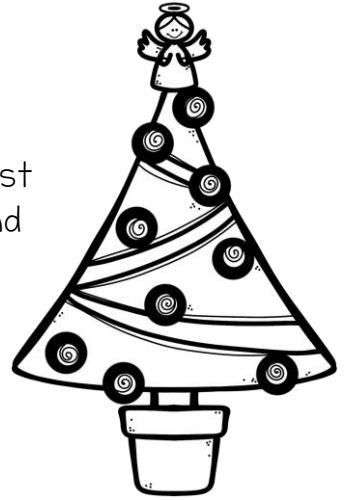


CHRISTMAS in England

TREES

Most families in England have a Christmas tree in their home. Decorating the tree is usually a family occasion with everyone participating. Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, first popularized the Christmas tree in England. He was German and brought the tradition to his wife's nation. In addition to trees, holly, ivy, and mistletoe are also used to decorate homes and buildings.



LIGHTS

Towns, cities, and villages in England are decorated with Christmas lights during the holiday season. A famous person usually is often given the honor of turning on the lights. The most famous Christmas lights in England are on Oxford Street in London. They get bigger and better every year. Thousands attend their lighting each year in November.

CHURCH SERVICES

Nativity plays and carol services are popular at Christmas time in England, like many other nations. Many churches hold candlelight services around Christmas.



FATHER CHRISTMAS

English children believe Father Christmas or Santa Claus leaves presents in stockings or pillowcases hung by the fire or children's beds on Christmas Eve. Children often leave out mince pies for Father Christmas when he visits their home. Children also write letters to Father Christmas to let him know what they would like, but they toss them in the fireplace instead of the post! They believe the chimney sucks up the letter and Father Christmas reads the smoke to determine the presents. Father Christmas wears a long, red robe, carries a sack of toys, and arrives on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. He fills stockings with candies and toys.



CUSTOMS

Wassailing is an old Anglo-Saxon custom involving drinking a special drink that does not take place much today. Boxing Day is another custom started in England and now celebrated in many countries around the world. It takes place on December 26 in places related to England such as Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. Collection boxes at churches were opened on Boxing Day to distribute to the disadvantaged.

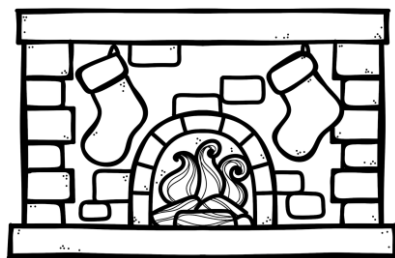
FOOD

The main Christmas meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or early afternoon on Christmas Day. It typically consists of roast turkey, roast vegetables, and sides, such as vegetables, stuffing, bacon, sausage, cranberry sauce, and bread sauce. Roast beef or goose was the main meal before turkeys were available. Dessert is usually Christmas Pudding, mince pies, trifle, and chocolate. Christmas cake is popular with some people. It is usually a fruit cake covered with icing.



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Christmas Crackers are popular in England. These colorful tubes are wrapped in colorful paper. They are usually placed at each plate at Christmas dinner. They are pulled, making a bang, and contain a toy or gift and joke.



WEATHER

It does not snow very often in England, but people always hope for a "White Christmas." Instead, the weather is usually cold, wet, and foggy in England during Christmas. Families gather around their fire to stay warm.

CAROLING

Carolers go from house to house at twilight ringing handbells and singing Christmas songs throughout the holidays in England. "The Holly and the Ivy" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" are English favorites. Carolers are provided treats, such as pies filled with nuts and dried fruits, by people.

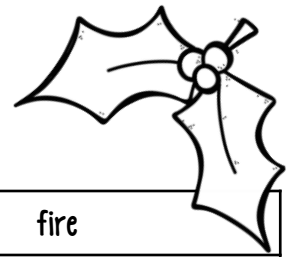


ROYAL BROADCAST

On Christmas Day at 3 p.m., the English monarch delivers a broadcast to his or her citizens. This started as a radio broadcast but has evolved to television.

Name _____

CHRISTMAS in England



IDENTIFY: Use the word bank to identify each term described.

Boxing Day	monarch	fire
Cracker	Father Christmas	tree
turkey	Oxford	carol
	1. Santa Claus in England	
	2. December 26 in England and some other nations	
	3. Christmas lists are placed in these to send to Santa	
	4. Broadcasts an address to the nation each Christmas	
	5. Prince Albert made these popular in homes in England	
	6. Main dish on Christmas Day in England	
	7. Colorful tube with jokes inside	
	8. "The Holly and the Ivy" is a popular English one	
	9. London street with many Christmas lights	

TRUE OR FALSE?: Place a check in the correct column.

STATEMENT	T	F
11. The royal address by the monarch occurs on Christmas Eve.		
12. Goose is typically served as the main course today in England.		
13. Father Christmas is thought to bring gifts to children in England.		
14. The English usually experience a "White Christmas."		
15. Many English attend church services around Christmas.		
16. Queen Elizabeth II's husband brought Christmas trees to England.		
17. Christmas Crackers are popular in England.		
18. Thousands attend the lighting of Christmas lights in Oxford each year.		
19. Wassailing remains a popular tradition in England today.		
20. Boxing Day occurs the day after Christmas.		

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

21. What is the author's purpose in writing this selection?
- A. To persuade the reader to travel to England for Christmas.
 - B. To explain how Christmas trees became popular in England.
 - C. To inform the reader of Christmas traditions in England.
 - D. To entertain the reader with a funny English Christmas story.
22. What item is typically left out for Santa on Christmas Eve by children in England?
- A. Cookies
 - B. Milk
 - C. Christmas List
 - D. Mince Pie
23. What is the purpose of Boxing Day?
- A. A large boxing match is held.
 - B. Children are given boxes of presents.
 - C. The poor are given boxes of money.
 - D. Boxes are collected and recycled.
24. Which of the following is NOT a place mentioned that celebrates Boxing Day?
- A. New Zealand
 - B. United States
 - C. Australia
 - D. Canada
25. Which best describes the typical weather in England around Christmas?
- A. Sunny and warm
 - B. Rainy and warm
 - C. Cold, rainy, and foggy
 - D. Cold and snowy
26. "This started as a radio broadcast but has evolved to television." What is the best meaning of *evolved* in the previous quote?
- A. Developed
 - B. Quickly changed
 - C. Gave off
 - D. Stayed the same

