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Best wishes, Christie

## STOP BY AND SAY HI!



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Be sure to select 'Fit to printable area' (or similar) to ensure the page fits with your printer type and local paper size. Please also check your paper orientation setting.

We suggest printing re-usable game boards and game pieces onto matte photo paper or card stock and laminating before use.

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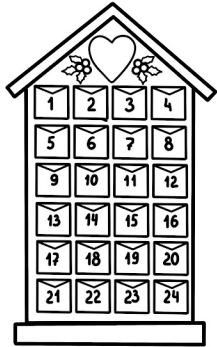
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# Christmas in... Germany



A big part of the Christmas celebrations in Germany is Advent. Several different types of Advent calendars are used in German homes.

1. arGemyn

2. lbrCteeae

3. tednAv

4. sestPenr

5. trasMek

6. aChtsirsm



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

GERMANY  
PRESENTS

CELEBRATE  
MARKETS

ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS

## FAST FACTS

A big part of the Christmas celebrations in Germany is Advent. Several different types of Advent calendars are used in German homes.

Christmas Trees are very important in Germany.

Sometimes wooden frames, covered with colored plastic sheets and with electric candles inside, are put in windows to make the house look pretty from the outside.

Christmas Eve is the main day when Germans exchange presents with their families.

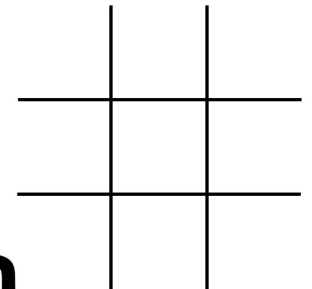
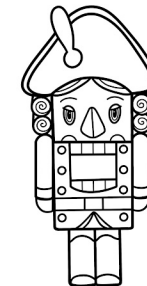
Germany is well known for its Christmas Markets where all sorts of Christmas foods and decorations are sold.

Santa Claus or Father Christmas (der Weihnachtsmann) brings the main Christmas presents on December 24th.

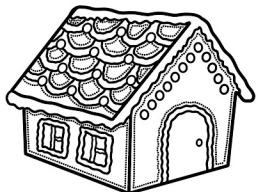
The Sternsinger (or star singers) go from house to house, sing a song and collect money for charity.

Merry Christmas in German:

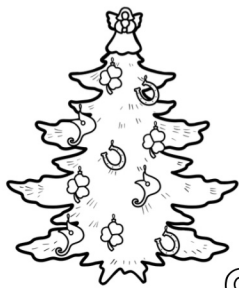
# FRÖHE



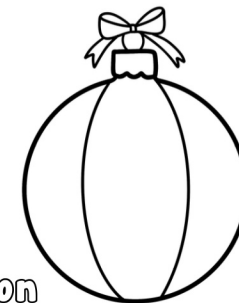
Draw a picture of a calendar in the box above.



# WEIHNACHTEN



# Christmas in... Ireland



Christmas for Irish people lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of Epiphany on January 6th, which some Irish people call 'Little Christmas'.

1. eadllm \_\_\_\_\_
2. ieGalc \_\_\_\_\_
3. eerT \_\_\_\_\_
4. dinuPgd \_\_\_\_\_
5. issrhaCtm \_\_\_\_\_
6. uyTekr \_\_\_\_\_

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

IRELAND	GAELIC	TREE
PUDDING	CHRISTMAS	TURKEY

## FAST FACTS

The day after Christmas Day, St. Stephen's Day (known as Boxing Day in the UK and some other countries), is also very important in Ireland. Like in the UK, Football matches and horse racing meetings are traditionally held on St. Stephen's Day.

It's common to have a Christmas Cake like those in the UK, a rich fruit cake covered with marzipan and decorated with icing.

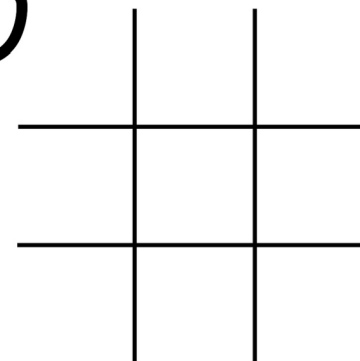
In Ireland, they have turkey for Christmas dinner, sometimes spiced beef is eaten. This can be served hot or cold. Dessert is commonly a Christmas Pudding.

In Irish (or Gaelic) Christmas is 'Nollaig', Santa Claus is known as 'San Níoclás' (Saint Nicholas) or 'Daidí na Nollag' (Father Christmas) and Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Nollaig Shona Dhuit'.

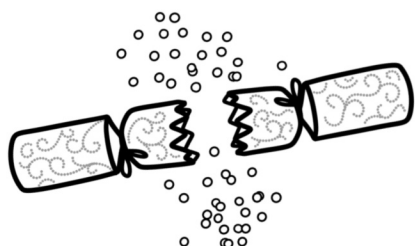


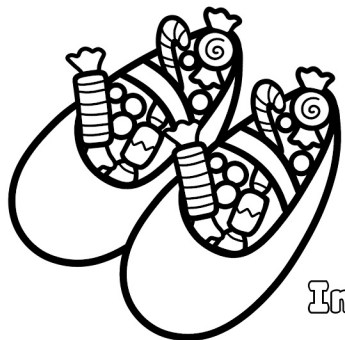
Merry Christmas in Irish (or Gaelic):

# NOLLAIG SHONA DUIT

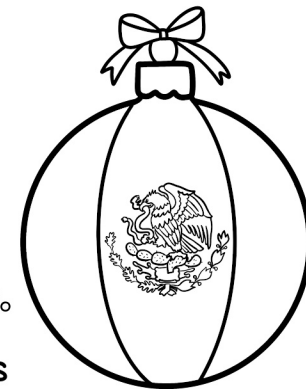


Draw a picture of a turkey in the box above.





# Christmas in... Mexico



In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated from December 12th to January 6th.

1. iMcx eo
2. iyNt aitv
3. edaarP
4. gnSo
5. dsPaoa
6. nneraLt

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

MEXICO  
SONG

NATIVITY  
POSADA

PARADE  
LANTERN

## FAST FACTS

From December 16th to Christmas Eve, children often perform the 'Posada' processions or Posadas.

Posada is Spanish for Inn or Lodging. There are nine Posadas. These celebrate the part of the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary looked for somewhere to stay.

For the Posadas, the outside of houses are decorated with evergreens, moss and paper lanterns.

In each Posada, children are given candles and a board, with painted clay figures of Mary riding on a donkey and Joseph, to process round the streets with. They call at the houses of friends and neighbors and sing a song at each home.

One game that is often played at Posada parties is piñata. A piñata is a decorated clay or papier-mâché jar filled with sweets and hung from the ceiling or tree branch.

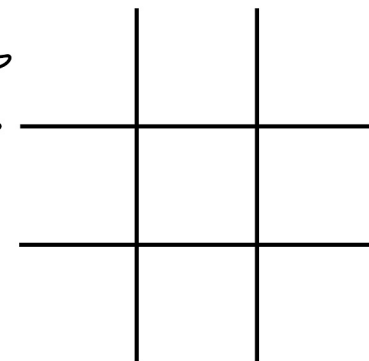
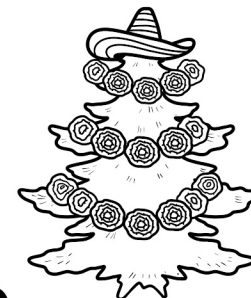
Nativity scenes, known as the 'nacimiento', are very popular in Mexico. They are often very large, with the figures being life size!

Christmas Eve is known as 'Noche Buena' and is a family day.

On Christmas Eve churches parade floats through the plaza and on Christmas Day there are fireworks and Christmas meals.

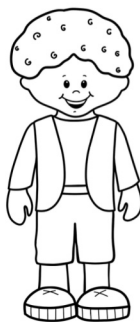
Merry Christmas in Spanish:

# FELIZ NAVIDAD

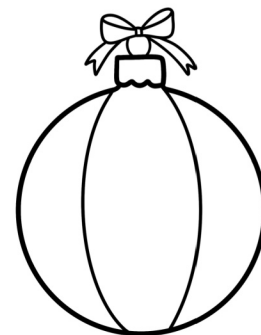


Draw a picture of a piñata in the box above.





# Christmas in... Italy



Christmas in Italy begins on December 8 the day on which traditionally the Christmas tree put up and ends on January 6 with the Epiphany.

1. vtitiaNy

2. nfeBaa

3. tilya

4. enPstsre

5. lpNsae

6. gNtih

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

NATIVITY  
PRESENTS

BEFANA  
NAPLES

ITALY  
NIGHT

Merry Christmas in Italian:



# BUON NATALE



## FAST FACTS

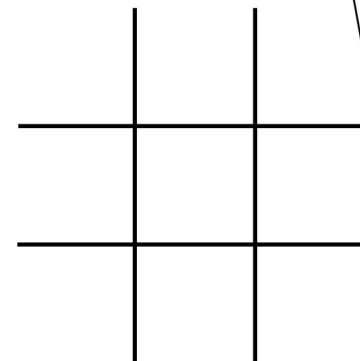
One of the most important ways of celebrating Christmas in Italy is the Nativity crib scene.

The city of Naples in Italy is world famous for its Nativity scenes. These are known as 'Presepe Napoletano' (meaning Neapolitan Nativity/cribs scenes). The first Nativity scene in Naples is thought to go back to 1025!

On Christmas Eve, it's common that no meat (and also sometimes no dairy) is eaten. Often a light seafood meal is eaten and then people go to the Midnight Mass service.

One old Italian custom is that children go out Carol singing and playing songs on shepherds pipes, wearing shepherds sandals and hats.

On Epiphany night, children believe that an old lady called 'Befana' brings presents for them. Children put stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill.



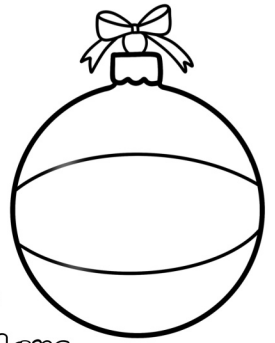
Draw a picture of a stocking in the box above.





Christmas in...

# Netherlands



St. Nicholas' Day is on the 6th December, but in The Netherlands, the major celebrations are held on the 5th December, St. Nicholas' Eve. The name Santa Claus comes from the name Sinterklaas.

1. yPart \_\_\_\_\_
2. alstdnhNeer \_\_\_\_\_
3. serPte \_\_\_\_\_
4. tnuH \_\_\_\_\_
5. btmeStaoa \_\_\_\_\_
6. reasreTu \_\_\_\_\_

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

## FAST FACTS

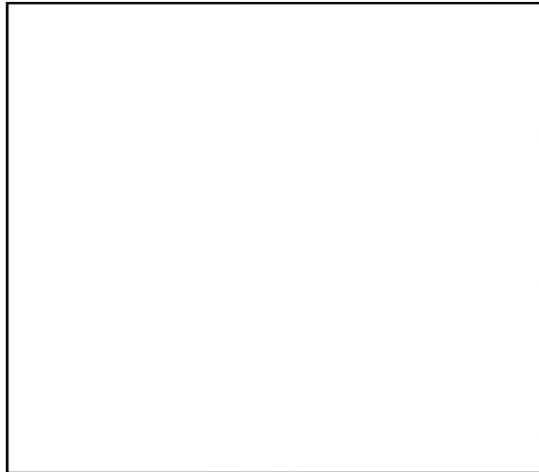
For most children in The Netherlands, the most important day during December is 5th December, when Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) brings them their presents!

Sinterklaas travels with his servants called 'Zwarte Pieten' ('Black Peters'). When Sinterklaas and the Peters' come ashore from the steam boat, all of the local church bells ring in celebration.

Sinterklaas parties are often held on St. Nicholas' Eve (5th), where treasure hunt games are played with poems and riddles giving the clues. Children follow the clues to find little presents left by Sinterklaas.

On the 6th of December Sinterklaas (the birthday of Sinterklaas) leaves The Netherlands by steamboat.

Draw a picture of a boat in the box below.

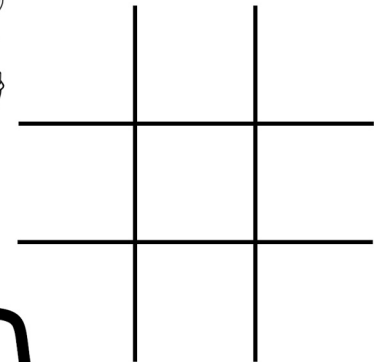


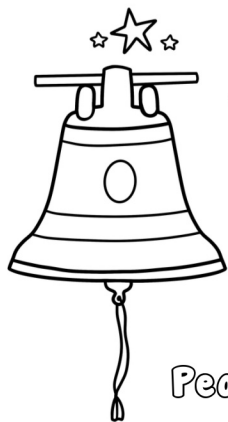
PARTY  
HUNT

NETHERLANDS PETERS  
STEAMBOAT TREASURE

Merry Christmas in Dutch:

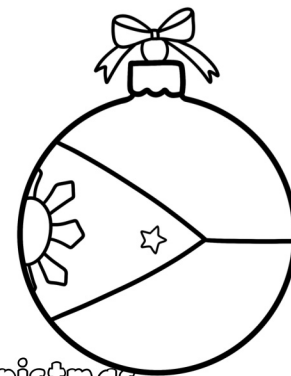
# PRETTIGE KERSTDAGEN





Christmas in...

# Philippines



People in the Philippines like to celebrate Christmas for as long as possible! Christmas carols playing in shops starts in September!

1. ipPihilens
2. htCsisamr
3. enanrTL
4. tarS
5. oheNc
6. unaeB

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Draw a picture of a Christmas card in the box below.



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

PHILIPPINES CHRISTMAS LANTERN  
STAR NOCHE BUENA

## FAST FACTS

The formal Christmas celebrations start on 16th December when many people go to the first of nine pre-dawn or early morning masses. The last mass is on Christmas day. The Christmas celebrations continue to the First Sunday in January when Epiphany or the Feast of the Three Kings is celebrated.

Christmas Eve is very important in the Philippines. Many people stay awake all night into Christmas day! During Christmas Eve evening, Christians go to church to hear the last 'simbang gabi' or the Christmas Eve mass. This is followed by a midnight feast, called Noche Buena.

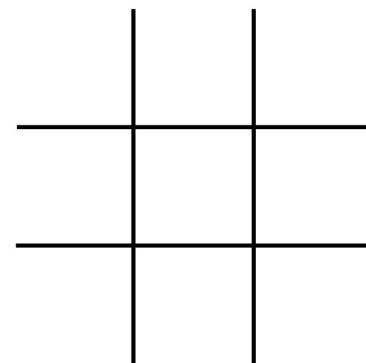
The Noche Buena is a big, open house, celebration with family, friends and neighbors dropping in to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

People in the Philippines have Santa Claus, Christmas trees, Christmas cards and Christmas carols.

The most popular Christmas decoration in the Philippines is the 'parol' which is a bamboo pole or frame with a lighted star lantern on it. It's traditionally made from bamboo strips and colored Japanese paper or cellophane paper and represents the star that guided the Wise Men.

Merry Christmas in Filipino:

# MALIGAYANG PASKO



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