

## FESTIVALS &amp; CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 1–4

# Christmas Around the World

Same celebration, different traditions

## Christmas is celebrated differently everywhere

Christmas is celebrated by Christians around the world, but every country has its own special traditions. Some are about food, some about gifts, some about special activities. Let's take a trip around the world to see how different families celebrate.

## Christmas traditions around the world

Country	Special tradition	When
Mexico	Las Posadas — 9 nights of processions re-enacting Mary and Joseph's journey	Dec 16-24
Germany	Advent calendars and Christmas markets with gingerbread and mulled wine	All December
Philippines	Giant lantern festival with colorful star-shaped decorations	December
Australia	Beach BBQs and cricket on Christmas Day (it's summer there!)	December 25
Ethiopia	Genna — celebrated on January 7, with special church services	January 7
Iceland	13 Yule Lads (mischievous Christmas characters) visit children	13 nights before Christmas



## Food traditions

<b>United Kingdom</b> Christmas pudding (rich fruit cake), mince pies, and Christmas dinner with roast turkey.	<b>Italy</b> Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve, and panettone (sweet bread) for breakfast.
<b>Japan</b> KFC chicken on Christmas Day has become a popular tradition (not traditional, but very popular now!).	<b>France</b> Bûche de Noël (Yule log cake) and oysters for Christmas dinner.

## Think about it

1. Why might Christmas in Australia involve beaches instead of snow?
2. If you could create a new Christmas tradition for your family, what would it be?
3. What's the same about all these Christmas celebrations, even though they look different?

