

# Christmas Around the World



## Skills:

- Can give detailed accounts of experiences, describing feelings and reactions.
- Can give straightforward, detailed written descriptions on a range of familiar subjects within their field of interest.

Adults/Teens

Individual

## 1 Let's warm up!

In pairs, in 5 minutes, list as many Christmas traditions as you can think of from your own culture or others. Each group will share their list with the class, explaining any unique or interesting customs.

## 2 Read about various Christmas traditions from some countries. In what ways are they similar or different?

Christmas is celebrated in many different ways across the world, with each country having its own unique customs. In Germany, Christmas markets are a popular tradition. These markets, known as Weihnachtsmärkte, are set up in towns and cities, where people can buy handmade gifts, enjoy traditional foods like gingerbread, and drink hot mulled wine. The festive atmosphere, with lights and music, makes the markets a magical place during the holiday season.

In the United Kingdom, caroling is a common Christmas activity. Groups of people gather to sing Christmas songs, known as carols, in neighborhoods, churches, or town squares. Carolers often sing to raise money for charity, spreading holiday cheer to everyone who hears them.

In the United States, gift-giving is an important part of the Christmas celebration. Families and friends exchange gifts on Christmas Day, which are usually placed under a decorated Christmas tree. The tradition is inspired by the story of the Three Wise Men, who brought gifts to baby Jesus. Children often look forward to gifts from Santa Claus, who is said to deliver presents on Christmas Eve.

In Italy, a unique tradition is "La Befana", which takes place on January 6th, the day of Epiphany. According to legend, La Befana is an old woman who travels on a broomstick, delivering sweets and gifts to well-behaved children, while naughty children receive a piece of coal. La Befana is considered Italy's version of Santa Claus, and her visit marks the end of the Christmas season.

### Glossary

**epiphany** - a moment when someone understands something important.

**carols** - songs that people sing during a special time of year.

**gingerbread** - a sweet bread or cookie made with ginger and other flavors.

**mulled wine** - a warm drink made with wine and spices.

### 3 Based on the text, mark the sentences as (T)rue or (F)alse.

1. In Germany, people enjoy Christmas markets where they can buy factory-made gifts.
2. Caroling in the United Kingdom is often done to raise money for charity.
3. In the United States, gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve.
4. The tradition of gift-giving in the United States is linked to the Three Wise Men.
5. La Befana in Italy delivers gifts on Christmas Day.
6. Christmas markets in Germany are known for their festive atmosphere with lights and music.
7. In Italy, La Befana is similar to Santa Claus.

### 4 Rephrase each sentence using one of the phrases below.

decorations

well-behaved

traditions

gift-giving

celebration

naughty

1. Each family has their own customs and practices.
2. The house looked beautiful with all the lights and ornaments.
3. The town had a huge festival for the holiday.
4. The exchange of presents was everyone's favorite part of the event.
5. My sister's children are polite and and nice.
6. The boy often causes trouble and doesn't follow rules.

### 5 Share your Christmas experience. Try to use descriptive language, including how you feel and what you enjoy or find challenging.

1. What are some of your favorite **traditions** during the Christmas **celebration**?
2. What types of **decorations** do you enjoy seeing during the Christmas season?
3. Do you think **gift-giving** is an important part of Christmas? Why or why not?
4. Were you a **naughty** or **well-behaved** kid?

### 6 Write a personal diary entry about your favorite Christmas celebration. Describe the traditions and decorations that make it special for you. Use the vocabulary from the previous exercises.

# Correct answers

**1**

Created in “Lead-in Activities”.

**2**

Created in the “Create a Text” tool. The glossary was made in the “Word-Definition Matching” tool.

**3**

Created in the “True or False Statements” tool.

1. False - The text states that people can buy handmade gifts at Christmas markets in Germany.
2. True - The text mentions that carolers often sing to raise money for charity.
3. False - The text states that gifts are exchanged on Christmas Day in the United States.
4. True - The text explains that the tradition is inspired by the story of the Three Wise Men.
5. False - The text states that La Befana delivers gifts on January 6th, the day of Epiphany.
6. True - The text describes the festive atmosphere of Christmas markets with lights and music.
7. True - The text states that La Befana is considered Italy's version of Santa Claus.

**4**

Created in “Rephrase Using the Word Given”.

1. Each family has their own traditions.
2. The house looked beautiful with all the decorations.
3. The town had a huge celebration for the holiday.
4. The gift-giving was everyone's favorite part of the event.
5. My sister's children are well-behaved.
6. The boy was naughty.

**5**

Created in “Discussion Questions”.

**6**

Created in “Creative Writing”.