

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 1–4

Christmas Around the World

One festival, many traditions

8 countries, 8 traditions

Country	Special tradition
Mexico	Las Posadas — 9 nights of reenacting Mary and Joseph looking for shelter.
Japan	KFC chicken on Christmas Day — a marketing campaign from the 1970s that became tradition.
Sweden	St Lucia Day on Dec 13 — girls wear white robes and crowns of candles.
Germany	Advent calendars and Christmas markets (Weihnachtsmärkte) — the original.
Iceland	Yule Lads — 13 mischievous trolls who visit children for 13 nights before Christmas.
Philippines	Parol — bright star lanterns hung outside every home.
Italy	La Befana — a kindly old witch who delivers gifts on Jan 6.
Australia	Christmas barbecue on the beach — it's the middle of summer there!

Discuss

1. Which of these traditions surprised you the most?
2. What's a Christmas tradition YOUR family has?



3. Some families don't celebrate Christmas. Why might that be?
4. What might be similar about ALL of these traditions, despite the differences?

