

Name: _____

Christmas Around the World Web Quest

"I will hold Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." - Charles Dickens.

Christmas is one of the biggest celebrations for the people belonging to the Christian faith. But it would be wrong to assume that it is only celebrated among the Christians. With the world becoming a global village, Christmas is now celebrated in many countries around the world. Caroling, feasting, and gift-giving along with the prayers and wishes - Christmas is celebrated with high spirits in various parts of the world. Though the mode of celebration, the dates and the traditions vary, the spirit remains the same everywhere. While most of us celebrate it as a festive season spreading over a week, for some it is a month long festival that starts with the Advent on Sunday next to November 26 and ends on January 6 with the feast of Epiphany. Christmas is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for coming together with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages... But mostly, Christmas is for love. So, how do people celebrate it in different countries? Let's get to know this together!

Directions: Use the links to answer each of the following questions about Christmas traditions around the world! <http://whychristmas.com/cultures/>

1. Why is Christmas a small festival in India?
2. What kinds of trees are decorated at Christmas time in India?
3. Christmas trees are not commonly used in Greece. What decoration is used for Greek homes?
4. Describe a typical Christmas meal in Greece.
5. In Holland, what do children leave in their shoes as a gift for Sinterklaas's horse?
6. Latvians claim to be the first to use Christmas trees. In what year was the first documented use of a Christmas tree in Latvia?

