

LO: To write an information text (hot write)

Christmas Around the World

Celebrations

- Celebrated by millions of people all over the world
- Christian and non-Christian
- Family and friend gather
- Some universal traditions
 - o Decorating house with lights
 - o Trees / candles / Christmas dinner
- Unique traditions, specific to certain countries
 - o India – decorate house and streets with colourful, folded paper stars.
 - o Poland – Serve 12 dishes
 - One for each disciple
 - o Spain – leave out hay filled boots at night
 - Next morning, hay replaced with chocolate, present or money
 - o Ireland – light candles in window of homes / act as guide for Joseph and Mary
 - Candles – red / sprigs of holly
 - o West Indies – Clean homes thoroughly before decorating for Christmas
 - Some / repaint rooms
 - o France – celebrate feast of St. Nicholas / patron saint of children / 6th December
 - St. Nicholas will ride about town on his sleigh
 - Celebrate how he rescued 3 children from being eaten by a butcher
 - o Russia – belief / old lady / Babushka / roams around / gives out present to children
 - make up for mistake / too busy to guide wise men to baby Jesus

Christmas

- Religious holiday
 - o Celebrates birth of son of God / Jesus Christ / 25th December
 - o Christian holiday
 - o Comes from a lot of Pagan traditions
 - Christmas tree / 17th century German invention
 - from Pagan practice of bringing greenery indoors for decoration in winter
 - Father Christmas / modern incarnation of old Pagan spirits flying through sky in winter

Unusual Celebrations

- Sweden – eldest daughter / dresses up / wreath on head / candles
 - o Serves coffee and special buns
- Czech Republic – perform a ritual / see whether will be single another year
 - o Turn backs to door / throw a shoe over shoulder
 - o If shoe lands with heel towards door = stay single another year
 - o If shoe faces door = wedding is likely
- 40 years / town of Gavle / Sweden / erected a huge straw goat
 - o Challenge – ensure survival of goat until Christmas day
 - o 'Vandals' / attempt to burn goat down
 - o Only survived 10 times
- Slovakian tradition / head of family / throw mixture of Loksa / up at ceiling
 - o Longer stays stuck to ceiling = richer crops will be
 - o Loksa = bread poppy seed and water
- Japan / Kentucky Fried Chicken / nation's favourite / Christmas day
 - o Need to make a reservation / Christmas day

True Meaning of Christmas

- Many different answers
 - o Time for gifts or family
 - o Watching Christmas films or eating lots
 - o Religious / remembering the birth of Christ
 - o Christmas has become too commercial by shops