ITALY

La Befana and Christmas Celebrations



In Italy, Christmas is full of magic, stories, and family fun. One of the most unique parts of Christmas in Italy is the story of La Befana, celebrated on January 5th, the night before Epiphany. According to legend, La Befana is a kind old woman who flies on a broomstick and brings gifts to children. The story says that a long time ago, the Wise Men asked La Befana to come with them to see baby Jesus, but she said no because she was too busy. Later, she changed her mind and tried to find them, but it was too late. Now, every year, she travels all around, leaving gifts for children, hoping to find baby Jesus.

La Befana is a bit like Santa Claus, but she looks more like a friendly grandmother, with a shawl and a big sack of treats. On the night of January 5th, children hang up stockings for La Befana to fill. If they have been good, she leaves candy and small presents. If they have been naughty, they might get a piece of coal (but it's usually candy coal, so it's not too bad!).

Another important tradition in Italy is making Nativity scenes, called presepi. These are displays that show the story of Jesus' birth, with little figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the animals. Many families make their own nativity scenes, and some towns even have huge, beautiful ones for everyone to see. On Christmas, Italian families also share a big meal, with delicious dishes like tortellini in broth and panettone, which is a sweet bread with dried fruit. Christmas in Italy is all about spending time with family and sharing joy.

Use the Image

ICELAND

The Yule Lads and Christmas Fun



In Iceland, Christmas is full of fun and a little bit of silliness, thanks to the Yule Lads. Instead of just one Santa Claus, Iceland has 13 Yule Lads who visit children during the 13 nights leading up to Christmas. Each Yule Lad has a unique name and likes different things. Some of their names are Spoon-Licker, Door-Slammer, and Sausage-Swiper. They are a bit mischievous, which means they like to play pranks, but they also leave small gifts or candy for children who have been good.

The Yule Lads are the sons of Grýla, a giantess who is said to live in the mountains. According to the old stories, Grýla would come down to catch naughty children, but today, the Yule Lads are much friendlier, and their visits are something children look forward to. Every night, children leave a shoe by the window, and if they've been good, they find a small treat in the shoe the next morning. If they haven't been so good, they might find a potato instead!

Another special tradition in Iceland is called Jólabókaflóð, which means "Christmas Book Flood." On Christmas Eve, people give each other books as presents and then spend the evening reading and drinking hot chocolate. This makes Christmas in Iceland a cozy time full of stories, laughter, and warmth.

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JAPAN

A Unique Christmas Tradition



In Japan, Christmas is not a traditional holiday, but it has become popular in recent years, especially as a fun and unique way. One of Japan's A[illegible]ique Christmas Traditions is the most famous tradition is to eat KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) for Christmas dinner. This started in the 1970s when a KFC restaurant began advertising fried chicken as a great meal for Christmas. The idea became so popular that now many families in Japan order KFC weeks in advance to have it for Christmas.

Christmas in Japan is more about sharing happiness and having fun with friends and family. People decorate with bright lights and cute decorations, and children sometimes get small presents. Many couples also think of Christmas Eve as a romantic time, similar to Valentine's Day. Even though Christmas in Japan is different from other places, it is a joyful time that brings people together.

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GERMANY

St. Nicholas and Krampus



In Germany, Christmas is full of fun traditions, and one of the most exciting days is St. Nicholas Day on December 6th. On the night of December 5th, children leave their shoes hoping that St. Nicholas will visit. If they have been good, they will find their shoes filled with candy and small gifts the next morning. If they have been naughty, they might find a stick instead.

Another character in German Christmas traditions is Krampus, who is the opposite of St. Nicholas. Krampus is a scary creature who is said to visit naughty children to teach them to be good. But don't worry, today, Krampus is more of a part of the holiday, and people even dress up as Krampus to scare their friends in a playful way.

German families also love to visit Christmas markets, which are filled with lights, decorations, and delicious treats like gingerbread and roasted nuts. People drink warm mugs of hot chocolate or mulled wine while they shop for handmade gifts. The Christmas season in Germany is a time to be celebrating with family, friends, and lots of tasty treats.

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PHILIPPINES

The Giant Lantern Festival



In the Philippines, Christmas is the most important holiday of the year, and it is celebrated for a long time! One of the most amazing parts of Christmas in the Philippines is the Giant Lantern Festival, held in the city of San Fernando. The festival takes place in December and features huge, colorful lanterns that light up the night. These lanterns are made from all sorts of materials and are designed to be as bright and beautiful as possible.

Another important tradition is called Simbang Gabi, which means "Night Mass." Starting on December 16th, many families wake up very early to attend church every day until Christmas. After church, they enjoy special treats like bibingka (rice cake) and puto bumbong (a purple rice dessert). On Christmas Eve, families come together for a big feast called Noche Buena, which consists of delicious dishes like lechon (roasted pig), pancit (noodles), and sweet desserts.

Christmas in the Philippines is all about family, lights, and celebrating the birth of Jesus. The festive spirit lasts all the way until January, making it one of the longest Christmas seasons in the world.

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SWEDEN

St. Lucia Day



In Swe[illegible] one of the most specia[illegible]arts of Christmas is St. [illegible]ucia Day, which is celebrated on D[illegible]nth. St. Lucia [illegible] young girl who was kno[illegible] for h[illegible] kindness an[illegible] for bringing food to pe[illegible]e in need. O[illegible] Lucia Day, girls [illegible] up in white rob[illegible] with red sas[illegible], and one girl [illegible] wear a wreath [illegible]sand[illegible]on [illegible] head. The girls, [illegible]lled "Lucia," lead a pr[illegible]ssion [illegible]hile singin[illegible] tradi[illegible]al so[illegible]gs, bringing [illegible]ght and hop[illegible] during the dark[illegible]er day.

Families also c[illegible]rate by eating spec[illegible] treats like lu[illegible]er, w[illegible]ich a[illegible] saffron-fl[illegible]ed buns shaped like the letter [illegible]. Lucia Day is a ti[illegible]e for people to remember t[illegible]mporta[illegible] of kindness and[illegible]ht, especially during the long, dark winter.

In Sweden, Christm[illegible] is also c[illegible]brated wi[illegible] decorati[illegible] lights, and [illegible]g me[illegible] Christmas Eve. Swe[illegible]h fami[illegible]es enjoy dish[illegible] mea[illegible]s, herring, [illegible] ric[illegible] udd[illegible] Christmas in Sw[illegible]n is al[illegible]bout bringing w[illegible]nth [illegible] light to the cold winter [illegible]on.

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AUSTRALIA

Christmas in the Summer



In Australia, Christmas is very different because it happens during the summer! Instead of snow and cold weather, Australians celebrate Christmas with sunshine, beaches, and barbecues. Many families go to the beach or picnic in the park, where they swim, play games, and have a picnic. Sometimes, Santa Claus has even been seen wearing sunglasses and surfing!

Australians also like to decorate their homes with lights and sing Carols by Candlelight events, where people gather in parks to sing Christmas songs together while holding candles. On Christmas Day, families enjoy a big lunch with foods like ham, seafood, and pavlova, which is a yummy dessert made with meringue, cream, and fresh fruit.

Christmas in Australia is all about spending time outdoors, having fun, and celebrating with family and friends in the warm summer sun.

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FINLAND

Joulupukki, the Christmas Goat



In Finland, Santa Claus is called Joulupukki, which means "Christmas Goat." Long ago, there was a tradition of a goat that would visit homes at Christmastime, but over the years, the story changed, and now Joulupukki, the Santa Claus, wears a red suit and has a long white beard, and children are always excited to see him.

On Christmas Day, Finnish families gather to eat a big meal, which often includes dishes like ham, casseroles, and rice porridge. After dinner, Joulupukki comes to visit, asking, "Are there any well-behaved children here?" He brings gifts for the children, and everyone shares stories and laughter.

Another important tradition in Finland is visiting a sauna on Christmas Eve. Many families have their own saunas, and it is a relaxing way to prepare for the holiday. Christmas in Finland is all about warmth, family, and celebrating together.

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MEXICO

Las Posadas and Christmas Fun



In Mexico, Christmas is filled with colorful celebrations and fun traditions. One of the most special traditions is called Las Posadas, which takes place from December 16th to December 24th. Las Posadas is a way for people to remember the journey that Mary and Joseph took to find a place to stay before baby Jesus was born. Each night, families join in a procession, which is like a parade, where they go from house to house, just like Mary and Joseph did. They ask for a place to stay, singing songs at each door until the last house finally welcomes them in. Then, everyone has a party with food, singing, and games!

One of the favorite parts for kids during Las Posadas is breaking the piñata. The piñata is usually shaped like a star and filled with candy and small toys. Children take turns trying to break it open, and when they do, everyone rushes to grab the treats that spill out! The star-shaped piñata reminds people of the bright star that helped guide the Wise Men to baby Jesus.

On Christmas Eve, called Noche Buena, families go to a special church service called "La Misa del Gallo," which means "The Mass of the Rooster." After church, they have a big feast with delicious foods like tamales, pozole, and buñuelos (yummy fried dough). The Christmas season in Mexico continues until Three Kings' Day on January 6th, when children get more presents from the Three Wise Men. This day is called El Día de los Reyes and is another fun time full of joy and gifts.

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NORWAY

Hiding the Brooms



In Norway, Christmas has many fun and unique traditions. One of the most interesting traditions is hiding the brooms on Christmas Eve. This tradition comes from an old belief that witches and evil spirits would come out on Christmas Eve looking for brooms to ride on. To keep the witches away, families hide their brooms so they can't be found.

Norwegian families also celebrate Saint Lucia Day on December 13th, much like in Sweden, with processions and special buns called lussekatter. On Christmas Eve, families enjoy a big meal with foods like ribbe (roast pork) and lutefisk (dried fish). After dinner, they open presents, and sometimes, Santa Claus, called Julenissen, makes a visit to bring gifts.

Christmas in Norway is also a time for being cozy indoors, with candles, warm fires, and spending time with family. It is a joyful time filled with traditions that have been passed down for many generations.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

MEXICO

1 What is the purpose of Las Posadas in Mexico?

2 What is usually inside the piñata during Las Posadas?

3 When do children receive more presents after Christmas in Mexico?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

ITALY

1 Why did La Befana decide to start giving gifts to children?

2 What are Nativity scenes called in Italy?

3 What special food do Italian families eat on Christmas?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

ICELAND

1 How many Yule Lads are there in Iceland?

2 What do the Yule Lads leave for children who have been good?

3 Who is Grýla, and what is her role in Icelandic Christmas stories?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

JAPAN

1 What do many families in Japan eat for Christmas dinner?

2 When did the tradition of eating KFC for Christmas start in Japan?

3 How do people in Japan celebrate Christmas with their friends and family?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

GERMANY

1 What do children in Germany leave out on the night of December 5th?

2 Who is Krampus, and what does he do?

3 What can people find at German Christmas markets?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

PHILIPPINES

1 What does Simbang Gabi mean, and when does it start?

2 What special foods do families enjoy after attending Simbang Gabi?

3 What is the big feast on Christmas Eve called in the Philippines?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

SWEDEN

1 Who was St. Lucia, and why is she remembered?

2 What do girls wear during the St. Lucia procession?

3 What special treat do families eat on St. Lucia Day?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

AUSTRALIA

1 What do many families in Australia do on Christmas Day?

2 What is a popular event called where people sing Christmas songs together?

3 What special foods do Australian families eat for Christmas lunch?

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

FINLAND

1 Who is Joulupukki, and what does his name mean?

2 What do Finnish families eat for their big Christmas Eve meal?

3 **What warm tradition do many people in Finland have on Christmas Eve?**

Use the village

Name: _____ Date: _____

NORWAY

1 Why do families in Norway hide their brooms on Christmas Eve?

2 What is St. Lucia Day, and how do Norwegian families celebrate it?

3 **Who is Julenissen, and what does he do on Christmas Eve?**

Use the village













Use Village

PASSPORT



PASSPORT



ตัวอย่าง

Name: _____ Date: _____

Christmas Around the World

Use the Village

If I could celebrate Christmas in any country,

I would choose _____

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