

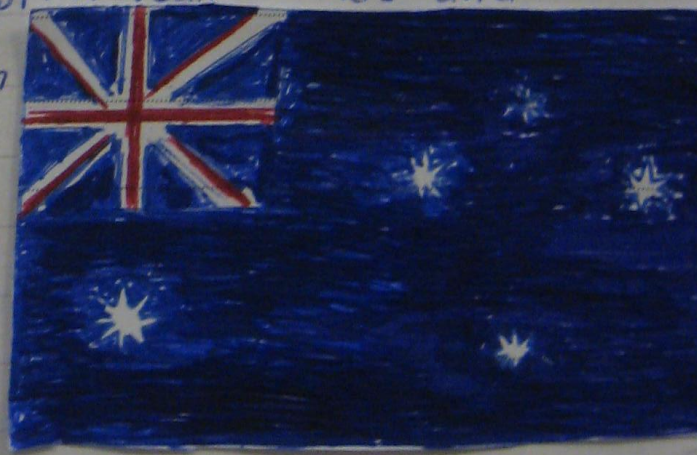
Σχολικό Έτος 2014-15



Υπεύθυνα Καθηγήτρια: Βάσω Παναγιωτάκη

Christmas in Australia

- In Australia, Christmas comes in the middle of the summer holidays!! Children have their summer holidays from early to mid December to early February, so some people might even be camping at Christmas.
- When he gets to Australia, Santa gives the reindeer a rest and uses kangaroos. He also changes his clothes for less 'hot' ones.
- Many towns, cities and schools also hold their own Carols by Candlelight services with local bands and choirs sometimes helping to perform the X-mas Carols and songs. As it is the middle of Summer in Australia at X-mas time, the words in the Carols about a snow and cold winter are sometimes changed.



By: Anthony Sakkas

Christmas in... **EGYPT** !

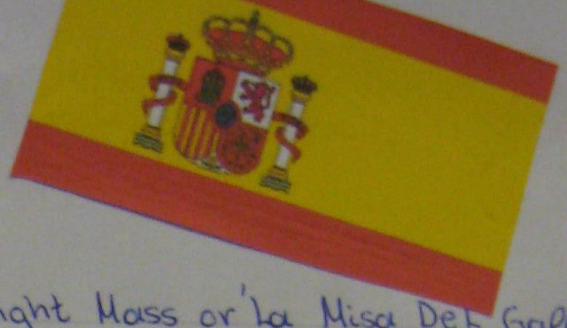
In Egypt about 15% of people are Christians. They are the only part of the population who really celebrate Christmas. Most Egyptian Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church and they have some very unique traditions for Christmas. Christmas day isn't celebrated on the 25th December but on 7th January like Ethiopia and Russia. The Coptic month leading to Christmas is called Kiahk. People sing special praise songs on Saturday nights before the Sunday Service. For the 43 days before Christmas, from 25th November to 6th January, Coptic Orthodox Christians have a special fast where they basically eat a vegan diet. They don't eat anything containing products that come from animals. This is called "The Holy Nativity fast". People who are too weak or ill can be excused!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Stefanos
Fragkoulis

Christmas in



Most people in Spain go to Midnight Mass or 'la Misa Del Gallo'. Most families eat their main Christmas meal on Christmas Eve before the service. The traditional Spanish Christmas dinner is 'Pavo Trufado de Navidad' which is Turkey stuffed with truffles. In Galicia the most popular meal for Christmas Eve and for Christmas Day is seafood (Galicia surrounded by water). This can all kinds of different seafood, from shellfish and mollusks, to lobster and small edible crabs.

• Christmas in the Basque Country (a part of northern S

In the Basque country, on Christmas Eve, children's presents are delivered by a magical man called Olentzero. He's a big, overweight man wearing a beret and smoking a pipe. He dresses like a Basque farmer.

• Christmas in Catalonia

In Catalonia province of Spain there's a Christmas character called 'Tio de Nadal' or he's sometimes known as 'Caga tio'. It's a small hollow log propped up on two legs with a smiling face painted on one end. From the 8th December Catalan families give the log a few morsels of food to 'eat' and a blanket to keep it warm. On Christmas Day or Christmas Eve, the log then 'gives out' small gifts! People sing songs and hit the log with sticks to help its 'digestion' and the log drops sweets, nuts, and dried fruits. When garlic or an onion falls out of the log, all the treats are finished for the year.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Christmas in GERMANY

A big part of the Christmas celebrations in Germany is advent, which is the special calendars used for the countdown of days in December. There are 24 boxes and each box has a little present or chocolate in it.

Christmas trees are also very important in Germany. They were first used in Germany during the Middle ages. The trees are usually secretly decorated by the mother of the family

December 24th begins as a regular workday, but by 2:00 pm businesses close in preparation for the holiday celebration, a large part of which occurs on Christmas Eve in Germany. The traditional evening meal includes carp and potato salad. Families sing Christmas carols together and members exchange gifts. Christmas Eve (the 24th of December) is when the Germans exchange gifts with their families

St. Nicholas day, however, is celebrated on December 6th in Germany. On the evening before the 6th, children place their newly cleaned shoes in front of the door in the hope that Nicholas might fill them with nuts, fruits, chocolate and sweets. If the children have behaved well, their wishes will be fulfilled. Children who have caused mischief will receive only a switch, which symbolizes punishment for their bad deeds.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



-Tonia Dimopoulou



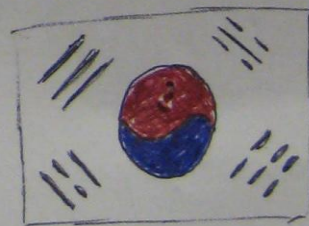
Christmas in South Korea

There are more Christians in S. Korea than in other Asian countries such as China and Japan, so Christmas is celebrated more widely. However, the other 70% of people in South Korea are Buddhist (about 25%) or don't have a religion. Unlike Japan, Christmas is an official public holiday - so some people have the day off work and school! But they go back on the 26th (Boxing Day). There's a longer official winter break in the New Year. Churches are decorated with lights and many have a bright red neon cross on top so that goes very well with the Christmas lights! Most churches will have a service on Christmas day. Going to Church for Christmas is becoming more popular, even among non Christians.

Santa Claus can also be seen around Korea but he might be wearing red or blue! He's also known as 산타 클로스 (santa kullosu)

A popular Christmas food is a Christmas Cake, but it's often a sponge cake covered in cream brought from local bakery!

Merry Christmas in Korean is "Men Krismas"
 메리 크리스마스



Tania Varveris



Christmas in the Philippines

People in the Philippines like to celebrate Christmas for as long as possible! The singing of Christmas carols can start from September, although the formal celebrations begin on the 16th of December.

Christmas customs in the Philippines are a mixture of western and native Filipino traditions. So people there have Santa Claus, Christmas trees, cards and carols, just like in western countries. Still, they also have their own Christmas traditions such as the "parol", a bamboo pole or frame with a lighted star lantern on it. It is made from bamboo strips and coloured paper, and represents the star that guided the Wise Men. It is the most popular Christmas decoration in the Philippines. Some villages also organise contests for the best decorations.

Christmas Eve is very important in the Philippines. Many people stay awake all night into Christmas day! During Christmas Eve evening, people go to church to attend the mass. In addition to this, the "Panunuluyan" pageant is held each Eve, in which a couple is chosen to re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for shelter. This is followed by a midnight feast, called "Noche Buena". Most households would have several dishes laid out and would normally include roasted pig, ham, fruit salad, rice cakes and other sweets, steamed rice and many different kinds of drinks.

Christmas morning sees children setting out to visit their godparents. It is customary for Filipino children to kiss the hands of their godparents on this day. Godparents, in turn, have gifts waiting for them.



Melina Levis

Christmas in Austria



Austria shares many Christmas traditions with its neighbour Germany, but also has many special Christmas customs of its own. During Advent, many families will have an Advent wreath made from evergreen twigs and decorated with ribbons and four candles. One each of the four Sunday in Advent, a candle is lit and a carol or two might be sung. Most towns will have a Christmas market from late November, early December selling Christmas decorations, food, sweets and warm mulled wine. Cities like Vienna, Innsbruck and Salzburg have huge markets and people from all over the world visit them. Every town will also have a large Christmas Tree in the town square. In homes, trees are decorated with gold and silver ornaments and stars made from straw. Christmas in Austria really starts around 4.00pm on Christmas Eve when the tree is lit for the first time and people come to sing carols around the tree. The most famous carol is Silent Night which was written in Austria in 1818. Traditionally the Christmas tree is brought in and decorated on Christmas Eve. Decorations include candles and sparkles. For children, other important decorations are sweets such as small liquor-filled chocolate bottles, chocolates of various kind, jelly rings. Some children believed that the 'Christkind' decorates the tree. The Christkind also brings presents to children on Christmas Eve and leaves them under the tree.

Christine Karolouli

