

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD



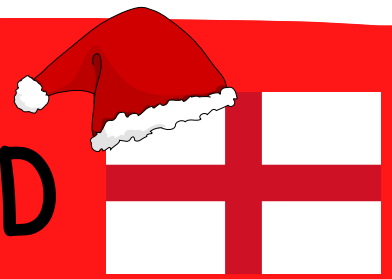
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# CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND

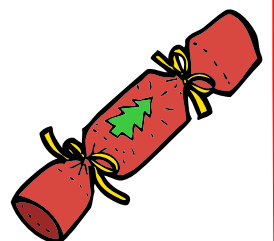


Christmas is not celebrated on December 24th in England but instead on December 25th. On December 24th, Christmas stockings are hung on the fireplace or at the foot of the bed, and the next morning they are filled with gifts. There are also presents under the Christmas tree. Christmas dinner is enjoyed at two o'clock in the afternoon and usually consists of roast turkey, Plum-Pudding and various pates. The table is decorated with Christmas crackers. Crackers are small paper tubes that are nicely decorated on the outside and that have a little gift or maybe a joke inside. When two people pull at the ends, there is a loud bang.

Another famous Christmas tradition in England is the giant Christmas tree on Trafalgar Square. This tradition started when Norway gave a tree as a gift to Great Britain in 1947, as a thank you for the country's support during the Second World War.

Most families in England decorate their homes with spruce branches and Christmas trees. Indeed, at one time Christmas trees were thought to be magical because they are green during the winter. The custom of Christmas trees was introduced in England in the year 1800 by Queen Charlotte.

A little later, in 1843, an English museum director named Henry Cole actually invented the Christmas card too!



# DID YOU KNOW?

## FUNNY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



### In Venezuela they run on roller skates

In the South American country Venezuela, most people are Christians and go to church on Christmas Eve. In Venezuela's capital, Caracas, people actually skate on roller skates to church! It has become such a big tradition in Caracas that the police close the roads to make room for all the skaters.



### Christmas decorations that take a dump

In northeastern Spain, specifically Catalonia, they also have a fun Christmas tradition. Here, a very special Christmas character appears, called 'el caganers' or in English 'the pooper'. 'The pooper' is a figure of a squatting man with his trousers down around his ankles. Beneath him is a big pile of poop. It's just the right thing to feel the spirit of Christmas!



### Away with brooms in Norway!

In Norway, brooms and mops are put away for Christmas. It's not because they don't want to clean, but because they want to avoid evil spirits coming back to earth and stealing the brooms and mops so they can fly around and tease.



### 'El Gordo' in Spain.

On December 22th, 'El Gordo' will be held in Spain. 'El Gordo' means the fat one, and is actually a large Christmas lottery where families and friends gather to play. It's no joke that the lottery is called 'El Gordo', because you can win several million Euros if you win the main prize!





# TRUE OR FALSE?



Read the text and see if the red word matches the word class written below. If the word and word class match, color the box **green**. If it is incorrect, color the box **red**.



A beautiful **wreath**.  
noun



They **sing** carols.  
proper noun



Santa **delivers** presents.  
verb



A **cool** reindeer.  
verb



A **big** present.  
adjective



The reindeer is called **Rudolph**.  
proper noun



I **decorate** the tree.  
verb



A warm **sweater**.  
noun



Beautiful Christmas **lights**.  
noun



Santa **flies**.  
adjective



The bell **rings**.  
verb



A beautiful **poinsettia**.  
proper noun



Two **hot** cups of cocoa.  
verb



A cold **snowman**.  
proper noun



A filled Christmas **sack**.  
adjective



A **tasty** candy stick.  
noun



I **love** cookies.  
verb



A **red** Christmas bauble.  
adjective



A yellow **star**.  
noun



An advent **wreath**.  
verb

# CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRALIA



It is summer in Australia when it is Christmas time. This means that it is often very hot during Christmas. There is no snow. But in fact small cotton balls are hung to look like snow on the Australians' Christmas trees. A lot of families have their Christmas dinner on the beach.

Australians eat fish and shellfish for Christmas, including lobster and prawns. They also have a traditional dish called pavlova, which is a meringue cake with kiwi and passion fruit. This is a special Christmas dessert.

In Australia, they celebrate Christmas on December 25th, just like in England. These two countries actually share a large part of their Christmas traditions. One of Australia's own traditions is called 'Carols by Candlelight'. Here people meet around candles and sing Christmas carols.

When Santa Claus comes to Australia, he often wears shorts, as the big suit is far too warm in the lovely summer weather. He also gives his reindeer a break and instead uses "six white boomers", which are kangaroos, to get around with gifts for the children.



# ADVENT CALENDAR



Lots of children and adults have their own Advent calendar in December. The calendar is either filled with chocolate, candy, beautiful pictures or something completely different.

The first Advent calendar was made in Germany by the publisher Reichhold and Lang in 1903. The calendar was made of two pieces of paper. One piece of paper had 24 small verses and the other piece of paper had 24 pictures. The idea was that the verse should be read, and afterwards the picture that matched the verse should be found, cut out and glued to the verse.

In 1920, the same publisher produced an Advent calendar with small covers like the type that we know today. In Denmark, the first Advent calendar appeared in 1930. It was a tear-off calendar with the date, a nice Christmas drawing and small verses.

In the 1940s, Richard Sellmer from Stuttgart in Germany began exporting Advent calendars overseas to the United States, and then things suddenly took off.

# DO YOU REMEMBER?



What did you read about in the text 'Christmas in England'? Color the correct answers red.

There are presents in the stocking and under the Christmas tree.

In England, they celebrate Christmas on December 24th in the evening.

Christmas dinner is served at 2 pm.

In England, they have pork roast for Christmas.

There are Christmas crackers on the table.

There's a big Christmas tree in front of Buckingham Palace.

In England, they don't have Christmas trees.

A museum director from England invented the Christmas card.

What are the funny Christmas traditions they have in Venezuela, Catalonia, Norway and Spain? Write the answer in the box.

Venezuela



Catalona



Norway



Spain



# DO YOU REMEMBER?



Mark the right box.

It's summer in Australia when it's Christmas.

True

☐

False

☐

There's lots of snow in Australia when it's Christmas.

☐☐

In Australia, they have roast duck for Christmas.

☐☐

For dessert they have Pavlova.

☐☐

In Australia, they celebrate Christmas on December 25th.

☐☐

Santa and his reindeer deliver presents.

☐☐

The first Advent calendar was made in Germany.

☐☐

The first Advent calendar was made in 1905.

☐☐

In 1950 an Advent calendar was made with little covers like the ones we know.

☐☐

# FIND AND WRITE



Look at the pictures and write the right words



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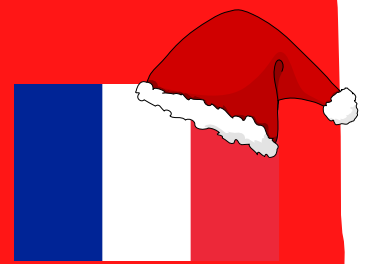


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# CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE



Joyeux Noël - that's how you say Merry Christmas in French. The Christmas tree is decorated with candy, fruit, nuts and small toys rather than Christmas baubles. At the top, there is an angel or a star. In France, they don't dance around the Christmas tree.

There is not just one food tradition in France when it comes to the Christmas dinner. Foie gras, oysters or salmon are typically eaten as starters. In most places, the main course will be a turkey or a goose, which is stuffed with chestnuts or foie gras, but duck, roast beef or lobster can also be served.

France has a particularly popular Christmas dessert called La bûche de Noël. La bûche de Noël is a kind of roulade, which consists of a cake base with buttercream flavored with coffee, chocolate, chestnut cream or liqueur. The cake is decorated so it looks like a tree trunk.

In France, Christmas ends on January 6th where they celebrate the Holy Three Kings. On that day, a cake called Galette des Rois is shared. A small figure is hidden in the cake. Whoever gets the figure is named king and gets the right to wear the crown. So if you're lucky, you'll be crowned king before Christmas is over.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## FUNNY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



### The Icelandic Christmas cat



In Iceland, you will find the Icelandic Christmas cat Jólakötturinn. It may sound cute and cuddly, but it certainly isn't! In fact, Jólakötturinn eats children. Not all children, but the children who haven't done their chores or who haven't got new clothes for Christmas.



### An extra seat at the table in Poland



For the Christmas dinner in Poland, many families deck the table for one extra person so that there is room for spirits from the past or an unexpected guest, because tradition says that no one should be alone on Christmas Eve.



### No gifts in India



Some Indian people celebrate Christmas. But there aren't loads of presents under the tree. Instead, there is a tradition of spending time in the kitchen and making sweet treats for family, neighbors and friends. In India, the focus is on charity and being with your loved ones.



### The Christmas log in Spain



In parts of Spain, the Christmas gifts come from the 'Tió de Nadal' or the Christmas log, which is a piece of wood decorated with a face and little legs. On Christmas Eve, the log is put into the fireplace, and you poke the log with small sticks until it farts sweets and presents to the family.



# I CAN SEE...



How many Christmas figures do you count? Write the number in the boxes below.



# CHRISTMAS WORDS



Try to think of different words connected to Christmas. If you're really good, you might find Christmas words using every letter in the alphabet.

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

Q \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

S \_\_\_\_\_

T \_\_\_\_\_

U \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

Y \_\_\_\_\_

Z \_\_\_\_\_

# KRAMPUS



If you have been to Austria or some of the surrounding countries, you may have come across Krampus. He appears at Christmas time.

Krampus is Santa Claus in an evil version. He does not bear gifts to good children. Instead he whips naughty children with branches and drags them down to the underworld.

Krampus has large horns and creepy eyes and is half goat and half demon. Krampus has a rusty iron chain, which rattles when he walks.

December 5th is Krampusnacht (Krampus night in English). And here, Krampus walks the streets with his rattling chain. On this night, people gather in large processions to walk through the streets and finally end in a big party.

Some people have dressed up as Krampus and walk through town to scare the people for fun.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



### The origin of Christmas baubles



It is said that Christmas baubles originate from Lauscha, a town in Germany. The city was known for its glass factories, some which made glass eyes. One day, one of the town's manufacturers made a very simple, round Christmas bauble, which he tried to sell.

The Christmas baubles only became really popular when an American named Frank Woolworth visited Lauscha. He was persuaded to buy a batch of baubles, although he feared that his customers would find the decorations boring. However, the Christmas baubles were torn off the shelves the same evening they arrived in the store.



### Spider web in Ukraine



Ukrainians hang artificial cobwebs on their Christmas tree. This custom originated after a Ukrainian family could not afford a Christmas tree. One summer morning, a pine cone had fallen on the floor of their old cabin, and the cone grew into a beautiful Christmas tree on Christmas morning. Unfortunately, the family could not afford to decorate the tree. But when they the next morning, they found the tree covered in cobwebs which were turned to gold and silver by the morning light!

In addition to artificial webs, the Ukrainians also decorate the branches with figures of small spiders called pavuchk.



### A pickle on the Christmas tree in Germany



The Christmas trees in Germany are not filled with pickles, but Germans actually hide a single pickled cucumber in plastic on the tree. The child (or adult) who finds the pickled figure on the tree gets a small gift.

# DO YOU REMEMBER?



What did you read about in the text 'Christmas in France'. Write the answer in the box.

How do you say Merry Christmas in French?

What is a La bûche de Noël?

What is celebrated on January 6th in France?

What kind of funny Christmas traditions do they have in Iceland, Poland, India and Spain? Connect the right tradition with the right country.

Island



Polen



Indien



Spanien



The Christmas log

The Christmas cat Jólakötturinn

An extra seat at the table

No gifts!

# DO YOU REMEMBER?



Mark the right box.

In Austria Krampus steals naughty children for Christmas.

True

☐

False

☐

Krampus is Santa's dog.

☐☐

December 6th is Krampusnacht.

☐☐

A lot of people dress up as Krampus and do processions through town.

☐☐

The Christmas bauble was invented in the United States.

☐☐

Frank Woolworth brought the Christmas baubles to the United States.

☐☐

People loved the Christmas baubles.

☐☐

In Ukraine, they put snakes on the Christmas tree.

☐☐

In Germany, they hide a plastic pickle on the Christmas tree.

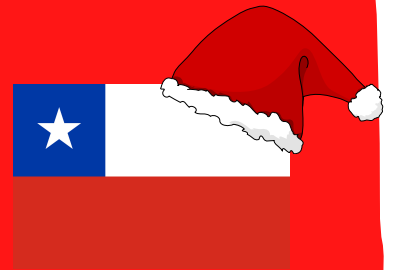
☐☐

# CHRISTMAS DRAWING





# CHRISTMAS IN CHILE



In Chile, it is also summer when it is Christmas. In fact, it is very normal with a temperature around 86 degrees Fahrenheit on Christmas Eve.

A lot of people decorate their houses with lots of Christmas lights. Many also have a nativity scene. It is figurines and a small stable, reminding people of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. This is actually their most popular decoration for Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, the family gathers for Christmas dinner. Christmas dinner starts very late. Dinner time in Chile is normally between 9 and 10 o'clock pm. After the Christmas dinner, presents are opened and the family has fun. Christmas Day is used as a 'rest day', where people relax and many go to the beach and sunbathe.

At Christmas, you eat several different things in Chile. The two most popular dishes are pan de pascua (Christmas bread) and cola de mono (monkey's tail - a typical Chilean cinnamon and milk liqueur). Many also eat corn cake. In the last few years, more and more people have been inspired by the United States, and therefore turkey for Christmas dinner is also becoming more common.

In Chile, many villancicos (Christmas carols) are also sung.





# LA BEFANA



At the end of Christmas in Italy, all children get a visit from the witch La Befana who comes flying on her broom and hands out gifts and candy to good children and coal to the naughty ones. La Befana comes on the night between January 5th and 6th. The night before she comes, many children will sing this little verse to her:

La Befana vien di notte  
con le scarpe tutte rotte  
col cappello alla romana  
viva viva la Befana!



In Italy, everyone looks forward to the visit from Befana, and many also put food or drink out for her.

Befana is a little old witch with a big nose. She wears a jacket with lots of colorful patches, worn shoes and she has a sack full of candy and presents.

The tradition of Befana is said to have originated when the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. An old woman was tidying her home when the Holy Three Kings knocked on her door and asked her if she wanted to go with them to find the baby Jesus. Befana was too busy and declined. She later regretted this decision. So she went out into the world and offered every child she met a piece of candy, in the hope that it would be the baby Jesus. To this day, she's still searching.

# WHAT IS HAPPENING?



Describe every picture using three adjectives


# HOW MANY?



Write as many words as you can starting with Christmas...

CHRISTMAS STAR

# CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY

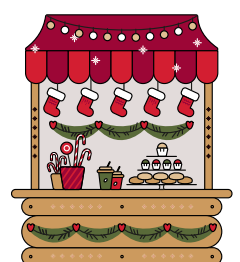


Many of the Christmas traditions we have here in Denmark actually originate in Germany. We've got both the Christmas tree, the Christmas calendar and the Advent tradition from Germany.

Christmas Eve is called "Heiligabend" in German. The Christmas tree is decorated, and there is often a nativity scene under the tree. There is a tradition of going to church on Christmas Eve. And unlike in Denmark, Germans eat a light Christmas meal on Christmas Eve. Often it is sausages and potato salad.

At Christmas time, Germany is very well known for its many Christmas markets. The Rathausmarkt is the largest and most popular Christmas market and is located in Hamburg. The Rathausmarkt is right next to the town hall. There are many nice stalls on the market.

Among other things, candy and Christmas decorations are sold at the stalls.



# DID YOU KNOW?

## CHRISTMAS FOOD AND DRINKS



In Japan, they have Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) on Christmas eve



How about a bucket of deep fried chicken for dinner on Christmas Eve? That's what they do in Japan. In fact, the tradition is so popular that the Japanese order their food months in advance, and KFC sets sales records Christmas after Christmas. This Japanese tradition originates from a 1974 marketing campaign.



In Greenland, they have whale for Christmas.



In Greenland, they typically eat Mattak and Kiviaq at Christmas. Mattak is the skin and blubber of a whale. It is eaten raw. Kiviaq consists of auks (small birds) that are sewn into the skin of a seal. The seal is buried in the ground, and when it is rotten, it is dug up and eaten.



All good things from the sea in Australia.



In Australia it is summer when it is Christmas. Christmas is celebrated with a trip to the beach, sunshine and high temperatures. And so their number one Christmas menu is a platter with prawns, lobsters, oysters and other good things from the sea.



Christmas pudding in the UK.



In Great Britain, Christmas pudding is a dessert. The dish is a sweet dried fruit pudding that most English people love. Stuffed pâté and gingerbread cookies are also served.

# DO YOU REMEMBER?



What did you read about in the text 'Christmas in Chile'? Color the right answers with a red marker.

It is cold on Christmas Eve in Chile.

It is about 86 degrees Fahrenheit on Christmas Eve in Chile.

Christmas dinner is served at 2 o'clock pm.

Christmas dinner is served at 9 o'clock pm.

Christmas day is a day of rest.

Christmas day is a day of activity.

The two most popular dishes for Christmas in Chile are pan de pascua and cola de mono.

The two most popular Christmas dishes in Chile is duck and pork roast.

What is the story of Befana? What happened when the Holy Three Kings came to her door?



# DO YOU REMEMBER?



Mark the right box.

A lot of Danish Christmas traditions are from Germany.

True

☐

False

☐

Christmas eve is called Holy noche in German.

☐☐

They often have potato salad and sausage for Christmas in Germany.

☐☐

The largest Christmas market in Germany is in Berlin.

☐☐

What do they eat for Christmas in Japan, Australia, England and in Greenland? Write the right kind of food in the boxes.

JAPAN



GREENLAND



AUSTRALIA



GREAT BRITAIN





# CHRISTMAS DRAWING



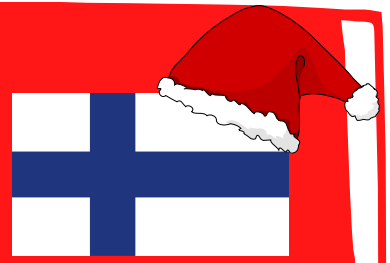
Paint the picture – but how? Read the text under the picture and follow the instructions.



- Color the moon yellow.
- Color the Christmas tree green. Put lights on.
- Give the reindeer a red nose.
- Color the car blue.
- Color the big present purple. Color the little present red.
- Color The snowman's hat black.
- Color the Snowman's scarf and nose orange
- Color the sky dark blue.
- Color the cracker red and green.
- Color the house just as you like.
- Color the lights on the house.



# CHRISTMAS IN FINLAND



In Finland, They have a tradition on the eve before the first Sunday in Advent. The evening is celebrated as a miniature Christmas with a small Christmas tree decorated with small Christmas decorations and small lights. The next day, when it is the first Sunday in Advent, Finns go to church to hear the Christmas prayer Hosanna.

December 24th is Christmas Eve. In the afternoon, many people go to church and light the graves of their loved ones. You dance around the Christmas tree and listen to Christmas carols and Christmas music.

In the Finnish part of Lapland, you will find the city of Rovaniemi. Here, you will find Santa's village, and you can actually meet Santa up there all year round. In addition to meeting Santa Claus, you can also visit the Santa Claus Post Office, which receives over half a million letters every year from all over the world. You can also visit Santa's reindeer, take a dog sled ride, see Santa's office and visit the elves' mini zoo with animals that live in the area, for example reindeer, llamas, goats, sheep and rabbits.

The city of Rovaniemi is located near the Arctic Circle, which means, that you can experience the midnight sun and polar night.



# A CHRISTMAS CAROL



If you like a nice Christmas story, you may be familiar with the popular tale 'A Christmas Carol'. The story was written by Charles Dickens, and is about Ebenezer Scrooge, who can be described as a real hater of Christmas!

The story was published in 1843 in London, and at this particular time, there was a lot of unemployment in the city. There were more and more residents in London. Both because people moved from the country to the city, but also because a lot of immigrants came from Ireland.

There were many poor people in London at this time. Some died of both hunger and disease. The rich in London made more and more money, and therefore there was a great divide of the population in the city. This is what Charles Dickens tries to show in the story.

Charles Dickens had published several books, but 'A Christmas Carol' was a huge success right away.



# LETTER POEM



Make a letter poem. Write a word starting with the letter in the box. The word must be related to Christmas.

C

H

R

I

S

T

M

A

S

# DID YOU KNOW?

## 8 FAST CHRISTMAS FACTS



It was a man named Henry Cole from England who invented the Christmas card in 1843.



A man named Robert L. May worked in a department store in Chicago and invented Rudolph himself! Rudolph was invented for a coloring book.



Disney's Christmas Show 'From All of Us to All of You' was first shown on December 19, 1958.



On December 13, Lucia Day is celebrated in Denmark and many other places around the world.



The Advent wreath dates from 1839, when the German theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern made one.



The most played Christmas song is Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You'.



In 1903, a man named Einar Hollbøll got the idea to make a Christmas stamp. Einar worked as a postal clerk. The Christmas stamp was sold from 1904 and is still sold today. The profit from the sale goes to vulnerable children.



You can find the Christmas Gospel in the New Testament in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2.

# WORD SEARCH



K	C	S	K	U	M	P	T	X	J	C	S	B	M	D	A	S	A
U	S	D	S	K	H	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	G	K	O
P	E	A	E	L	Y	N	Y	E	R	S	N	M	A	S	K	J	P
V	S	E	D	Z	G	H	P	A	K	Y	E	S	P	I	L	U	M
K	C	N	F	V	G	P	S	S	T	T	S	D	L	L	A	L	A
U	W	I	P	T	E	L	I	E	A	U	O	N	U	S	G	E	O
F	E	S	E	C	R	N	R	N	R	M	I	A	C	K	I	S	P
F	B	S	O	M	S	E	T	Y	E	E	D	T	I	E	N	W	Q
E	P	E	S	P	F	O	E	S	G	Q	M	S	A	L	G	E	T
R	L	R	O	O	P	C	H	O	F	O	L	W	D	E	I	A	E
E	S	L	E	C	I	A	U	Y	J	R	S	E	V	T	N	T	K
I	L	I	F	S	T	A	R	B	L	U	A	A	T	K	G	E	F
N	R	G	O	O	E	M	M	N	T	G	L	T	R	I	E	R	S
D	L	C	R	L	R	N	S	C	N	E	D	E	S	N	R	E	K
E	D	E	A	A	S	R	T	N	S	D	Y	R	G	R	B	B	E
E	R	A	Q	N	N	R	E	S	A	K	G	L	E	A	R	G	T
R	R	A	U	L	E	E	E	P	S	J	A	D	B	G	E	O	L
K	H	L	V	T	X	E	D	M	E	E	P	N	C	N	A	E	U
D	I	S	T	F	J	Z	L	E	L	F	T	S	E	G	D	G	R

Find the words:

Chocolate

Tree

Lucia

Pine

Elf

Presents

Gingerbread

Cosy

Sweater




Reindeer

Cane

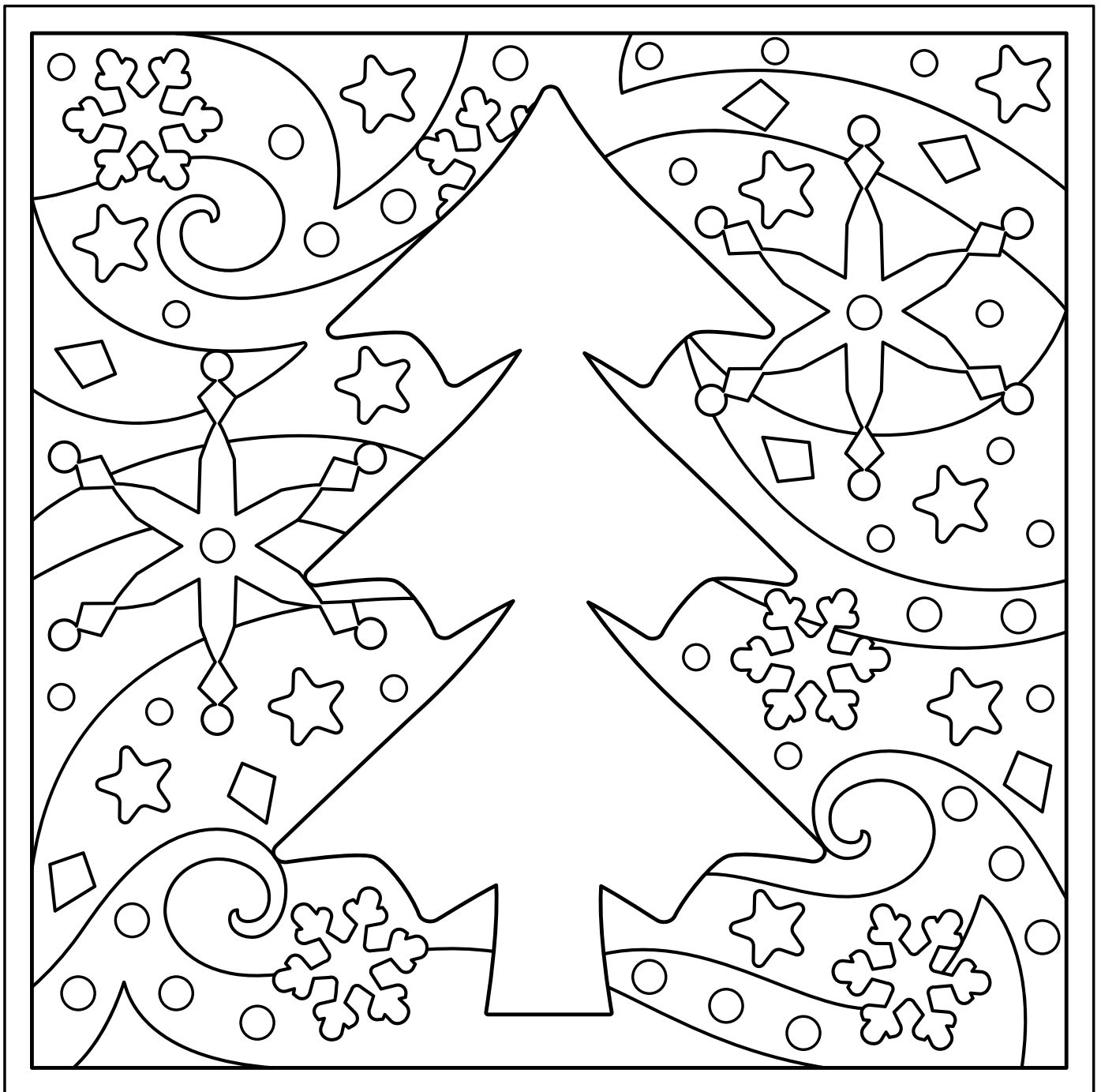
# DO YOU REMEMBER?



Get it right. In each row, color the right answer red. All answers can be found in the booklet.

		
In England, they have streamers on the table for Christmas dinner.	In England, they have crackers on the table for Christmas dinner.	In England, they have stickers on the table for Christmas dinner.
In Venezuela, they jump all the way to church on Christmas day.	In Venezuela, they ski all the way to church on Christmas day.	In Venezuela, they skate all the way to church on Christmas day.
'El Gordo' is celebrated in Spain.	'El Gordo' is celebrated in Italy.	'El Gordo' is celebrated in Australia.
In Australia, Santa flies with eight reindeer.	In Australia, Santa flies with six kangaroos.	In Australia, Santa flies with twelve eagles.
The first Advent calendar came in 1930.	The first Advent calendar came in 1903.	The first Advent calendar came in 1999.
The main Christmas dish in France is duck or goose.	The main Christmas dish in France is candy canes.	The main Christmas dish in France is oysters.
In Poland, they set an extra plate for a reindeer.	In Poland, they set an extra plate for an unexpected guest.	In Poland, they set an extra plate for Santa.
'Tio de Nadal' is a Christmas carol.	'Tio de Nadal' is a Christmas dessert.	'Tio de Nadal' is a Christmas log.
December 5th is Krampusnacht.	December 10th is Krampusnacht.	December 24th is Krampusnacht.
In Ukraine, they decorate the Christmas tree with lint and dust.	In Ukraine, they decorate the Christmas tree with brooms.	In Ukraine they decorate the Christmas tree with cobwebs.
Villancicos is Christmas candy.	Villancicos are Christmas carols.	Villancicos are Christmas traditions.
La Befana comes between December 5th and 6th.	La Befana comes between December 25th and 26th.	La Befana comes between January 5th and 6th.
Rathausmarkt is a Christmas Market in Hamburg.	Rathausmarkt is a Christmas Market in Berlin.	Rathausmarkt is a Christmas Market in Munich.

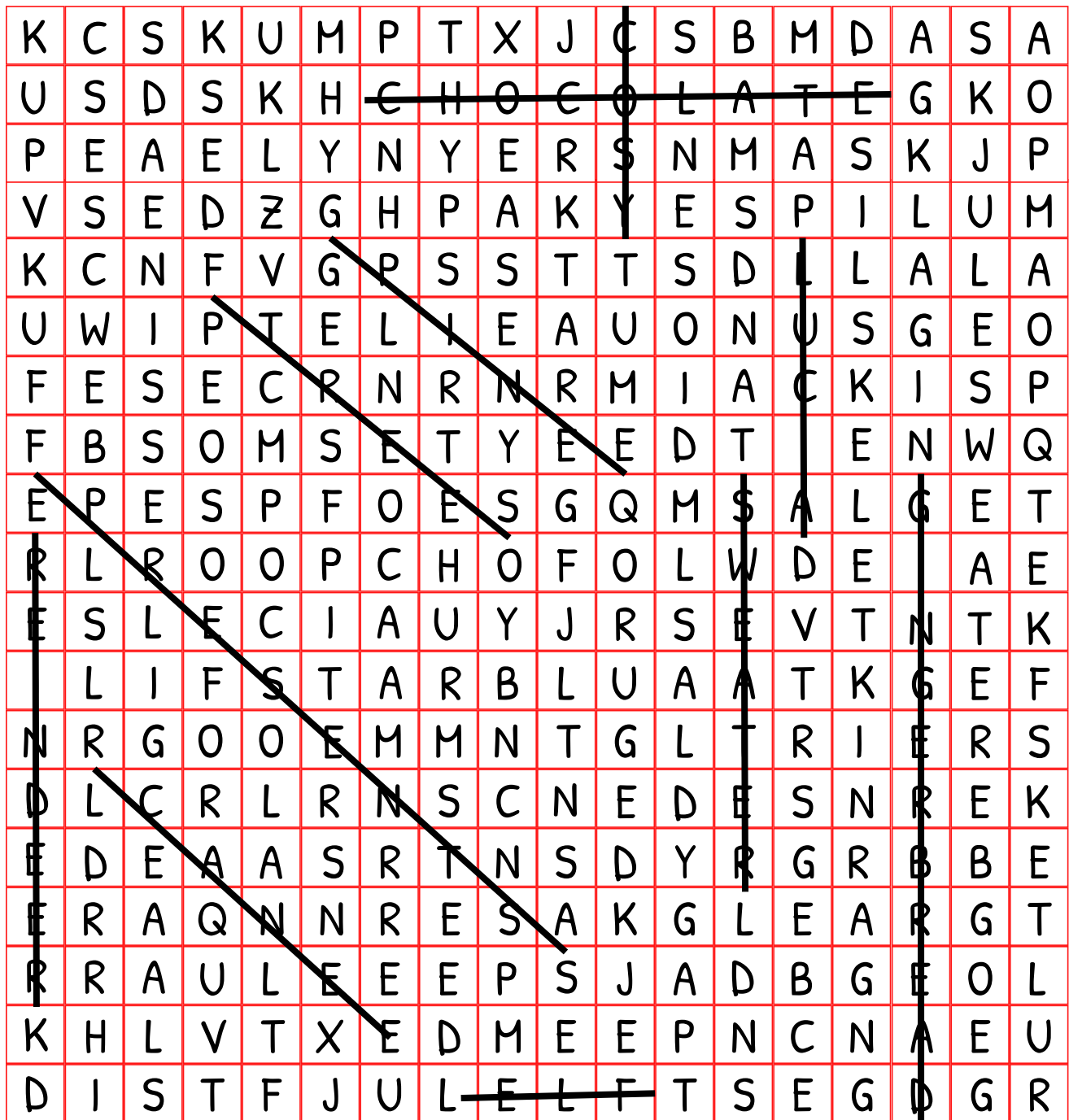
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!







# Seek and find



Find the words:

Chocolate

Tree

Lucia

Pine

Elf

Presents

Ginterbread

Cosy

Sweater

Reindeer

Cane