

KIDS HOPE AUS.
THEMED MENTOR HOUR
December 2014



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Around the world children celebrate the Christmas holidays in many different ways. Check your local library or school library to find a book or two to share with your child, which depict Christmas celebrations around the world.

Here's some information, written by children, to get you started:

In **Germany**, the 6th of December is a special day:

There's a special tradition all over Germany on December 6th. On the evening of December 5th you put your cleaned (big) boots outside the house in front of the door (or inside). Some people also put a plate there or on the windowsill. The bread in the plate is for the white horse of Santa Claus. In the morning you see that Santa Claus really was at your house and put nice things into the boots or plates, e.g., all kinds of nuts, oranges, apples, sweets, chocolate, small presents. But if you weren't well behaved the whole year you only get a switch so that your parents can punish you, but they don't!

Kristine and Wiebke, Germany

And in Italy, January 6th is a day long-awaited by many children:

The 6th of January is the day on which the three Wise Men arrive at the Bethlehem cave in which baby Jesus is and give him gold, incense and myrrh and for this reason in Italy children receive presents traditionally brought by the "Befana," a good old witch who comes into

their homes through the chimney. This is the last day to the Christmas holiday in Italy.
Elisbetta, Italy

In Sweden, December 13th is a special day that children look forward to all year long:

Saint Lucia Day is celebrated all over Sweden on December 13th. The custom with the girl dressed in white with candles on her head has a complicated background ... In our school we celebrate Saint Lucia Day outside very early in the morning while it's still dark. Our Saint Lucia is coming in a carriage pulled by a very small horse. She is followed by Santa Claus on a big horse and a lot of girls and boys in white gowns and a lot of candles. They all sing traditional Christmas songs and read poems. After the ceremony we all eat ginger cookies and bread with saffron. To celebrate is very important to Swedish people.

Websites with information re Christmas in other countries:

<http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>

<http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/index.htm>

<http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060403042028/http://christmas.com/worldview>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5AxvQBqfZAKY2ZLNng0YiIhcnc/edit?pli=1>

This site has a "Passport" book which can be used to describe Christmas traditions in different countries.

<http://www.123homeschool4me.com/2012/10/christmas-around-world.html>

There is a free e-book on this site which has worksheets about individual countries.

<http://learningdevelopmentactivities.blogspot.com.au/2010/12/christmas-traditions-around-world.html>

WRITING ACTIVITIES

1. If you could give any gift to the people of the world, what would that gift be? Draw a picture of your gift and write a sentence to explain what your gift is and why you chose it.
2. Ask students to pretend they have pen pals in foreign countries. Their pen pals celebrate Christmas (or other holidays) in a way very different than they might do. Invite students to write letters to their pen pals to explain how their families celebrate the holidays.

GEOGRAPHY

Paste a world map onto cardboard. Invite your student to write on cards the expression "Merry/Happy Christmas" in a different languages. Glue each card to the appropriate country on the map. Choose some from the website below.

The following website contains the wording for "Happy Christmas" in different languages.

<http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>



Here are some examples:

How "Merry Christmas" is said

- Argentine:** Feliz Navidad
- Armenian:** Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev Par iGaghand
- Brazilian:** Feliz Natal
- Chile:** Feliz Navidad
- Chinese:** (Cantonese) Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun
- Chinese:** (Mandarin) Sheng Dan Kuai Le
- Croatian:** Sretan Bozic
- Czech:** Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok
- Danish:** Glædelig Jul
- Dutch:** Vrolijk Kerstfeesteneen Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! or Zalig Kerstfeest
- English:** Merry Christmas
- Eskimo:** (inupik) Jutdlimepivdluaritukiortamepivdluaritlo!
- Esperanto:** Gajan Kristnaskon
- French:** Joyeux Noel
- Gaelic:** Nollaig chridheilagus Bliadhnathathùr!
- German:** Fröhliche Weihnachten
- Greek:** Kala Christouyenna!

- Hebrew:** Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova
- Hindi:** Shub Naya Baras (good New Year not Merry Christmas)
- Indonesian:** Selamat Hari Natal
- Iraqi:** Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
- Irish:** Nollaig Shona Dhuit, or Nodlaigmhaithchugnat
- Italian:** Buone Feste Natalizie
- Japanese:** Shinnenomedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
- Korean:** Sung Tan Chuk Ha
- Maori:** Meri Kirihimete
- Norwegian:** God Jul, or Gledelig Jul
- Philippines:** Maligayang Pasko!
- Polish:** Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia or Boze Narodzenie
- Portuguese:** Feliz Natal
- Spanish:** Feliz Navidad
- Swedish:** God Jul and (Och) Ett Gott Nytt År

Switzerland (Swiss-German): Schöni Wienachte
Ukrainian: Z Rizdvom Khrystovym or Srozhdestvom Kristovym
Welsh: Nadolig Llawen

MATHEMATICS

How to read the information on a table

Provide table reading practice using the sheet provided below. The sheet provides tables showing the ten most popular holiday greeting cards mailed in the United States.

Use the table below to answer the questions.

DIRECTIONS: *The table below shows the top ten most popular holiday greeting cards mailed in the United States.*

Kind of Holiday Card ~~~~~	Number Mailed in the United States ~~~~~
1. Christmas	2,700,000,000
2. Valentine's Day	1,000,000,000
3. Easter	160,000,000
4. Mother's Day	150,000,000
5. Father's Day	100,000,000
6. Thanksgiving	40,000,000
7. Halloween	35,000,000
8. St. Patrick's Day	19,000,000
9. Jewish New Year	12,000,000
10. Hanukkah	11,000,000

Use the table above to help you answer these questions.

1. For which holiday are the most cards mailed each year?
2. How many cards are mailed on Valentine's Day?
3. How many more cards are mailed on Mother's Day than on Father's Day?
4. For which holiday are 35,000,000 cards mailed?
5. How many Halloween *and* Thanksgiving cards are mailed in all each year?
6. How many more cards are mailed for Jewish New Year than are mailed for Hanukkah?
7. How many cards are mailed on Mother's Day and Father's Day combined?

8. Do you think more holiday cards are mailed in February or in March? Explain your answer.
9. How many Hanukkah and Christmas cards are mailed all together?

Source: *Top Ten of Everything* by Russell Ash; Dorling-Kindersley Publ.; all numbers estimates.

Answer Key for Worksheet:

1. Christmas, 2. 1 billion; 3. 50 million; 4. Halloween; 5. 75 million; 6. 1 million; 7. 250 million; 8. February, because many more cards are mailed for Valentine's Day than are mailed for St. Patrick's Day; 9. 2,700,011,000; THINK ABOUT IT! Accept reasoned responses (probably not as many as are mailed at Christmas, but more than are mailed at Easter).

See more at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson041.shtml#sthash.iOseJeyT.dpuf

MAKE A GIFT FOR SOMEONE

Sometimes students don't have the money to buy a small gift for another family member. Giving of themselves is a great gift idea. Students might:

- Create a simple "coupon" or "gift certificate" form that children can fill in and give as a gift. The form should provide spaces labeled *TO:*, *FROM:*, and *MY GIFT TO YOU*. Students might want to brainstorm gift ideas (ie. raking the garden, washing the dishes) before filling out their gift certificates.
- Create a "job jar" by decorating a large jar and putting inside it small folded slips of paper with odd jobs written on each. A few blank slips might be included so parents can write on them a preferred "job" for the student to do.

See more at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson041.shtml#sthash.iOseJeyT.dpuf

CHRISTMAS RECIPES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Benne (sesame seed) Cakes (an African American recipe)

You will need:

- oil to grease a cookie sheet
- 1 cup finely packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup toasted sesame seeds

Preheat the oven to 325°. Lightly oil a cookie sheet. Mix together the brown sugar and butter, and beat until they are creamy. Stir in the egg, vanilla extract, and lemon juice. Add flour, baking powder, salt, and sesame seeds. Drop by rounded teaspoons onto the cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake for 15 minutes or until the edges are browned. Enjoy!

Benne cakes are a food from West Africa. Benne means sesame seeds. The sesame seeds are eaten for good luck. This treat is still eaten in some parts of the American South.

(Recipe by Harper Collins)

Chanukah Dreidel Cookies (a Jewish recipe)

Ingredients

1/2 c. butter or vegetable shortening
1 c. sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. grated orange peel
2 tbsp. orange juice
1 c. ground Brazil nuts
2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. almond flavoring

Directions

Cream together butter or shortening and sugar until light and fluffy.

Stir in egg, orange peel, orange juice, and Brazil nuts.

Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Add to the creamed mixture.

Mix well.

Stir in almond flavoring.

Chill several hours.

Roll out dough 1/8 inch thick on a lightly floured board.

Cut into "dreidel" shapes.

Bake on ungreased cookie sheets in a moderate oven, 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

Amaretti

Traditionally served at Christmas time in Italy.

2 egg whites
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
1 cup chopped blanched almonds
3/4 teaspoon almond extract

1. Add salt to egg whites and beat until frothy.
2. Add sugar gradually, beating until mixture is stiff but not dry.
3. Add almonds and almond extract and fold in gently.
4. Drop almond mixture on buttered and floured baking sheet by the teaspoon, shape into small mounds, leaving room between each mound.
5. Let stand 2 hours.
6. Bake at 190 degrees celcius for 12 minutes or until they are delicately brown in colour.

Christmas Lebkuchen

Egyptian dish.

2 eggs
225g almonds
10g cinnamoon
2 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
4 eggs yolks
225g dried peel (thinly sliced)
1 teaspoon nutmeg
450g sugar
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
175g butter
700g flour

1. Melt butter over low heat.
2. Stir in sugar, spices, chopped almonds and well beaten eggs. Add flour and baking powder.
3. Roll dough out thinly and cut into shapes. Place half an almond in the centre of each biscuit, and brush the top of each biscuit with the white of an egg.
4. Bake at 180 degrees celcius until brown.

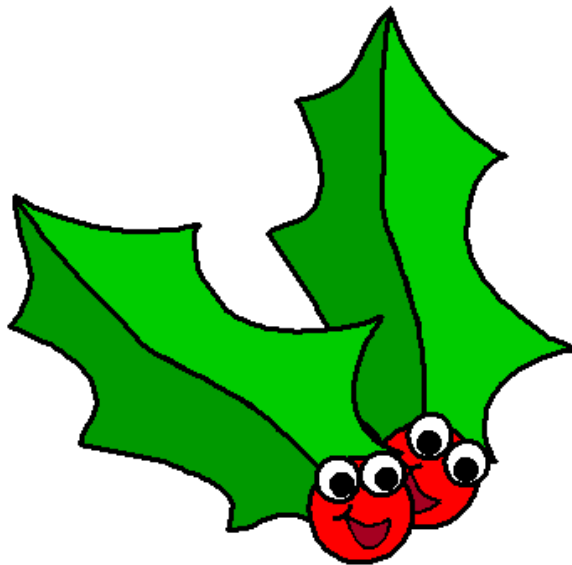
White Christmas from Australia

3 cups rice bubbles
1 cup mixed fruit
1 cup dessicated coconut
1 cup dry powdered milk
3/4 cup of sifted icing sugar
225 grams colpha
vanilla essence

1. Put 3 cups of rice bubbles, 1 cup of mixed fruit, dessicated coconut, dry powdered milk and 3/4 sifted icing sugar in a bowl.
2. Melt 225 grams copha in saucepan. Add copha to dry ingredients in bowl - mix well.
3. Press mixture firmly into a biscuit tray. Set in a refrigerator. Cut into squares.

Christmas Word Search

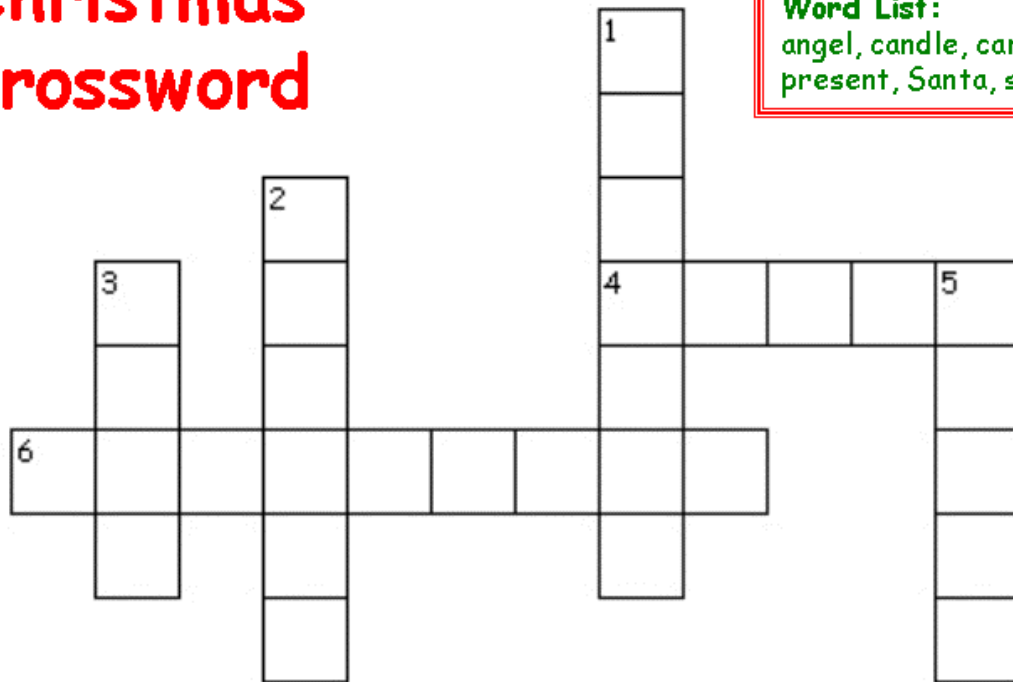
O B E A Y H A R E E S P G L R T
F R Q N G L E T O B A R N R V I
C W N I A I I T N Y M E I U S N
M O E A N C E M E A T S F D T S
Y L O D M L Y N A U S E F O H E
S L E K T E M D R F I N U L G L
O E L S I I N K N U R T T P I C
R U I O H E E T T A H S S H L A
F M H C H Y S S T O C K I N G S
S E I R R E B N A R C S E V L E



candycane
chimney
Christmas
cookies
cranberries
elves
family
holly
lights
mistletoe
ornament
presents
reindeer
Rudolph
Santa
sleigh
stockings
stuffing
tinsel
turkey

Christmas Crossword

Word List:
angel, candle, candycane,
present, Santa, star



Across

4.



6.



Down

1.



Down

2.



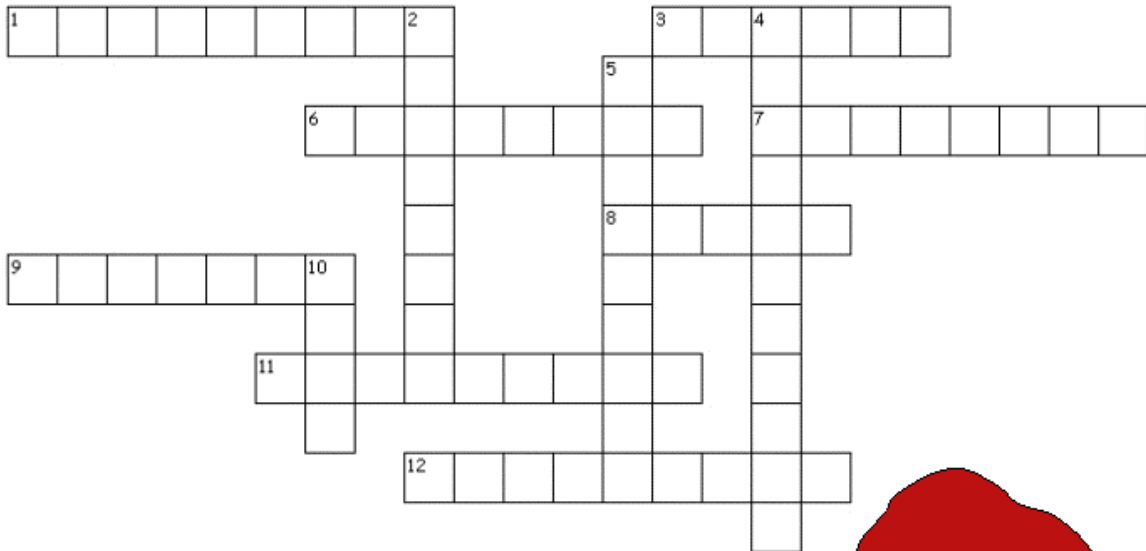
3.



5.



Christmas Crossword



Word List: angels, candycane, Christmas, comet, cookies, gingerbread, Nicholas, ornaments, presents, shepherd, star, stockings

Across

- 1. Pretty baubles to hang on the Christmas tree.
- 3. Guardians who announce the good news.
- 6. Wrapped with love.
- 7. Jolly old Saint _____.
- 8. Dasher, dancer, prancer, vixen, _____, cupid, donner, blitzen
- 9. Warm snacks for Santa.
- 11. Sweet and red and white.
- 12. We wish you a merry _____.

Down

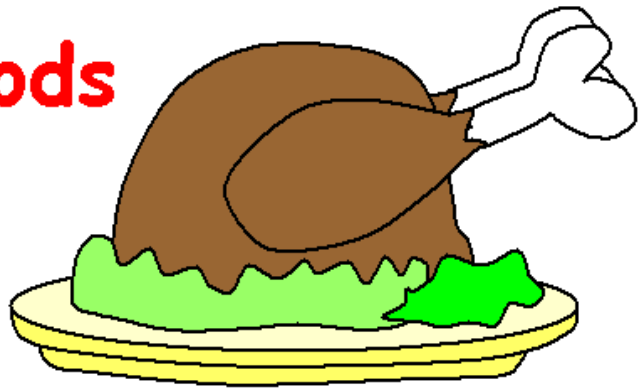
- 2. Keeper of the flocks.
- 4. House made of sweet treats.
- 5. The _____ were hung by the chimney with care.
- 10. Bright light marks the way.



Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Christmas Foods Anagram

Hidden Word (circled letters):



a b **c** e e i n r r r s

a c c e h l o o t

a g r v y

a l **n** s t u w

a m s **y**

c e i k o o s

d **d** g i n p u

e k r t u y

f f g i n **s** t u

i m **n** s t

Christmas Spot The Difference

Spot the 25 differences in these two pictures.



