

HOLIDAYS

AROUND THE WORLD

FACT SHEETS & QUESTION PAGES



19 COUNTRIES

PRINTABLE & DIGITAL VERSIONS

KEEP SCROLLING TO TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THIS RESOURCE!

Why?

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD FACTS

This bundle of holidays research sheets & question pages provides your students with an inclusive and fun way to learn about holidays. They will build reading comprehension and an understanding of cultures and traditions while learning about global holidays.

Need a holiday resource that is still academic?

The fact sheets & question pages build reading comprehension, and social studies skills!

1

2

3

Looking for an engaging activity?

Students will love learning new facts, coloring, and writing about key elements of many holidays.

Want to include diverse cultures & traditions?

With 19 different countries to choose from, you can spend anywhere from one day to an entire month learning about holidays!



PERFECT FOR...

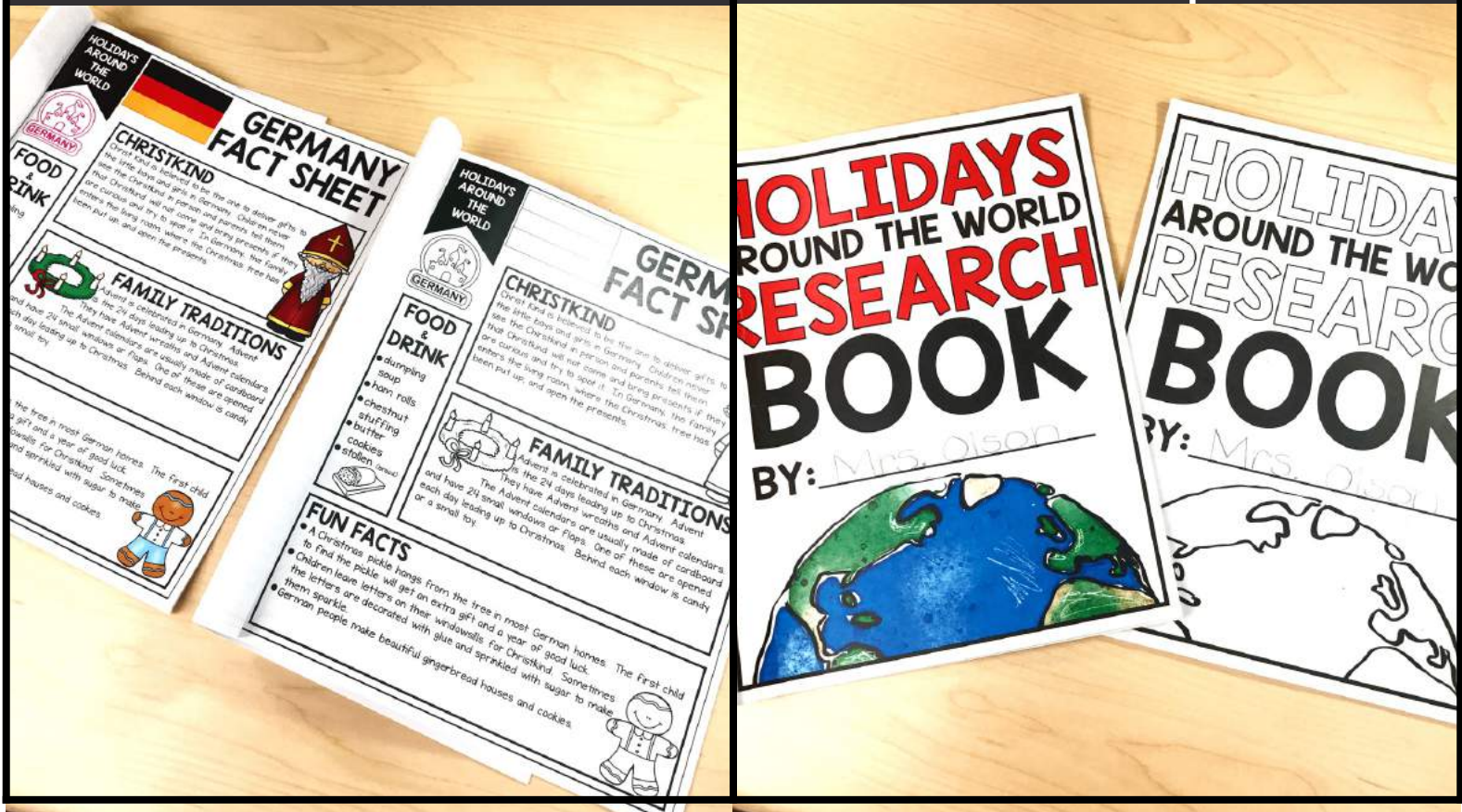
Research project

Winter holidays

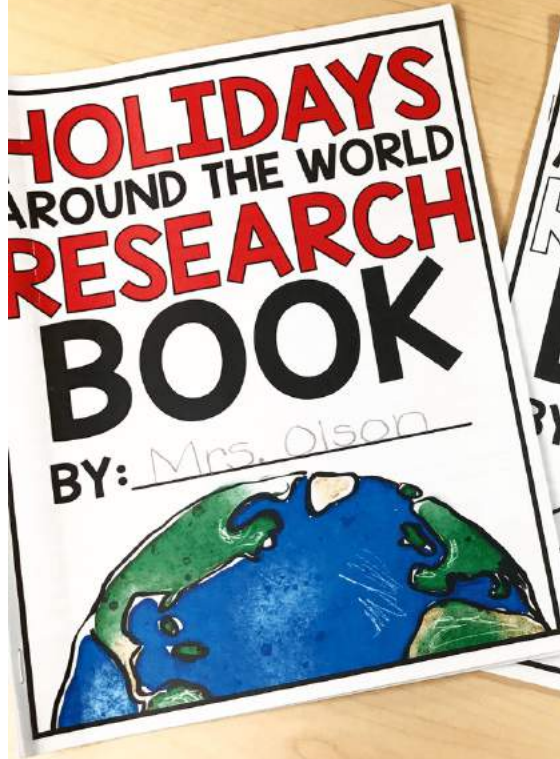


Social studies

Student keepsake



FACT SHEETS



Research booklet cover pages

Kid-friendly facts with clipart

All the information needed to complete the lapbook (sold separately)

Fact pages for 19 different countries or holidays



FACT SHEETS



HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD RESEARCH BOOK

BY: _____

HOLIDAY AROUND THE WORLD RESEARCH BOOK

BY: _____

USA FACT SHEET

SANTA CLAUS
In the United States on Christmas Eve, Santa loads up his sleigh with reindeer from the North Pole. He is dressed in a red suit and hat with black boots and belt. The children set out cookies and milk for Santa to eat. He delivers the presents under the Christmas tree which is typically found in the living room area of homes.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
In the United States there are a lot of people from a lot of different cultures. Some families continue to practice old family traditions and some start new traditions. A lot of families go to church or mass on the night before Christmas. Some families church or mass on the night before Christmas. Before going to bed on Christmas Eve, a lot of families read the story *Night Before Christmas*.

FUN FACTS
• Harvest across the United States are often decorated with wreaths, garlands, and decorations and Christmas lights.
• Some Americans use popcorn to make an string to help decorate their Christmas trees.
• Many Americans will go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Many churches have special services.

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Full color AND black & white versions

GERMANY FACT SHEET

CHRISTKIND
Christkind is believed to be the one to deliver gifts to the little boys and girls in Germany. Children never see the Christkind in person and parents tell them that Christkind will not come and bring presents if they are naughty and try to spot it. In Germany, the family enters the living room, where the Christmas tree has been put up, and open the presents.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Advent is celebrated in Germany. Advent is the 24 days leading up to Christmas. They have Advent wreaths and Advent calendars. The Advent calendars are usually made of cardboard and have 24 small windows or flaps. One of these are opened each day leading up to Christmas. Behind each window is candy or a small toy.

FUN FACTS
• The Christmas Tree is very important in Germany. The most famous German decorations are glass ornaments.
• Children leave letters on their windowsills for Christkind. Sometimes the letters are decorated with glue and sprinkled with sugar to make them sparkle.
• German people make beautiful gingerbread houses and cookies.

ENGLAND FACT SHEET

FATHER CHRISTMAS
Father Christmas is the name of Santa Claus in England. The Santa tradition in England is very similar to the United States. He is often shown wearing a long red hooded gown trimmed with white fur. After the 1880s new customs were made and Father Christmas was known to deliver presents during the middle of the night for boys and girls.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
In England it is tradition for children to write a letter or wish list to Father Christmas on Christmas Eve. They tuck the letters into the fireplace and it is said that their wishes go up the chimney to Father Christmas. After dinner on Christmas, the family gathers in the living room to listen to the Queen of England deliver a message over radio and television.

FUN FACTS
• The mistletoe started in England. It is believed that it is standing underneath a mistletoe they receive a kiss.
• Another tradition started by the people of England, and send cards to people they love.
• Some families have one or even two Christmas trees in their home, the tree as a family.

ITALY FACT SHEET

BABBO NATALE
Italy's version of Santa Claus is called Babbo Natale. La Befana is the name of the old woman who delivers gifts to the children. Babbo Natale is getting popular and is becoming more popular and gift giving on Christmas Day is becoming more common. Babbo Natale wears a red cloak with white trim. He delivers presents to the children's stockings which are hung in homes.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
The Christmas season lasts for 3 weeks in Italy. During this time children go from home to home singing Christmas songs. In Italy, children wait until January 6th to open their presents. Christmas is a very religious holiday for people in Italy. Most families celebrate Christmas by attending and getting involved with their church.

FUN FACTS
• When Italians return from church they might have a slice of Italian Christmas cake called Panettone which is a dry, fluffy sponge cake.
• The Christmas celebrations start eight days before Christmas with special prayers and church services.
• Some families have a Creppo (or Yule Log) which is burned through the Christmas season.

FRANCE FACT SHEET

PERE NOEL
In France, Santa Claus is called Pere Noel. Sometimes children call him Pops Noel or Daddy Christmas. He wears a red cloak with a hood trimmed in white fur. He travels with a team of reindeer and has a workshop at the North Pole. When he delivers presents to the children, he places them in the children's shoes which are placed near the fireplace. Presents are traditionally small such as candy and small toys.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
In France, Christmas is called Noel, which means "the good news". Some people burn a log in their homes from Christmas Eve until New Year's Day. On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with gifts from Pere Noel. In the morning they also find that sweets, fruit, nuts and small toys have been hung on the tree.

FUN FACTS
• People of France love nativity scenes. Most homes display a manger and gather around it.
• Ice skating rink is set up around the Eiffel Tower during Christmas time. In that area there are little huts set up to sell Christmas items.
• In Paris, people go to the Bois de Boulogne on Christmas Eve. French families set up a nativity to celebrate the very beginning of Christmas Day.

RUSSIA FACT SHEET

FATHER FROST
Father Frost is the Slavic version of Santa Claus. Some people call him Old Man Frost. His grand daughter, Snegurochka, is his helper. She wears long silver-blue robes and a furry cap. Father Frost wears a fur coat that goes down to his feet, a fur hat, and carries a long magic staff. He travels in a froika, which is a sleigh that is pulled by three horses. Father Frost delivers presents to children on New Year's Eve.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
The official Christmas and New Holidays in Russia last from December 31st to January 10th. Some people fast (don't eat anything) on Christmas Eve, until the first star has appeared in the sky. Following the meal, prayers might be said and people then go to the midnight Church services. They often don't wash the dishes until they get home from church—sometimes not until 4:00 am.

FUN FACTS
• Russians tell the story of Babushka who is an old woman who met the wise men on their way to see Jesus.
• Common gifts during the Christmas season in Russia include nesting dolls and Russian lacquer boxes.
• A traditional Christmas meal consists of 12 dishes which represent the 12 apostles.

NETHERLANDS FACT SHEET

SINTERKLAAS
In the Netherlands, Santa Claus is referred to as Sinterklaas and he brings presents to the children of the Netherlands on December 5th. Sinterklaas travels to cities and towns in the Netherlands on the second Saturday of November. The children of the Netherlands are told that there is a book with a record of everything they have done in the past year and good children get presents while bad children will be punished and taken to Spain for a year.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Sinterklaas is a huge part of the holiday season in the Netherlands so many of the family traditions center around him! Children are known to leave carrots for the reindeer in return for gifts that are placed in their shoes. Another tradition that occurs at Sinterklaas parties and at schools is that everyone's names be put into hats and everyone picks another person's name, then, they have to make a surprise present for that person.

FUN FACTS
• On the evening that Sinterklaas arrives in the Netherlands, children leave a shoe out by the fireplace or sometimes a windowsill and sing Sinterklaas songs.
• In Dutch Happy/Merry Christmas can be said as 'Zig Kerstfeest'!
• In many families in the Netherlands, children are told that Sinterklaas and Zwart Piet make a weekly visit, so the children leave their shoes by the fireplace or window every Saturday until the main Sinterklaas party on 5th December.

BRAZIL FACT SHEET

Papai Noel or Father Noel
Papai Noel or Father Noel is the gift-bringer in Brazil. According to legend, Papai Noel lives in Greenland. When he arrives in Brazil, he wears summer clothing due to the summer heat. Papai Noel will arrive carrying a bag full of gifts. He leaves gifts for every good child on Christmas Day. Children will also buy out a sock for Father Noel and he will exchange it for a gift.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
The Christmas Eve meal is served of around 10 pm. At exactly midnight, people greet each other wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and then exchange presents. In Brazil, Christmas Day lunch is also special and after lunch they go visiting friends and relatives. Families will spend time setting up a nativity scene or 'presenpio' to honor baby Jesus. Fireworks go off in the skies over the cities. Families attend church at midnight called 'Midnight Mass'.

FUN FACTS
• It is very hot at Christmas time in Brazil so many people go to the beach.
• There is folk dancing and singing until January 6, which is called 'Three Kings Day'.
• Huge Christmas 'trees' of electric lights can be seen in the major cities.

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FACT SHEETS



MEXICO FACT SHEET

SANTA CLAUS
Santa is not nearly as popular in Mexico as he is in the United States. However, in the northern states of Mexico Santa Claus "Santa Claus" brings children big presents and the "Reyes Magos" bring the small presents in January.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
One of the most common traditions in Mexico are Posadas. Families celebrate these Posadas by decorating the outside of their houses with moss and paper lanterns. Children celebrate these Posadas by going from house to house and singing. Another tradition at Christmas is to let the piñata, a decorated clay or paper-mâché figure hung from the ceiling or tree and filled with candy and sweets.

FOOD & DRINK

- tamales
- hot chocolate
- Three Kings Cake
- Ensalada Navideña

FUN FACTS

- In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated from December 12 to January 6.
- Novelty scenes, known as Nacimiento in Mexico, are more popular than Christmas Trees, though Christmas trees are growing in popularity.
- In Mexico, most people attend a midnight mass service which is called la Misa del Gallo or "the rooster's mass," and of the mass they love the lulabes.

AUSTRALIA FACT SHEET

SANTA CLAUS
In Australia, Santa forgoes reindeer for kangaroos, or "Six White Boomers", which is a popular Christmas song. Santa also tends to give up his regular warm winter clothes for something more summer-friendly!

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Many families in Australia decorate their homes by hanging wreaths on their doors and putting up Christmas trees and lights inside their homes. They also decorate their homes with bunches of Christmas Bush, a native Australian tree. Caroling is also a very popular Christmas tradition in Australia.

FOOD & DRINK

- BBQ
- lobster
- prawns
- traditional English food

FUN FACTS

- Every year, a famous Yacht race from Sydney to Hobart in Tasmania is held on Boxing Day.
- Since Christmas is during the summer in Australia, many words about snow and cold in traditional Christmas Carols are changed to special Australian words.
- Christmas time is during the summer-time in Australia, so it is always quite hot during the Christmas season which means some people go camping and there are often widespread bush fires.

SWEDEN FACT SHEET

JULTOMTEN
In Sweden, Santa is known as Jultomten or just Tomten (The Christmas Gnome). He buys presents and is often thought to be helped by gnomes which are called Nissars!

FAMILY TRADITIONS

FOOD & DRINK

- turkey

CANADA FACT SHEET

SANTA CLAUS
In Canada, Santa Claus is very similar to the United States version. However, people in Canada believe that their country is home to Santa Claus, claiming that the North Pole has a Canadian zip code. Canadian children leave stockings by the fireplace, ready for Santa Claus to fill them with gifts.

ENGLAND FACT SHEET

FATHER CHRISTMAS
Father Christmas is the name of Santa Claus in England. The Santa tradition in England is very similar to the United States. He is often shown wearing a long red hooded gown trimmed with white fur. After the 1880s new customs were made and Father Christmas was known to deliver presents during the middle of the night for boys and girls.

FOOD & DRINK

- turkey

HANUKKAH FACT SHEET

WHAT IS IT?
Hanukkah or Chanukah, a Jewish holiday, is often referred to as the Festival of Lights. The holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional food, games, and gifts. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and eight days. It is observed anytime from late November to late December.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Most families who celebrate Hanukkah have a menorah. A menorah has eight branches with a ninth, main branch in the middle. Each branch has a candle that is lit each night. Families enjoy playing dreidel and eating oil-based foods such as doughnuts and latkes. Some families celebrate by giving a small gift on each night of the celebration.

FOOD & DRINK

- latkes
- doughnuts
- brisket
- short ribs
- noodle kugel

FUN FACTS

- All around the world, Jews celebrate Hanukkah with eight nights of festivities, including lighting of the menorah each night.
- Around 175 million oily doughnuts are eaten in Israel during Hanukkah.
- Throughout Hanukkah, each menorah burns through 44 candles, plus the "shamash" - the extra helper candle.

CHINESE NEW YEAR FACT SHEET

FOOD & DRINK

- noodle soup
- dumplings
- various meat dishes
- boiled chicken
- turnip cakes

FUN FACTS

- For the Chinese New Year, each year is named after one of twelve animals, which is featured in the Chinese zodiac.
- In China, schools and businesses can close for the first few days of the new year, so that everyone can spend time with their families.
- During New Year celebrations, fireworks are set off, because it is thought that noise and lights will scare away any evil spirits for the coming months.

DIWALI FACT SHEET

FOOD & DRINK

- Indian sweet treats, known as "mithai" are a cross between snack and dessert.
- Crescent moon shaped pastries are popular during the Diwali season. They are also known as "ghugra" or "karanj".

FUN FACTS

- Before Diwali night, people clean, renovate, and decorate their homes and offices.
- Indian sweet treats, known as "mithai" are a cross between snack and dessert.
- Crescent moon shaped pastries are popular during the Diwali season. They are also known as "ghugra" or "karanj".

Digital versions included

EGYPT FACT SHEET

Baba Noël (Father Christmas)
Children hope that Baba Noel will climb through their window and leave them some presents. Children will leave a plate of Kark out for Baba Noel. Children are given El'aidia, a feast gift that has a small amount of money to buy sweets, toys and ice cream.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Advent is celebrated in Egypt. It is the days leading up to Christmas which is in January 7th. Families have a special diet of those days of only vegetables. On Christmas Eve, families church that begins at 20:30pm and ends at midnight. After church, people go home and eat a big meal. A favorite dish soup which is lamb soup with bread, rice, and garlic. Very few people celebrate Christmas in Egypt.

FOOD & DRINK

- Fafs soup (Lamb soup)
- meat
- eggs
- butter
- kark (sweet biscuits)

FUN FACTS

- Homes are decorated with lights and Christmas trees.
- Churches are decorated with special lamps and candles.
- The weather in Egypt during this time is warm or hot and the nights are cool.
- People sing praise songs on Saturday nights during Advent before church services.

KWANZAA FACT SHEET

WHAT IS IT?
Kwanzaa is a celebration that honors the African heritage in the African-American culture. It is observed from December 26th to January 1st. It's celebrated with a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Families celebrate Kwanzaa by decorating their homes with art, colorful African cloth, and the women wear kaftans and fresh fruit. Children are included in Kwanzaa ceremonies and take pride in showing and giving respect and gratitude to their ancestors.

FOOD & DRINK

- rice
- slaw
- grits
- beans
- okra

FUN FACTS

- Black, red, and green are the Kwanzaa colors. Black for the people. Red for the unity. Green for the rich land of Africa.
- Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday and is mainly celebrated in the United States.
- Kwanzaa is rooted in the African culture, however, people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds are welcome to join the celebration.

IRELAND FACT SHEET

SAN NIOCLÁS
In Ireland, Santa Claus is known as San Níoclás or Daidí na Nollag, otherwise known as Father Christmas. Children hope that Santa will visit on Christmas Eve and leave presents for Christmas morning. Children leave mince pie for San Níoclás and carrots for Rudolph.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
In Ireland, families decorate their homes with Christmas trees and lights. Families attend Christmas Eve church service and light candles in their windows. Many people take a traditional swim in the sea on Christmas morning. Christmas dinner is a little of food and family. Turkey or goose is served with vegetables and potatoes. Christmas pudding, trince pie, and Christmas cake are eaten for dessert.

FOOD & DRINK

- mince pie
- Christmas pudding
- trince pie
- Christmas cake

JAPAN FACT SHEET

Santa-San and Hoteiohso
There are two gift bringers in Japan, Santa-san and Hoteiohso. Santa-san is similar to the Santa in the United States. Hoteiohso is a Japanese god of good fortune from Buddhism. Both are said to bring gifts to the children of Japan. They leave the gifts above the pillows of sleeping children because there is not room under their small family trees.

FAMILY TRADITIONS
Christmas Eve is spent with loved ones. Many will take long walks looking at the beautiful Christmas light displays and trees around the cities. They eat Fried Chicken that is bought at KFC or Kentucky Fried Chicken. For dessert, they have Christmas Cake. The Christmas Cake is a sponge cake with whip cream and strawberries.

FOOD & DRINK

- Fried Chicken
- Christmas Cake

FUN FACTS

- Christmas Cake is a symbol of economic and national prosperity.
- In Japan are very small and can not hold a large Christmas tree so people place a mini Christmas tree on a tabletop in the home.
- The New Year is celebrated more like a traditional Western Christmas. It is celebrated from December 31st to January 4th.

QUESTION PAGES



JAPAN Name _____

- Who delivers gifts to the children in Japan?
- What kind of dessert is eaten at Christmas in Japan?
- Where are family Christmas trees and why?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Japan?

IRELAND Name _____

- What do the children leave out on Christmas Eve and why?
- What kind of pie is eaten at Christmas in Ireland?
- What desert is decorated with holly and berries?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Ireland?

EGYPT Name _____

- Who comes through the window to the children in Egypt?
- What can you hear before church services during Advent?
- Where do most families go on Christmas in Egypt?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Egypt?

BRAZIL Name _____

- Who delivers the gifts to the children in Brazil?
- Where do people spend time on Christmas and why?
- What can be seen in the sky on Christmas in Brazil?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Brazil?

FRANCE Name _____

- What are some other names for Pere Noel?
- What kind of items are hung from the tree in the morning?
- What can be found around the Eiffel Tower during Christmas time?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in France?

SWEDEN Name _____

- What are the two names for Santa Claus in Sweden?
- When is St. Lucia's Day?
- Which TV show do a lot of people in Sweden watch on Christmas Eve?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Sweden?

CHINESE NEW YEAR Name _____

- What other name is Chinese New Year sometimes called?
- How many days is the Chinese New Year celebrated?

HANUKKAH Name _____

- What is another way to spell Hanukkah?
- How many candles are on a menorah and when do they light the candles?
- What is the purpose of the traditional Hanukkah gelt?

KWANZAA Name _____

- When is Kwanzaa celebrated?
- What two items do people decorate their homes with?
- What are the three colors of Kwanzaa?
- What are some traditional foods that are eaten during Kwanzaa?

ITALY Name _____

- Where are the children's stockings hung?
- How long does the Christmas season last?
- What is a Panettone and when do families eat this?
- What do Italians eat after they get home from church?

Question sheet / coloring page for each country / holiday

DIWALI Name _____

- Which season is Diwali celebrated?
- Before the night of Diwali, what do people do to their homes?
- What are crescent moon pastries called?
- What are some traditional foods eaten during Diwali?

NETHERLANDS Name _____

- When do the children receive their gifts?
- What do the children leave out for the reindeer?
- Where are the gifts placed that are given to the children?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in the Netherlands?

AUSTRALIA Name _____

- Which animals help Santa instead of reindeer?
- What are three things that Australians use to decorate their homes?
- Which season of the year is Christmas in Australia?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Australia?

CANADA Name _____

- Where does Santa put the children's gifts?
- Where is one of the world's largest Santa parades found?
- What are two types of special candies that Canadians like to eat?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Canada?

ENGLAND Name _____

- What is the name of the Santa Claus in England?
- Where do the children toss their wish letters and why?
- What tradition did the people of England when they want to give something to someone they love?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in England?

GERMANY Name _____

- Who delivers the gifts to the children in Germany?
- How many windows or flaps do the Advent calendars have and why?
- What is the most famous German Christmas decoration?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Germany?

RUSSIA Name _____

- How does Father Frost travel?
- Some people fast on Christmas Eve. What does that mean?
- What are some common gifts during the Christmas season?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Russia?

MEXICO Name _____

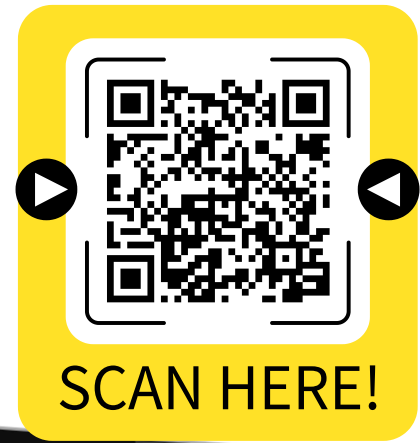
- Who brings the small presents and why?
- What is the name of the item that is filled with sweet treats and candies?
- When is Christmas celebrated in Mexico?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in Mexico?

USA Name _____

- What does Santa wear?
- What do some families do for others in their neighborhoods?
- What kinds of decorations would be seen on homes during the Christmas season?
- What are some traditional Christmas foods that are eaten in the United States?

Weekly Email FREEBIES!

Grab a cup of coffee and take a few minutes with **our weekly newsletter** created just for teachers like you.



About Lucky Little Learners



Angie Olson has many years of classroom experience teaching grades kindergarten, first, and second grade. She earned her master's degree in mathematics and has presented for a variety of conferences at the national, state, and local levels. Over the years, Angie has employed teachers to help with Lucky Little Learners. She is proud of her talented team who strives to support the teaching community with her. Lucky Little Learners has created over 25,000 resources that are available in the All Access membership. Lucky Little Learners is also a top seller on Teachers Pay Teachers.