

What do you know about Christmas? Read this article to find out what people around the world do at this special time of year.

## Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

## Preparation

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

northern hemisphere	nativity	decorations	artificial	tinsel
southern hemisphere	bauble	traditional	pudding	Three Kings

1. Christmas ..... decorations ..... make your home look special for Christmas.
2. An ..... Christmas tree isn't a real tree. It's usually made of plastic.
3. Long pieces of shiny paper that you put on a Christmas tree are called .....
4. A ..... is a pretty ball that you put on a Christmas tree.
5. We do ..... things at Christmas. They're the same things that people have done for many years.
6. The ..... brought presents to the Baby Jesus in the story of Christmas.
7. A ..... is something sweet that you eat at the end of a meal. It's often hot.
8. The ..... is the story of when the Baby Jesus was born.
9. The ..... is the top half of the world. North America is here.
10. The ..... is the bottom half of the world. Australia is here.

## Christmas

Christmas is celebrated in around 160 countries around the world! Christmas celebrations can start from the beginning of December in some places, and in others they go on until January.

### Christmas decorations

Christmas is a time for colourful decorations and lights. In many countries, people put up Christmas trees in their homes. These can be either real trees or artificial ones. They decorate them with lights, tinsel and baubles and often put a star on the top. In many towns and cities you can see lights and other decorations in the streets.

### Christmas presents

Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, brings presents to many children around the world at Christmas! They sometimes get presents in a stocking – a large sock that children leave out when they go to bed on the night before Christmas. Other children get small presents in their shoes. In some countries, the presents come from other people, such as the Three Kings or the Baby Jesus.

### Christmas food

Christmas food is different all over the world. Some people eat roast meat and potatoes, some eat fish, others eat soup or vegetable dishes. Many countries have traditional puddings, desserts, biscuits and cakes. Christmas is often a time for families to share delicious meals together.

### A Christian Christmas

For many Christians around the world, Christmas is the time to remember the birth of the baby Jesus. In the UK, some schools have a nativity play, where children dress up and tell the story of Christmas. In many countries, there are nativity scenes in churches or in people's homes. Nativity scenes are small displays of figures, showing the different people and animals in the Christmas story.

### Christmas weather

In lots of Christmas films, books and songs, there's snow, ice and snowmen. For some countries in the northern hemisphere, Christmas means cold, winter weather. But for a lot of countries in the southern hemisphere, Christmas is in summer, and people spend the day in the sun at the beach!

So, Christmas can be very different in different parts of the world, and each country has its own traditions. But in most places where Christmas is celebrated, it's a very special time of year. Merry Christmas!

## Tasks

### Task 1

Circle true or false for these sentences.

- |  |                                       |                             |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. People celebrate Christmas in about 160 countries in the world.         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> True | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 2. Christmas celebrations are usually in February and March.               | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 3. Some Christmas trees are not real trees.                                | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 4. Many children get their presents in a big hat.                          | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 5. Everywhere in the world, people eat meat and potatoes for Christmas.    | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 6. For Christians, the Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus.        | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 7. A nativity scene shows the people and animals from the Christmas story. | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |
| 8. Everybody has snow at Christmas.  | <input type="radio"/> True            | <input type="radio"/> False |

### Task 2

Put the words and phrases in the correct order.

1. baubles. Christmas trees People tinsel and decorate with lights,

People decorate Christmas trees with lights, tinsel and baubles.

2. brings children. Father presents Christmas to lots of

\_\_\_\_\_

3. get presents the Baby Jesus. from the Three Some children Kings or

\_\_\_\_\_

4. delicious Christmas share at meals Many families

\_\_\_\_\_

5. In the is in hemisphere, winter. Christmas northern

\_\_\_\_\_

6. summer. hemisphere, Christmas southern is in In the

\_\_\_\_\_

**Write and draw**

Do people celebrate Christmas where you live? What's a special time of year for you? Write about it and draw a picture.

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## Answers

### Preparation task

1. decorations
2. artificial
3. tinsel
4. bauble
5. traditional
6. Three Kings
7. pudding
8. nativity
9. northern hemisphere
10. southern hemisphere

### Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False

### Task 2

1. People decorate Christmas trees with lights, tinsel and baubles.
2. Father Christmas brings presents to lots of children.
3. Some children get presents from the Three Kings or the Baby Jesus.
4. Many families share delicious meals at Christmas.
5. In the northern hemisphere, Christmas is in winter.
6. In the southern hemisphere, Christmas is in summer.