



# Christmas Around the World



## Christmas in Russia

The main Russian Christmas holiday is held on January 7. Some Catholic families may also celebrate Christmas on December 25. In many parts of Russia, New Year's Day is a bigger celebration than Christmas.

Some Russians will fast in the lead up to Christmas. This means that they will not eat certain foods. They break their fast when the first star in the sky appears on Christmas Eve (January 6). Some families will go to church on this day.



Aspic

The Christmas meal on January 7 is a feast! Popular meats include pork and goose. Meat dumplings, stuffed pies and aspic (a savoury jelly) often accompany the main dishes. Dried fruit, gingerbread and biscuits are popular foods commonly served for dessert. Vzvar is a sweet drink which is traditionally served at the end of the meal.

People often decorate their homes with nativity scenes, stars and other Christmas decorations. Christmas is a day many Russians spend at home with loved ones. Families will often give gifts to one another. A common Christmas tradition is fortune telling.

**Do you think you would enjoy Christmas in Russia?**

**Use the Venn diagram to compare Christmas in Russia to Christmas in your country.**

