numbers all over Greece! Let's read about other countries' beautiful customs, recipes and traditions!



Melomakarona Greek Christmas Cookies - Cheeky Crumbs

by Cheeky Crumbs

YOUTUBE

Spain

Spain Tio de Nadal by Leonidas

In Spain they have a very strange Christmas tradition called Tio de Nadal. Tio is this wooden ornament in the picture. In Spain to get presents for Tio you have to feed him and on Christmas day he gives birth to presents. Strange huh? That's it for now, merry Christmas and a happy new year!