

<p>On Christmas Eve, children in France put their polished shoes out in front of the chimney and hope that '<i>Père Noël</i>' (Father Christmas) fills the shoes with sweets. People wish each other '<i>joyeux Noël</i>'</p>	<p>The nativity scene display with a crib filled with straw, originally comes from Italy. In Italy, the people wish each other '<i>Buon Natale</i>', which means 'Merry Christmas'.</p>
<p>In Germany the Christmas tree is usually only put up and decorated in the morning of the 24th of December. People wish each other "<i>Frohe Weihnachten</i>"</p>	<p>The Portuguese celebrate Christmas on 24th of December. Many families put up a crib scene (<i>presépio</i>), where Baby Jesus is only added after the family has been to Midnight mass. Children put out their shoes for Baby Jesus, not Santa, and gifts are exchanged after church on Christmas Eve. People wish each other '<i>Feliz Natal</i>'</p>
<p>In the Philippines there is a tradition of having a Christmas lantern called a '<i>paról</i>' in the shape of a star. The lantern is made out of bamboo and paper and is a reminder of the star that led the stargazers to Jesus. People wish each other '<i>Maligayang Pasko</i>'</p>	<p>In Australia, Christmas Day is in the summer so it is traditional to celebrate with picnics on the beach or barbecues outdoors.</p>
<p>In South Africa December is a summer month so on Christmas Day the family will often gather at a '<i>braai</i>', which is the South African version of a barbecue (BBQ). Many people visit Christmas mass on Christmas day as well. In Afrikaans people would wish each other '<i>Geseënde Kersfees</i>'</p>	<p>On 7 December, people in Columbia celebrate with a festival of light to honour Jesus' mother, Mary. They use white and coloured candles in patterned paper lanterns to decorate their homes and towns. This marks the start of the Christmas season. Many people in Columbia speak Spanish and would wish each other '<i>Feliz navidad</i>'</p>
<p>Ethiopians follow a different calendar called the Julian calendar and so they celebrate Christmas (called <i>Ganna</i>) on January 7. People dress in white, with a thin piece of white cotton cloth with brightly colored stripes across the ends, and go to church overnight, including processing round the outside of the church. There are lots of different languages spoken in Ethiopia.</p>	<p>In Ghana, Santa Claus is called Papa Bronya, or Father Christmas, and, leaves treats for children instead of toys. People in Ghana wish each other '<i>Afishapa</i>'</p>

<p>In Iceland, children leave their shoes on the windowsill for the <i>Jólasveinarnir</i> or Yule Lads, mischievous trolls who come down from the mountains to play tricks and leave gifts. Good children received presents in their shoes, naughty children may get potatoes instead!</p> <p>People wish each other '<i>Gleðileg jól</i>'</p>	<p>In India Christmas dinner is usually curry and, instead of an evergreen Christmas tree, people may decorate a banana or mango tree. Christmas festivities typically include lights, fireworks, and a midnight mass.</p> <p>People wish each other <i>Śubh Krisamas</i></p>
<p>In Lebanon the Nativity crib is often decorated with seeds such as chickpeas, broad beans, lentils, oats, and wheat, which then sprout and grow over the Christmas season.</p> <p>People in Lebanon wish each other '<i>Eid Milad Majid</i>'. This means 'Glorious Birth Feast,'</p>	<p>In Mexico Christmas celebrations start nine days before Christmas with <i>La Posada</i>, which is a procession, usually led by children, to a nativity scene at church and reminds people of the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. Families will often celebrate with a piñata and eat tamales. People wish each other '<i>Feliz Navidad</i>'.</p>
<p>In Italy, celebrations last from December 8 until January 6. <i>Babbo Natale</i>, or Father Christmas, visits children on Christmas Eve, but the main day for giving gifts is January 6 when <i>Befana</i>, an old woman on a broom, brings the gifts.</p> <p>People wish each other '<i>Buon Natale</i>'</p>	<p>In Russia people celebrate on January 7 as they follow a different calendar, with Christmas celebrations lasting for the first ten days of the year. On New Year's Eve, children are visited by <i>Ded Moroz</i>, or Grandfather Frost, arrives in a <i>troika</i> pulled by three horses to deliver gifts. People wish each other <i>С Рождеством Христовым</i> (pronounced: s razhdystVOM khristOVym)</p>
<p>In Medieval times in the UK people celebrated for twelve days from Christmas Eve and the first recorded use of the word Christmas (Christ's Mass) was in 1038. Gifts were exchanged on Twelfth Night.</p> <p>Christmas cards and Christmas carols became popular in Victorian times and many of the carols we know now were written then.</p>	<p>In Venezuela the main celebrations are on Christmas Eve when families eat traditional meals together such as <i>hallacas</i>, <i>pan de jamón</i>, and <i>dulce de lechoza</i>. In the capital city it has become a tradition go to Christmas mass on roller skates! Gifts are brought by the baby Jesus or by the wise men. People wish each other '<i>Feliz Navidad</i>'</p>