

Christmas Activities

This is a small collection of Christmas themed quizzes, discussion questions and activities.

Christmas Around the World – Discussion Questions	<i>A set of 6 questions to help students find out about how Christmas is celebrated around the world.</i>	p.2
Christmas Around the World Worksheet	<i>Similar to above but with some space for students to take notes.</i>	p. 3
Christmas in the UK Quiz	<i>12 multiple choice questions about Christmas traditions in the UK. Answers on the next page.</i>	p. 4
All Things Christmas	<i>A fill-in-the-blanks quiz on contemporary Christmas practices in the UK. Answers on the next page.</i>	p. 6
Christmas Crafts – Christingles	<i>A simple craft with Christian symbolism</i>	p. 8
Mini Christmas Cakes	<i>Help students make and decorate mini Christmas cakes in baked bean cans.</i>	p. 9

Christmas around the world – discussion questions.

Give everyone a set of questions and encourage them to mingle and find out the answers from students from different parts of the world.

It is Christmas Time!

- Is Christmas celebrated in your country? Do you also have an Advent time?
- What are the traditions linked to Christmas in your country?
- Is there some food that you would only cook or eat around Christmas time?
- How do you celebrate Christmas? Describe a typical 25th December.
- What is the religious significance of Christmas in your country?
- If Christmas is not celebrated, which events of similar popular importance do you have?

It is Christmas Time!

- Is Christmas celebrated in your country? Do you also have an Advent time?
- What are the traditions linked to Christmas in your country?
- Is there some food that you would only cook or eat around Christmas time?
- How do you celebrate Christmas? Describe a typical 25th December.
- What is the religious significance of Christmas in your country?
- If Christmas is not celebrated, which events of similar popular importance do you have?

It is Christmas Time!

- Is Christmas celebrated in your country? Do you also have an Advent time?
- What are the traditions linked to Christmas in your country?
- Is there some food that you would only cook or eat around Christmas time?
- How do you celebrate Christmas? Describe a typical 25th December.
- What is the religious significance of Christmas in your country?
- If Christmas is not celebrated, which events of similar popular importance do you have?

It is Christmas Time!

- Is Christmas celebrated in your country? Do you also have an Advent time?
- What are the traditions linked to Christmas in your country?
- Is there some food that you would only cook or eat around Christmas time?
- How do you celebrate Christmas? Describe a typical 25th December.
- What is the religious significance of Christmas in your country?
- If Christmas is not celebrated, which events of similar popular importance do you have?

Christmas Around The World Worksheet

See if you can find 3 very different "types" of Christmas.

COUNTRY	
• Traditions	
• Decorations	
• Food	
• Date of Christmas	
• Type of Weather	

COUNTRY	
• Traditions	
• Decorations	
• Food	
• Date of Christmas	
• Type of Weather	

COUNTRY	
• Traditions	
• Decorations	
• Food	
• Date of Christmas	
• Type of Weather	

Christmas in the UK Quiz

- On which day do people in the UK have most of their Christmas celebrations?
 - Christmas Eve
 - Christmas Day
 - Boxing Day
- In which country did the tradition of Christmas cards begin?
 - Germany
 - USA
 - Britain
- Who made Christmas trees popular in Britain?
 - Henry VIII
 - Queen Elizabeth I
 - Queen Victoria
- What is a Christmas Carol?
 - Any song sung at Christmas time
 - A religious song sung at Christmas
- Which of the following Christmas carols was originally written in Britain?
 - Silent Night
 - Away in a Manger
 - The first Noel
- What do children in the UK and USA hang up for Father Christmas to put presents in?
 - Pillow case
 - Stocking
 - Sack
- In the UK, when does Santa bring presents?
 - 6 December
 - Christmas Eve
 - Boxing Day
- Santa is based on a real person who lived over a thousand years ago. What was his name?
 - Jesus
 - Saint George
 - Saint Nicholas
- The day after Christmas is also a holiday, and it's called Boxing Day. Why?
 - Traditionally, people went to watch boxing matches on that day.
 - Traditionally, rich people gave their servants "Christmas boxes" of food and gifts that day.
 - It's when people take down their Christmas decorations and put them in boxes.
- Eating turkey for Christmas dinner became popular in Britain in the 18th Century. What did people eat before that?
 - Goose
 - Duck
 - Beef
- Which of the following is *not* part of a traditional British Christmas dinner?
 - Plum Pudding
 - Brussels sprouts
 - Brandy butter
 - Cream cake
- At Christmas time, children often do a nativity play at school, ie, a play about the birth of Jesus. What of the following are *not* found in a nativity play?
 - Joseph and Mary
 - Wise men
 - An evil King
 - A star
 - Shepherds
 - Angels
 - A wicked witch
 - Camels

Christmas in the UK Quiz Answers

1. On which day do people in the UK have most of their Christmas celebrations?
a. Christmas Eve b. Christmas Day c. Boxing Day
2. In which country did the tradition of Christmas cards begin?
a. Germany b. USA c. Britain
3. Who made Christmas trees popular in Britain?
a. Henry VIII b. Queen Elizabeth I c. Queen Victoria
4. What is a Christmas Carol?
a. Any song sung at Christmas time b. A religious song sung at Christmas
5. Which of the following Christmas carols was originally written in Britain?
a. Silent Night - *Austria*
b. Away in a Manger – *America (but could be based on Luther's lyrics)*
c. The first Noel
6. What do children in the UK and USA hang up for Father Christmas to put presents in?
a. Pillow case b. Stocking c. Sack
7. In the UK, when does Santa bring presents?
a. 6 December b. Christmas Eve c. Boxing Day
8. Santa is based on a real person who lived over a thousand years ago. What was his name?
a. Jesus b. Saint George c. Saint Nicholas
9. The day after Christmas is also a holiday, and it's called Boxing Day. Why?
a. Traditionally, people went to watch boxing matches on that day.
b. Traditionally, rich people gave their servants "Christmas boxes" of food and gifts that day. (*This is one explanation. Another is that the church collected donations in alms boxes that were then distributed to the poor on Boxing Day.*)
c. It's when people take down their Christmas decorations and put them in boxes.
10. Eating turkey for Christmas dinner became popular in Britain in the 18th Century. What did people eat before that?
a. Goose b. Duck c. Beef
11. Which of the following is *not* part of a traditional British Christmas dinner?
a. Plum Pudding c. Brandy butter
b. Brussel sprouts d. Cream cake
12. At Christmas time, children often do a nativity play at school, ie, a play about the birth of Jesus. What of the following are *not* found in a nativity play?
a. Joseph and Mary e. Shepherds
b. Wise men f. Angels
c. An evil King g. A wicked witch
d. A star h. Camels

All Things Christmas

See if you can fill in the missing word.

1. If only Christmas shopping didn't lead to January _____.
2. Some people send a round-robin _____ in their Christmas cards to update friends about their year.
3. Turn on the television at 3pm on Christmas Day to hear the _____ Speech.
4. Some people like to _____ around town to see the lights.
5. The annual Christmas _____ is a good way to get to know your co-workers.
6. Wait 45 minutes in a line full of kids to see _____ for one minute.
7. If you can't get gifts for everyone try a _____ Santa arrangement.
8. Some companies give Christmas _____ if it's been a good year.
9. Some children leave a _____ for Santa, and a carrot for Rudolph.
10. Attend a special Christmas church _____ or midnight mass.
11. If you enjoy singing, you may go _____ in your neighborhood.
12. Some churches put up _____ scenes; some are live and some use figurines.
14. Wear a silly Christmas _____ and make people smile.
15. Kiss your true love under the hanging _____.
18. Some prefer a live tree, while some prefer an _____ one.
19. You'll find a paper hat and a bad joke inside your Christmas _____.
20. Don't forget the _____ for the season – Jesus!

All Things Christmas - Answers

See if you can fill in the missing word.

1. If only Christmas shopping didn't lead to January _____. **BILLS**
2. Some people send a round-robin _____ in their Christmas cards to update friends about their year. **LETTER**
3. Turn on the television at 3pm on Christmas Day to hear the _____ Speech. **QUEEN'S**
4. Some people like to _____ around town to see the lights. **DRIVE**
5. The annual Christmas _____ is a good way to get to know your co-workers. **PARTY**
6. Wait 45 minutes in a line full of kids to see _____ for one minute. **SANTA**
7. If you can't get gifts for everyone try a _____ Santa arrangement. **SECRET**
8. Some companies give Christmas _____ if it's been a good year. **BONUSES**
9. Some children leave a _____ for Santa, and a carrot for Rudolph. **MINCE PIE**
10. Attend a special Christmas church _____ or midnight mass. **SERVICE**
11. If you enjoy singing, you may go _____ in your neighborhood. **CAROLLING**
12. Some churches put up _____ scenes; some are live and some use figurines. **NATIVITY**
14. Put on a silly Christmas _____ and make people smile. **JUMPER**
15. Kiss your true love under the hanging _____. **MISTLETOE**
18. Some prefer a live tree, while some prefer an _____ one. **ARTIFICIAL**
19. You'll find a paper hat and a bad joke inside your Christmas _____. **CRACKER**
20. Don't forget the _____ for the season – Jesus! **REASON**

Christmas Crafts - Christingles

What Is it?

A Christingle is made up of an orange, wrapped in ribbon, with a small lit candle and dried fruits or sweets inserted using cocktail sticks. It's often used in Advent services and popular with children.

The Christingle consists of:

- An orange representing the world
- A lighted candle representing Jesus, the Light of the World
- A red ribbon representing the blood of Christ which was shed for our sins
- The dried fruit and sweets represent the fruits and good gifts of the earth



How to make one

Items Needed

- An orange
- Red ribbon
- Double sided Sticky tape
- Cocktail sticks
- Sweets like jellies, candy or dolly mixtures or dried fruit like dates and apricots
- Scissors
- Apple corer
- Kitchen foil
- Small white candle

Instructions

1. Wrap the double sided sticky tape around the middle of the orange and then place the strip of red ribbon over it to that it sticks securely in place.
2. Some people make a complete circle and trim the ends whilst others prefer to tie the ribbon into a decorative knot.
3. Use an apple corer or potato peeler to make a candle sized hole into the top of the orange.
4. Put a cocktail stick into each corner of the orange and skewer the sweets or dried fruits or a mixture of each.
5. Wrap kitchen foil around the bottom of the candle and push it firmly into the orange.
6. You now have a Christingle.

Mini Christmas Cakes

This activity takes a fair bit of work but is usually very much appreciated, as students can each take home a personalised Christmas Cake. It is probably most easily done with a small group in someone's home, but it can be done with large numbers (organised in groups of 8-10) at a weekend away or international café (the timing is tight for a typical café).

Equipment

- One empty tin can per student, washed thoroughly and with labels removed (team members need to dedicate themselves to consuming baked beans, canned soup and tinned tomatoes)
- Greaseproof paper & pastry brush for greasing
- Permanent marker (for students to label their tin can)
- Baking equipment – enough whisks, mixing bowls, wooden spoons and spoons per table, plus, weighing machines and measuring spoons to share.
- Cake Decoration – assorted ribbons, scissors, tape, holly, cake toppers, berries, sheets of icing (cut into rounds), coloured icing cut into Christmas shapes...

Ingredients (makes 10):

- 175g plain flour
- 1/2 tsp ground mixed spice
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 125g butter or stork
- 130g soft brown sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 40g ground almonds
- 600g dried mixed fruit (or a combination of sultanas, currants, dried apricots, diced mixed peel, glace cherries, etc)
- 50g blanched almonds, roughly chopped (optional)
- 1 tbs brandy or apple juice (optional)

Method

1. Pre-heat your oven to 180°C/160°C(fan)
2. Students get into groups of 8-10 and collect the ingredients above.
3. Each student greases and lines a tin can. (The simplest way to do this is to cut strips of greaseproof paper the width of the can's diameter and give each student 2 strips, which they then lay perpendicular to each other inside the tin. About 3 cm of paper should stick up above the can. *Tell everyone to be very very careful with the can's sharp edges.*) They should also write their names on the can.
4. In a large mixing bowl, whisk the butter and sugar until pale.
5. In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, ground almonds, mixed spice and nutmeg.
6. Whisk the eggs one at a time into the butter and sugar, adding a tablespoon of the flour mixture after each egg.

7. Fold in the remaining dry ingredients and stir to combine thoroughly. (It will be hard work.) Add the brandy or apple juice if you like.
8. Students carefully spoon the cake mixture into their tin cans, making a small dip in the centre. *They should only fill the can to 1/3 or 1/2 way.*
9. Put each table's cans in a small baking tray or roasting tin and place into the pre-heated oven for 15 min. Turn the temperature down to 140°C/120°C(fan) and bake for another 50 min.
10. Check to see if they are ready (a skewer inserted in the middle should come out clean). If not, bake for another 10 min.
11. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for 15 min before attempting to remove from tins.
12. While the cakes are baking, students can plan how they will decorate their cake and collect what they need. You might need to set a maximum of 4 or 5 items.
13. When the cakes are ready, return them to each student to decorate. (They may need to cut the top of their cakes off to level them.)

