

Christmas



Match word with definition

Warm-up

1	bauble	
2	census	
3	century	
4	inn	
5	nativity	
6	manger	
7	spirit	
8	stable	

- a) a small hotel
- b) Christmas decoration in the shape of a ball
- c) feeling and effect of something
- d) 100 years
- e) a building in which animals are kept
- f) a feeding box for cows and horses
- g) official record of everyone in a country
- h) the birth of Jesus Christ

The Spirit of Christmas

Background

Is Christmas celebrated everywhere in the world? Perhaps not *everywhere*.

There are probably some tribes in the Amazon rainforest, or in the jungle of Borneo, who do not know about Christmas. And there are many countries where Christmas (or Xmas) is not a holiday, but in most countries people enjoy Christmas time, and images of Santa, reindeer and snowmen can be seen all around.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is not known if December 25th is the true day of Christ's birth, but this is the day that was chosen in the 4th century, and is now a holy day when Christians around the world go to church.

There are many customs associated with Christmas: sending cards, decorating the Christmas tree, hanging a Christmas stocking, the traditional meal, and gift-giving. Family members and close friends give gifts to each other. Nowadays children expect several gifts from their parents, and it can be very stressful to find suitable presents for everyone. More money is spent at Christmas than any other time of year.

But it is the Christmas spirit which is most important of all; a time of happiness, a time of friendship, and a time of peace.

A

B

C

Puzzle

Christmas Quiz

Answer the questions to find out where it all started

1 The original Santa Claus was a man named Nicholas (later Saint Nicholas) who went around town on Christmas Eve, giving a small gift to each child. Nicholas lived in ...? ...

- A Finland B Turkey C Canada

2 Santa's sleigh is pulled by a team of reindeer. The leading reindeer has a red nose and is known as ...? ...

- D Robert E Rudolph F Randy



3 Many families have a Christmas Tree, either a real fir tree or an artificial tree. The tree is decorated with lights, baubles, tinsel and anything the family wishes. On the top of the tree is placed a ...? ...

- G stocking H star I snowman

4 After the Christmas meal it is time for the Christmas Pudding and ...? ... is poured over the pudding before serving. It is then lit and the pudding is covered by a gentle, blue flame for 5 or 10 seconds.

- J gunpowder K brown sauce L brandy



5 Many traditional songs are sung at Christmas time, like *We wish you a Merry Christmas* and *Silent Night*. These songs are known as ...?

- M carols N susans O tweets P dum-di-dums

6 In colder northern countries there can be a lot of snow at Christmas time, and children enjoy building snowmen. In some places snowmen are made from three balls of snow and in others two balls are used. For the snowman's nose children often use a ...? ...

- Q coin R muffin S sausage T carrot



It all started here →

1	2	6	3	4	2	3	2	5
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Writing

&

Discussion

Write about your plans for Christmas this year.

Discuss in a small group.

Step 1 You have part of the Nativity Story
(A & C have the rest of the story)
Read the text, and check the meaning.

The Nativity, Joseph's Story

Joseph was worried, very worried



- ② There was nowhere to stay,
- ⑤ About 2,000 years ago the Roman emperor ordered a census in all parts of the Roman Empire.
- ⑧ so he and his wife had traveled for several days by donkey,
- ⑪ but fortunately a kind innkeeper noticed Mary's condition,
- ⑭ and placed on straw in a manger.
- ⑰ and told them a very special baby had just been born in a stable.
- ⑲ They knew they were looking at the Son of God.
- ⑳ Some days later there were more visitors.
- ㉒ The wise men brought gifts and knelt before the Son of God.
- ㉔ The king did not want any rivals,
- ㉖ Before sunrise Joseph and his family left the stable and escaped to Egypt.
- ㉘ and they lived a normal family life,



Step 2 With A & C read the story together
(the text is in numerical order)
Discuss the points below

- a) What are your comments about the birth of Jesus?
b) What are your feelings about Christmas Day celebrations?