

Christmas



Christmas is a holiday observed on December 25 when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. There are different Christmas **customs and traditions** around the world. For instance, in the UK and the USA primary school, which are reproductions of the religious story behind Christmas: when Jesus was born, a star appeared in the sky and showed the way to Bethlehem to three wise men who brought the baby gifts of gold, **frankincense and myrrh**.

Some Christmas traditions are also celebrated by non-Christians: **exchanging gifts**, Christmas cards, eating special meals and **decorating Christmas trees with baubles**, lights and **tinsel**. In many countries Santa Claus is associated with bringing gifts. He **travels down the chimney** on **Christmas Eve** and leaves the gifts under the Christmas tree. Santa Claus is based on a real person, St Nicholas, a 4th century **bishop** from Myra in Turkey.

Many people around the world celebrate different holidays around Christmas time, for example Hannukah, which is a Jewish holiday, and Kwanzaa, which is an African-American holiday.

Glossary

a bishop – biskup
a bauble – bombka
a chimney – komin
Christmas Eve – Wigilia
a custom – zwyczaj
frankincense – kadzidło
a gift – present
holly – ostrokrzew
mistletoe – jemiola
myrrh – mirra
a nativity play – jasełka
a reindeer – renifer
tinsel – anielski włos

Quiz

1. Where does Santa Claus land his sleigh?
 - a. on a roof
 - b. in a driveway
2. What is the traditional dessert in England on Christmas Day?
 - a. Christmas pudding
 - b. apple pie
3. Under which plant do people kiss at Christmas?
 - a. holly
 - b. mistletoe
4. Which of Santa's reindeer has a red nose?
 - a. Dasher
 - b. Rudolph

Answers: 1 a, 2 a, 3 b, 4 b