

# How Do We Celebrate Christmas?

Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December in lots of different countries around the world. How do people celebrate Christmas in the UK?

## Traditions

On Christmas Eve, many people leave a treat out for Father Christmas and his reindeer. Some leave carrots or sugar lumps for the reindeer, whilst mince pies and drinks are left for Father Christmas.



Christmas stockings are also left out on Christmas Eve, ready for Father Christmas to put presents inside.

## Dazzling Decorations

Houses are decorated with lots of beautiful lights. Christmas trees are brought into people's houses and have baubles and tinsel on them. Some people also decorate their houses with paper chains. These colourful chains are put on the tree or hung around the house.

### Christmas colours:

There are lots of bright colours used at Christmas time, but these are the most common:

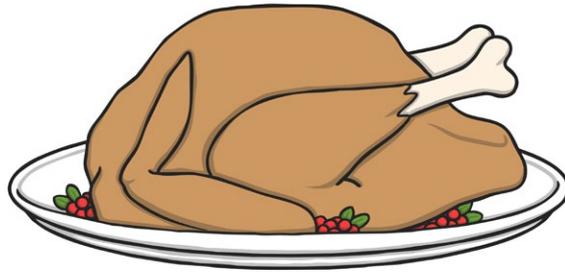
- **Green** – to represent life
- **Red** – to represent Jesus' blood, love and joy
- **Gold** – to represent giving gifts

## Festive Food

People enjoy eating yummy food at Christmas time. Christmas puddings have been eaten for many years. They have spices and

dried fruits inside.

Christmas dinner is made in different ways in different homes. Some people have turkey, others have goose or chicken. Nut roast is often eaten by people who do not eat meat. Brussels sprouts are small, green and round, and very healthy.



# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? Questions

1. Which day of the year is Christmas Day?

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2. Name two treats that might be left out for the reindeer on Christmas Eve.

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3. Name two things that may be put onto a Christmas tree.

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4. What does the colour gold represent at Christmas time?

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5. Which two ingredients are put inside a Christmas pudding?

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6. What is your favourite food to eat at Christmas time?

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# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? **Answers**

1. Which day of the year is Christmas Day?

**Christmas Day is on the 25th of December.**

2. Name two treats that might be left out for the reindeer on Christmas Eve.

**Carrots and sugar lumps may be left out for the reindeer on Christmas Eve.**

3. Name two things that may be put onto a Christmas tree.

**Christmas trees might be decorated with baubles, tinsel or paper chains.**

4. What does the colour gold represent at Christmas time?

**Gold represents giving gifts at Christmas time.**

5. Which two ingredients are put inside a Christmas pudding?

**Christmas puddings have spices and dried fruit inside them.**

6. What is your favourite food to eat at Christmas time?

**Varied answers.**

# How Do We Celebrate Christmas?

Christmas is celebrated in December and is the time when Christians believe that Baby Jesus was born in a stable. How is this festival celebrated in different homes?

## Traditions

Do you want to build a snowman? In some parts of the UK, there may be snow to make a snowman with during the Christmas period. Traditionally, snowmen need coal for eyes, a mouth and buttons, a carrot for the nose and a hat and scarf to keep the snowman warm!

At Christmas, many towns and cities decorate their streets with festive lights. During November, these lights are often switched on by famous people with crowds of people watching and cheering.

## Dazzling Decorations

Houses and buildings are decorated using lots of decorations at Christmas time. Candles are used as a symbol to represent hope and peace. Many people have an Advent calendar to count down the days until Christmas Day. The first door is opened on the 1st of December. Each door contains a picture and some have a small chocolate or gift inside.

Christmas trees are decorated using tinsel, baubles and lights. The top of the tree usually has an angel or star to remind people about the importance of the birth of Jesus at Christmas time.



## Festive Food

Lots of different food is eaten during the Christmas period. Mince

pies are a Christmas treat that are made using pastry and a filling that is mixed with spices. Another tradition is to burn a 'yule log' on the fire during Christmas time. Some homes have now changed this tradition and eat a chocolate cake which is sometimes decorated with holly leaves.



# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? Questions

1. Where do Christians believe Baby Jesus was born?

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2. What is traditionally used to make the eyes for a snowman?

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3. In which month of the year are Christmas lights switched on in towns?

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4. What do candles represent at Christmas time?

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5. When is the first door opened on an Advent calendar?

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6. What is put on the top of a Christmas tree?

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7. What does the decoration at the top of the tree represent?

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8. What would you like for Christmas?

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# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? Answers

1. Where do Christians believe Baby Jesus was born?

**Christians believe that Baby Jesus was born in a stable.**

2. What is traditionally used to make the eyes for a snowman?

**Coal is traditionally used to make eyes for a snowman.**

3. In which month of the year are Christmas lights switched on in towns?

**Christmas lights are usually switched on in November.**

4. What do candles represent at Christmas time?

**Candles represent hope and peace at Christmas time.**

5. When is the first door opened on an Advent calendar?

**The first door is opened on 1st December.**

6. What is put on the top of a Christmas tree?

**An angel or a star usually goes on top of a Christmas tree.**

7. What does the decoration at the top of the tree represent?

**The angel and star reminds people of the importance of Jesus' birth at Christmas time.**

8. What would you like for Christmas?

**Varied answers.**

# How Do We Celebrate Christmas?

Christmas is a magical time that is celebrated in many countries around the world. Christians believe that it marks the birth of Jesus in a small stable in Bethlehem. But how is this festival celebrated in homes?

## Timeless Traditions

Many children enjoy writing their letter to Father Christmas each year. The letters are then sent to the North Pole so that the elves can begin making toys and presents in time for Christmas Day. In some schools, children perform in a Christmas play. The play may be a retelling of the Nativity story or can be winter-themed. Costumes, props and songs are all used as part of this festive tradition.

Christmas markets have also become a tradition across the UK. Cities and towns put up market stalls and small gifts, decorations and food are sold.

## Dazzling Decorations

Houses and homes are traditionally decorated to celebrate Christmas. Small, multicoloured fairy lights are put on trees and around windows, whilst ornaments such as reindeer, stars and elves decorate shelves and fireplaces. Christmas trees are brought into houses and are decorated with baubles, tinsel and small chocolates. Around 8 million Christmas trees are bought in the UK each year.



## Festive Food

Several weeks of planning and preparation is complete when the Christmas meal is cooked for families and friends to enjoy. Most families eat their Christmas dinner on the 25th of December.

This tasty meal includes meat (usually turkey but can also be goose, chicken or a nut roast for vegetarians). Many vegetables are served with this meal including potatoes, carrots, broccoli and sprouts! Brussels sprouts are not everyone's favourite vegetable but they are packed full of vitamins to keep winter colds away.

One traditional pudding that is eaten at Christmas time, is Christmas cake. This fruit cake is made several months in advance and is made with different dried fruits including raisins, currants and sultanas. The cake is then topped with marzipan, before being covered with white royal icing.



# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? Questions

1. Where in the world do Christians believe Jesus was born?

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2. Where are the letters for Father Christmas sent to?

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3. Name two things that might be used in a school Nativity play.

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4. How many Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year?

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5. Name two ornaments that may be used to decorate people's homes.

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6. What do some vegetarians have as part of their Christmas dinner?

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7. Why might some people not eat their Christmas meal on 25th December?

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8. What is put underneath the royal icing on a Christmas cake?

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9. What does the word 'traditional' mean?

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10. What traditions do you have in your family at Christmas time?

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# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? Answers

1. Where in the world do Christians believe Jesus was born?

**Christians believe that Jesus was born in a stable, in Bethlehem.**

2. Where are the letters for Father Christmas sent to?

**The letters for Father Christmas are usually sent to the North Pole.**

3. Name two things that might be used in a school Nativity play.

**Two from: costumes, props and songs.**

4. How many Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year?

**Around 8 million Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year.**

5. Name two ornaments that may be used to decorate people's homes.

**Two from: reindeer, stars, elves, lights and trees.**

6. What do some vegetarians have as part of their Christmas dinner?

**Some vegetarians have a nut roast at Christmas time.**

7. Why might some people not eat their Christmas meal on 25th December?

**Varied answers. May include people may be working on Christmas Day (e.g. doctors, police, firefighters, nurses etc.), people have their traditional meal on Boxing Day and people not celebrating Christmas.**

8. What is put underneath the royal icing on a Christmas cake?

**Marzipan is put underneath the royal icing on a Christmas cake.**

9. What does the word 'traditional' mean?

**Varied answers. Traditional means something that you repeat, you do each year. It is something people have been doing for a long time.**

10. What traditions do you have in your family at Christmas time?

**Varied answers.**