

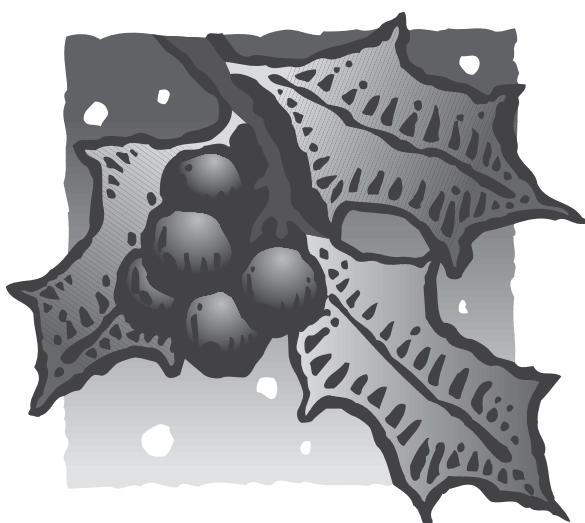
# Christmas trivia quiz

In celebration of the festive season, here's a quiz full of Christmas traditions and trivia from around the world.

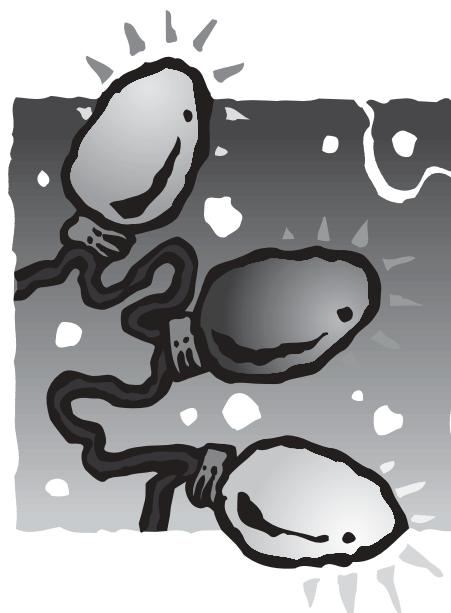
1. The legend of Santa Claus began with which 4th century saint?
  - a. Saint Christopher
  - b. Saint Michael
  - c. Saint Nicholas
2. ... and where did this saint live?
  - a. Finland
  - b. Turkey
  - c. Italy
3. In the United Kingdom, what do children put out for Santa Claus to put their presents in?
  - a. hats
  - b. socks
  - c. shoes
4. The Christmas tree tradition started in which country?
  - a. Germany
  - b. Russia
  - c. Norway
5. Where is the United States' official Christmas tree located?
  - a. In Times square, New York.
  - b. In King's Canyon National Park.
  - c. Outside the White House in Washington DC.
6. Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in
  - a. 1785
  - b. 1895
  - c. 1935
7. The first charity Christmas card was produced by UNICEF in 1949. Who was the picture painted by?
  - a. a seven-year-old girl
  - b. Pablo Picasso
  - c. Charlie Chaplin
8. Every Christmas Day, the British Monarch's speech is broadcast to the nation. Who wrote the first speech in 1932?
  - a. The King
  - b. Winston Churchill
  - c. Rudyard Kipling
9. What was invented by Tom Smith, an English confectioner, in 1847?
  - a. tinsel
  - b. the advent calendar
  - c. the Christmas cracker
10. How many people have spent Christmas Day in space?
  - a. none
  - b. five
  - c. thirty-five
11. Both Idaho and Indiana in the United States have a town called
  - a. Father Christmas
  - b. Santa Claus
  - c. Saint Nicholas
12. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer first appeared in 1939 to
  - a. advertise chocolates
  - b. warn people about catching a cold
  - c. promote a department store
13. In Finland, Santa travels on
  - a. a swan
  - b. a polar bear
  - c. a goat
14. In Syria, Christmas gifts are given out by
  - a. an eagle
  - b. a horse
  - c. a camel
15. In Poland, a meal of twelve different dishes is eaten on Christmas Eve. The main ingredient is
  - a. cheese
  - b. chicken
  - c. fish
16. In Lithuania, children have to do what before they receive their presents from Grandfather Christmas?
  - a. perform a dance
  - b. tell a joke
  - c. sing a song
17. In Greece, to stop horrible creatures called Kallikantzori playing tricks on people at Christmas you have to
  - a. burn an old shoe
  - b. whistle loudly
  - c. eat garlic
18. In the Ukraine, if you find a spider's web in the house on Christmas morning, it means
  - a. good luck
  - b. bad luck
  - c. it will snow later in the day
19. In Holland, who accompanies Santa when he is giving out presents?
  - a. his son, Pink Peter
  - b. his wife, Red Petra
  - c. his servant, Black Peter
20. In the United Kingdom, the day after Christmas is known as
  - a. Walking Day
  - b. Boxing Day
  - c. Sleeping Day

Now, read the text to check your answers.

1. The legend of Santa Claus began with Saint Nicholas. He is the patron saint of children, shopkeepers, pawnbrokers and sailors among other things.
2. The real Saint Nicholas was bishop of the town of Myra in Turkey. The Dutch named him Sinter Claes, which became Santa Claus when Dutch settlers took the tradition to the United States.
3. In the United Kingdom, children traditionally put out socks for Santa Claus to put their presents in. They are usually hung above the fireplace or at the end of the child's bed. Santa comes down the chimney, fills the socks and then drinks the wine that the family has left for him. It is traditional to leave a carrot or some other food for his reindeer.
4. The Christmas tree tradition started in Germany in the sixteenth century. Queen Victoria's husband, Albert, who was from Germany, brought the tradition to the United Kingdom and German immigrants took it to the United States at the end of the 1800s.
5. Since 1925, the United States' official Christmas tree has been a Giant Sequoia called 'General Grant' in King's Canyon National Park.
6. Electric Christmas tree lights were invented in 1895 by American Ralph Morris after concerns over accidents involving the use of candles.
7. The first charity Christmas card, produced by UNICEF in 1949, was painted by a seven-year-old girl. The girl was from Rudolfo, a small town in Czechoslovakia, which was one of the first places to receive aid after the Second World War. The picture was of children dancing.
8. The first British Monarch's speech broadcast to the nation in 1932 was written by Rudyard Kipling, author of *Jungle Book* and the poem *If*. Its opening words were 'I speak now from my home and from my heart ...'
9. In 1847, Tom Smith, an English confectioner, invented the Christmas cracker. The company he founded exists to this day and supplies Christmas crackers to the British royal family.
10. Since the crew of Apollo 8 became the first people in space over Christmas 1968, thirty-five people have so far spent Christmas Day in either in Salyut, MIR or the International Space Station.



11. Both Idaho and Indiana in the United States have a town called Santa Claus.
12. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer first appeared in 1939 to promote the opening of the latest shop in the Montgomery-Ward department store chain. The story was written by Robert May whose four-year-old daughter chose the name Rudolph. The famous song of the same name was written by his brother-in-law.
13. In Finland, Santa travels on a goat made of straw called Ukko. Straw decorations are a great tradition at Christmas in Sweden.
14. In Syria, Christmas gifts are given out by a camel. It is supposed to have belonged to one of the three wise men who visited the newborn Jesus.
15. In Poland, as well as in many other eastern European countries, the main ingredient of the Christmas meal is fish. The meal, which consists of twelve different dishes, is eaten on Christmas Eve. Guests must sample each of the dishes. After the meal, a wafer is broken and shared among the guests.
16. In Lithuania, children must sing a song for Kaledu Senelis, or Grandfather Christmas, before they can receive their presents. If they don't do this, they forfeit the presents, which are given to another child.
17. In Greece, the only way to get rid of the Kallikantzori is by burning an old shoe. If you do not have an old shoe, salt may be burned instead.
18. In the Ukraine, if you find a spider's web in the house on Christmas morning, it means good luck. Legend has it that by spinning webs, spiders used to decorate the trees of poor families who could not afford decorations. Today, spiders and webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations in the Ukraine.
19. In Holland, Santa Claus is accompanied by his servant, Black Peter, when he gives out presents. It is Black Peter and not Santa who throws the presents down the chimneys. Black Peter also punishes naughty children by putting them in sacks and taking them to Spain.
20. In the United Kingdom, the day after Christmas is known as Boxing Day. The name derives from the 19th century tradition of charitable employers giving boxes of food and clothing to their employees on this day.



# Teacher's notes

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## ***Task***

To do a light-hearted quiz about Christmas traditions and trivia.

To read text to find the answers to the quiz.

To discuss Christmas traditions in the student's own country.

## ***Preparation***

One copy of worksheets A, B and C for each student.

## ***Procedure***

1. Give the students a copy of the quiz (worksheet A) and ask them to do the quiz in pairs or small groups.
2. Give the students a copy of worksheets B and C so that they can check the answers to the quiz. The students could either (i) mark their own quiz or (ii) exchange papers with another pair/group and mark each other's quiz, or (iii) you could cut up the answers and display them around the classroom for the students to mingle and check the answers.
3. After the students have checked the answers, you could ask the students to read in more detail, underlining any vocabulary or language they do not understand. Then check this with the whole class by asking further questions and / or eliciting further information from the text.
4. The students then discuss, in pairs or small groups, which of the traditions mentioned in the quiz are similar to their country's traditions. Encourage them to discuss other Christmas traditions in their country. Ask the students to report back anything interesting from their discussions.

## ***Websites***

For more information about Christmas and its traditions, visit the following websites:

[www.christmas.com/worldview](http://www.christmas.com/worldview)

[www.soon.org.uk/christma.htm](http://www.soon.org.uk/christma.htm)

[www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm](http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm)

[www.howstuffworks.com/christmas.htm](http://www.howstuffworks.com/christmas.htm)