

AROUND THE WORLD

People in different countries celebrate Christmas with their own traditions and stories. Their celebrations may take place in the weeks before and after Christmas:



In Sweden, the Christmas season begins with the festival of St. Lucia on 13th December. The eldest girl in each house wears white robes and a crown of lights on her head.



In the build-up to Christmas, markets are set up in Germany selling food, hot drinks, decorations, candles and toys. They are called Weihnachtsmärkte.



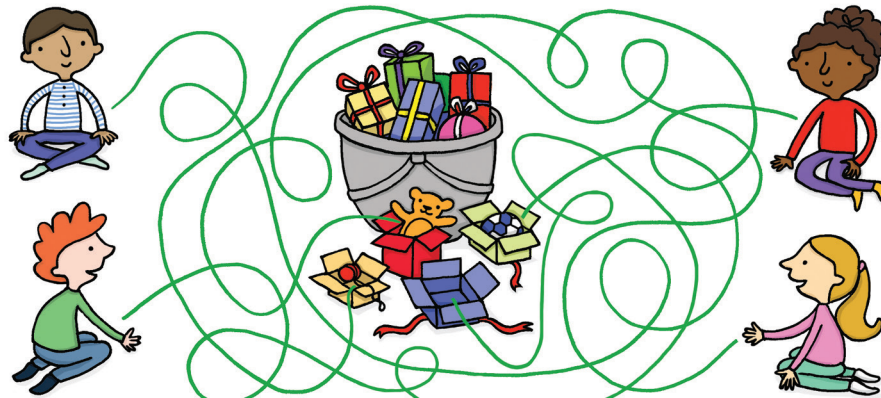
According to Greek legend, mischievous creatures called Kallikantzaro come out at Christmas time to play pranks. People keep fires lit in the hope that they will keep the creatures away.



In Italian folklore, La Befana is an old woman who flies on a broomstick. If children have been good, she puts presents in their stockings, but if they have been bad, she leaves them coal.

URN OF FATE

In Italy, children take turns pulling wrapped boxes from the 'Urn of Fate'. Some of the boxes contain presents, and some are empty. Draw a circle around the person who gets an empty box this time.



CHRISTMAS FOOD

People all over the world celebrate Christmas by eating different foods. See how many of these foods you can find in the letters below. The names may be written across, up, down, backwards and even diagonally.

S N G K R I N G L E H
 H M D S N A W F V G R
 R U A H L A C A B V O
 P E P P A R K A K O R
 I L K F V Y M L R P F
 A S J T E U C X C R M
 K F I K D A O P J A B
 W E R L K F H M I C L
 U U S T O L L E N D X
 T L P E Z V F T E R I



KRINGLE
 A Danish bread in the shape of a knot.



TURKEY
 In England, turkeys are roasted and served with stuffing.



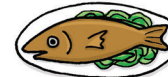
STOLLEN
 A German bread loaf filled with dried fruit, nuts and spices.



BACALHAU
 Salted cod, served with potatoes. Popular in Portugal.



PEPPARKAKOR
 Thin, crisp ginger snaps from Sweden.



CARP
 A large fish served with stewed cabbage, often eaten in Poland.

Many of these foods are enjoyed in several countries at Christmas.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

There are lots of different ways to say "Merry Christmas". Here are some for you to try saying.



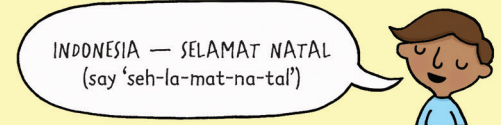
FINLAND — HYVÄÄ JOULUA
 (say 'hoo-vah-yo-loo-ah')



FRANCE — JOYEUX NOËL
 (say 'joy-yuh-no-well')



SPAIN — FELIZ NAVIDAD
 (say 'fell-eeth-nah-vee-dad')



INDONESIA — SELAMAT NATAL
 (say 'seh-la-mat-na-tal')



WALES — NADDLIG LLAWEN
 (say 'nad-or-lig-hlah-wen')

DID YOU KNOW?

On Bondi Beach in Australia, people wear Santa hats on Christmas Day, even though it's hot and sunny.

