

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD



USA FACT SHEET

SANTA CLAUS

In the United States on Christmas Eve, Santa loads up his sleigh pulled by reindeer from the North Pole. He is dressed in a red suit and hat with black boots and belt. The children set out cookies and milk for Santa to eat. He delivers the presents under the Christmas tree which is typically found in the living room area of homes.



FOOD & DRINK

- turkey
- ham
- cranberries
- mashed potatoes
- stuffing
- gravy



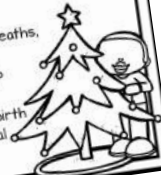
FAMILY TRADITIONS

In the United States there are a lot of people from a lot of different cultures. Some families continue to practice old family traditions and some start new traditions. A lot of families go to church or mass on the night before Christmas. Some families go around neighborhoods caroling to other people. Before going to bed on Christmas Eve, a lot of families read the story Night Before Christmas.



FUN FACTS

- Homes across the United States are often decorated with wreaths, garland, yard decorations and Christmas lights.
- Some Americans use popcorn threaded on string to help decorate their Christmas tree.
- Many Americans will go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Many churches have special services where the story of Christmas is told.



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ITALY FACT SHEET

BABBO NATALE

Italy's version of Santa Claus is called Babbo Natale. La Befana is the name of the old woman who delivers gifts to the children. Babbo Natale is gaining popularity and is becoming more popular and gift giving on Christmas Day is becoming more common. Babbo Natale wears a red cloak with white trim. He delivers presents to the children's stockings which are hung in homes.



FOOD & DRINK

- panettone
- panforte
- torrone
- baked pasta
- fish



FAMILY TRADITIONS

The Christmas season lasts for 3 weeks in Italy. During this time children go from home to home singing Christmas songs. In Italy, children wait until January 6th to open their presents. Christmas is a very religious holiday for people in Italy. Most families celebrate Christmas by attending and getting involved with their church.

FUN FACTS

- When Italians return from church they might have a slice of Italian Christmas cake called Panettone which is a sweet, fruity sponge cake.
- The Christmas celebrations start eight days before Christmas with special prayers and church services.
- Some families have a Creppo (or Yule Log) which is burned through the Christmas season.



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ENGLAND FACT SHEET

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas is the name of Santa Claus in England. The Santa tradition in England is very similar to the United States. He is often shown wearing a long red hooded gown trimmed with white fur. After the 1880s new customs were made and Father Christmas was known to deliver presents during the middle of the night for boys and girls.



FOOD & DRINK

- turkey
- brussel sprouts
- star cookies
- potatoes
- minced pie



FAMILY TRADITIONS

In England it is tradition for children to write a letter or wish list to Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. They toss the letters into the fireplace and it is said that their wishes go up the chimney to Father Christmas. After dinner on Christmas, the family gathers in the living room to listen to the Queen of England deliver a message over radio and television.



FUN FACTS

- The tradition of the mistletoe started in England. It is believed that when a person is standing underneath a mistletoe they receive a kiss.
- Card making was another tradition started by the people of England. Families make and send cards to people they love.
- Most families have one or even two Christmas trees in their home. They decorate the tree as a family.



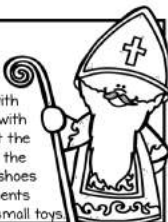
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FRANCE FACT SHEET

PERE NOEL

In France, Santa Claus is called Pere Noel. Sometimes children call him Papa Noel or Daddy Christmas. He wears a red cloak with a hood trimmed in white fur. He travels with a team of reindeer and has a workshop at the North Pole. When he delivers presents to the children, he places them in the children's shoes which are placed near the fireplace. Presents are traditionally small such as candy and small toys.



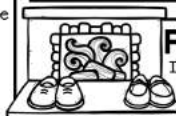
FOOD & DRINK

- roast goose
- oysters
- foie gras
- lobster
- venison
- variety of cheeses



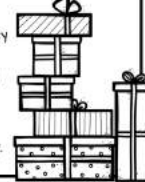
FAMILY TRADITIONS

In France, Christmas is called Noel, which means "the good news". Some people burn a log in their homes from Christmas Eve until New Year's Day. On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts from Pere Noel. In the morning they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts and small toys have been hung on the tree.



FUN FACTS

- The people of France love nativity scenes. Most homes display a manger and gather around it.
- A giant ice skating rink is set up around the Eiffel Tower during Christmas time. In that area there are little huts set up to sell Christmas items.
- At around midnight on Christmas Eve, French families eat a special meal to celebrate the very beginning of Christmas Day.



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GERMANY FACT SHEET

CHRISTKIND

Christ Kind is believed to be the one to deliver gifts to the little boys and girls in Germany. Children never see the Christkind in person and parents tell them that Christkind will not come and bring presents if they are curious and try to spot it. In Germany, the family enters the living room, where the Christmas tree has been put up, and open the presents.



FOOD & DRINK

- dumpling soup
- ham rolls
- chestnut stuffing
- butter cookies
- stollen (bread)



FAMILY TRADITIONS

Advent is celebrated in Germany. Advent is the 24 days leading up to Christmas. They have Advent wreaths and Advent calendars. The Advent calendars are usually made of cardboard and have 24 small windows or flaps. One of these are opened each day leading up to Christmas. Behind each window is candy or a small toy.



FUN FACTS

- A Christmas pickle hangs from the tree in most German homes. The first child to find the pickle will get an extra gift and a year of good luck.
- Children leave letters on their windowsills for Christkind. Sometimes the letters are decorated with glue and sprinkled with sugar to make them sparkle.
- German people make beautiful gingerbread houses and cookies.



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RUSSIA FACT SHEET

FATHER FROST

Father Frost is the Slavic version of Santa Claus. Some people call him Old Man Frost. His granddaughter, Snegurochka, is his helper. She wears a long silver-blue robes and a furry cap. Father Frost wears a fur coat that goes down to his feet, a fur hat, and carries a long magic staff. He travels in a traika which is a sleigh that is pulled by three horses. Father Frost delivers presents to children on New Year's Eve.



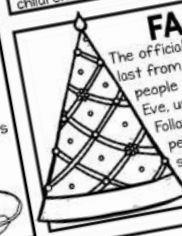
FOOD & DRINK

- fish
- fruit
- biscuits
- honey
- mushrooms
- Russian fish pie



FAMILY TRADITIONS

The official Christmas and New Holidays in Russia is lost from December 31st to January 10th. Some people fast (don't eat anything) on Christmas Eve, until the first star has appeared in the sky. Following the meal, prayers might be said and people then go to the midnight Church services. They often don't wash the dishes until they get home from church—sometimes not until 4:00 am.



FUN FACTS

- Russians tell the story of Babushka who is an old woman who met the wise men on their way to see Jesus.
- Common gifts during the Christmas season in Russia include nesting dolls and Russian lacquer boxes.
- A traditional Christmas meal consists of 12 dishes which represent the 12 apostles.



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FOOD & DRINK

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- gravy



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FOOD & DRINK

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- brussel sprouts
- Christmas pudding
- potatoes
- mincied pie



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FOOD & DRINK

- roast goose
- oysters
- foie gras
- lobster
- venison
- variety of cheeses



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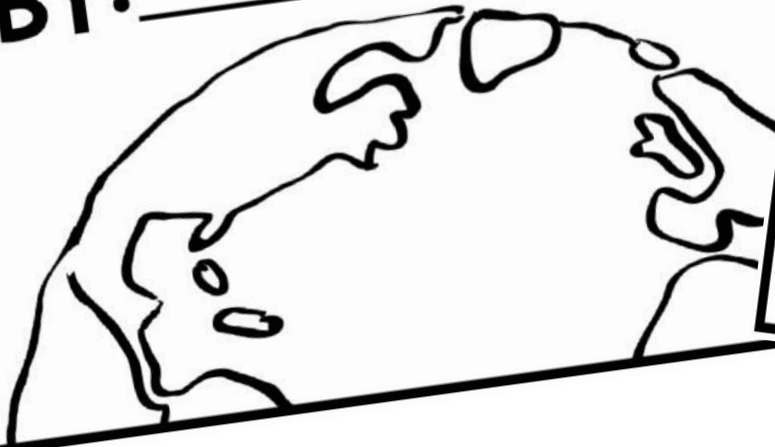
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HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD RESEARCH BOOK

BY: _____



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BY: _____

