



Christmas Around the World



Christmas in the UK

It is very common for British families to decorate their homes with a Christmas tree. Mistletoe, holly, ivy and other decorations are also popular.

Children often leave out treats such as mince pies, biscuits and carrots for Santa and his reindeer. Families will hang stockings above their fireplace. Children go to bed hoping Father Christmas will visit during the night and fill their stockings with presents. Father Christmas has a big white beard, wears a red suit, and is said to travel by sleigh. He enters houses by sliding down the chimney to deliver presents. Children wake early on Christmas Day, excited to see what presents have been left for them!

Christmas in the United Kingdom falls during the winter. Many people, especially children, hope for a 'white Christmas', which means snow on Christmas Day. The day is often spent indoors with family. Each year, a Christmas message from the reigning king or queen is broadcast to the nation.

The main Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Day. Turkey is one of the most popular dishes served on Christmas. Roast potatoes, Yorkshire puddings, cranberry sauce and Brussels sprouts are other very common foods served during Christmas. For dessert, British people enjoy Christmas puddings, mince pies and other sweets.

A popular table decoration for the Christmas meal is the Christmas cracker. A Christmas cracker is a cardboard tube decorated and filled with very small gifts. Two people pull at opposite ends of a cracker. The cracker 'snaps' open and the contents spill out; usually a small toy, a party hat and a joke.



Christmas cracker

Do you think you would enjoy Christmas in the UK?

Use the Venn diagram to compare Christmas in the UK to Christmas in your country.

