

**1** Read the text and complete the gaps with: *food, North, home, children, carrot, bed, December, stockings, excited*.

# The Night Before Christmas



Christmas Eve is on the 24th of 1) . It is a special day in the UK and one of the happiest days of the year. Everyone is very 2) . They go shopping for presents and 3)  for Christmas Day. It's a busy day, but in the evening, everyone comes back 4)  and spends time together. The 5)  get everything ready for Father Christmas. They hang up their 6)  so he can leave their presents inside. They also leave a mince pie for Father Christmas under the Christmas tree, and a 7)  for his reindeer. Then, they jump into 8) , go to sleep and dream about the big day ahead.

At the same time, in the 9)  Pole, it is the busiest day of the year. Father Christmas has got lots of work to do! Let's take a look at what his Christmas Eve is like.

- 1 First, Father Christmas gets up very early and has a cup of coffee.
- 2 Then, his elves and Mrs Christmas help him get ready.
- 3 Once he is ready, the elves prepare the presents.
- 4 Then, Father Christmas jumps onto his sleigh.
- 5 Father Christmas travels around the world on his sleigh and visits every house.
- 6 At each house, he leaves presents for the boys and girls.
- 7 Then, he eats his mince pie and gives the carrot to his reindeer.
- 8 Finally, Father Christmas returns home to the North Pole and rests.

**2** Read what Father Christmas does on Christmas Eve and put the pictures in the correct order.

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



**1** Read the text below and do the quiz to crack the code and find the hidden message.



Christmas Day is on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Most people know that on this day, children open gifts from Father Christmas and people share a big meal with their family and friends – but how much do you **really** know about Christmas? Do the quiz and find out!

- 1 Where does Father Christmas live?  
**I** the South Pole      **M** the North Pole  
**K** the Equator
- 2 How does Father Christmas get into people's houses on Christmas Eve?  
**E** down the chimney  
**K** through the door  
**J** through the window
- 3 How many reindeer does Father Christmas have?  
**L** five      **M** seven      **R** nine
- 4 What's the name of the reindeer who guides Father Christmas' sleigh?  
**Y** Rudolph      **S** Comet      **D** Dancer
- 5 What do people put on top of a Christmas tree?  
**C** a star      **M** tinsel      **B** a reindeer
- 6 What do people traditionally hang on their front doors at Christmas?  
**F** a heart      **D** a candy cane  
**H** a wreath
- 7 What is another name for Father Christmas?  
**A** Nicholas Winter      **I** Kris Kringle  
**O** Grandfather Noel
- 8 Where do people put the presents until they open them?  
**S** under the tree      **F** by the fireplace  
**G** at the front door
- 9 Which is not a traditional Christmas colour?  
**K** Red      **T** Blue      **M** Green
- 10 What snacks do children leave for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve?  
**J** carrots      **K** turkey      **A** a mince pie
- 11 What do children hang on the fireplace?  
**V** a stocking      **E** a sack      **Q** a hat
- 12 What's in a mince pie?  
**S** Meat      **T** Vegetables      **B** Fruit
- 13 What do people call Christmas songs?  
**O** Carols      **S** Melodies      **O** Tunes
- 14 Who are Father Christmas' helpers?  
**E** Fairies      **D** Elves      **R** Goblins

**SECRET CODE**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14



1 2 3 3 4  
 5 6 3 7 8 9 1 10 8  
 2 11 2 3 4 12 13 14 4

**2** **ICT** Find out more facts about Christmas and create your own quiz and hidden message.

**1** Read and complete the facts with the correct words from the list below.

• postcards • reindeer • Thanksgiving • silver • white • green • dessert • treat

## Fun Facts About

# Christmas

We all love Christmas! It's a time for decorations, festive food, presents and special traditions. Families and friends all around the world come together to celebrate this joyous occasion. Here are some fun Christmas facts that you can share with your own family and friends this Christmas!

**1**

The first artificial Christmas trees were not made of plastic. They were actually made of feathers dyed 1) \_\_\_\_\_.



**2**

The famous British 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas pudding, originally had meat in it.



**3**

Candy canes were originally completely 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and straight.



**4**

The popular song *Jingle Bells* wasn't written for Christmas. It was actually written for 4) \_\_\_\_\_.



**6**

Tinsel was originally made of real 6) \_\_\_\_\_. This made the light of the candles look brighter.



**5**

The tradition of leaving a 5) \_\_\_\_\_ for Father Christmas and his reindeer comes from an ancient Norse myth.



**7**

The first Christmas cards looked like 7) \_\_\_\_\_. They were sent in the UK in 1843.



**8**

The names of Father Christmas' 8) \_\_\_\_\_ first appeared in 1823 in an American poem called *A Visit from Saint Nicholas*.



**2** **ICT** Fact hunt In groups, find the answers to the questions below.

- 1 What kind of feathers did they use to make artificial Christmas trees?
- 2 What meat did they use to make Christmas pudding?
- 3 When did the candy cane get its stripes?
- 4 What was the original title of *Jingle Bells*?
- 5 Where did the Norse children leave the treats?
- 6 Where did tinsel come from?
- 7 Who sent the first Christmas cards?
- 8 What are the names of the reindeer?

**Bonus** Which reindeer isn't mentioned in the poem *A Visit from Saint Nicholas*?

**3** **ICT** In groups, find out more interesting facts about Christmas and make your own Interesting Christmas Facts poster. Then, present it to the class.



**1** Read the text and put the paragraphs in the correct order for each story.

People in countries around the world celebrate Christmas with different customs and traditions. They have become part of the culture of each country, but have you ever wondered how these traditions started? Let's look at the story behind two of them.



## The Cobweb Christmas Decoration

**The Legend of the Christmas Spider  
(An Eastern European Folk Tale)**

- A** The children were very excited to have a tree for Christmas, but on Christmas Eve, their mother told them that she didn't have enough money to buy decorations. The children went sadly to bed.
- B** When they opened the window, the winter sun shone on the cobwebs and turned them into silver and gold. After that, the family were never poor again. These days, people in parts of Eastern Europe remember the gift of the Christmas Spider by decorating their Christmas trees with sparkly spiders and cobwebs, and gold and silver tinsel.
- C** Once upon a time, there was a woman who lived with her children in a tiny little house. They were very poor.
- D** When they woke up the next morning, the tree was covered in beautiful cobwebs. The Christmas spider had decorated the tree for them! However, that wasn't the end of the surprise.
- E** One day, they found a green pine cone. They planted it and took care of it, and it grew into a tree.



## Kissing Under the Mistletoe

**The Legend of Frigg and the Mistletoe  
(A Norse Myth)**

- A** Frigg was distraught at her son's death and she cried bitter tears. Her tears became the white berries on the mistletoe plant, and she promised that it would never again be used to hurt someone.
- B** Frigg was the Norse goddess of love. She had a son called Baldur and she loved him so much that she asked every living thing to swear an oath not to hurt him. But she forgot to ask one plant - mistletoe.
- C** Instead, she made mistletoe a symbol of love, and that is why, when people who love each other pass under it, they should share a kiss.
- D** The evil god, Loki, heard about this, and he made a spear from mistletoe wood. Then he tricked another god into throwing it at Baldur, who died instantly.

**2** **ICT** Find a legend or myth from a different country explaining another Christmas custom or tradition.

## Christmas A1

**1**

1 December

2 excited

3 food

4 home

5 children

6 stockings

7 carrot

8 bed

9 North

**2**

1D

2C

3A

4H

5F

6B

7G

8E

## Christmas A2

**1**

1M

2E

3R

4Y

5C

6H

7I

8S

9T

10A

11V

12B

13O

14D

**Hidden message:** MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

**2**

***Suggested Answer Key***

1 What vegetable helps Father Santa's reindeers to fly?

O lettuce      H tomato      C carrot

2 What's the name of one of the most popular Christmas films?

P *Fast and Furious*      H *Home Alone*      D *I am Sam*

3 What do people normally eat on Christmas day?

R turkey      G burger      E lamp

4 How do children ask Father Santa for a present?

P they send an email      I they write a letter      T they call him on the phone

5 What do people usually twist around the Christmas tree?

M aluminium foil      A balloons      S tinsels

6 What colour are the clothes of Father Santa today?

Y black      T red      X green

7 Which country celebrated 'Boxing Day' first?

U France      E Italy      M the UK

8 What's a typical Christmas dessert?

L chocolate cake      A pudding      Q millefeuille

9 Where was Jesus born?

S in Bethlehem   W in Jerusalem   Y in Nazareth

10 Where does eggnog come from?

G Ireland      P Austria      C England

11 How many ghosts visit Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*?

Z 3      B 6      A 4

12 *Rudolph* the...

U fast reindeer   R red-nosed reindeer   B happy reindeer

13 Who is the most 'famous' Christmas musician?

J the little guitarist      K the little pianist      O the little drummer

14 Which fairy tale was the first gingerbread houses inspired by?

V *The Little Match Girl*   X *The Night Before Christmas*   L *Hansel and Gretel*

15 Which play is Christmas-related?

S *The Nutcracker*      I *The Sleeping Beauty*      K *Romeo and Juliette*

**Hidden message:** CHRISTMAS CAROLS!

## Christmas B1

**1**

1 green

2 dessert

3 white

4 Thanksgiving

5 treat

6 silver

7 postcards

8 reindeer

**2**

1 goose feathers dyed green

2 beef and mutton

3 around 1900

4 *One Horse Open Sleigh*

5 in their boots

6 Nuremberg, Germany

7 Queen Victoria

8 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Dunder, Blixem and Rudolph

**Bonus:** Rudolph

**3**

1 The wreath is the symbol of eternal life and nature continuity.

2 Back in 1670, candy canes were used to make choirboys quiet.

3 *Jingle Bells* was the first song played in space.

4 Father Christmas didn't always wear red, but also green and blue!

5 The US introduced the first Christmas stamp.

6 The letter 'X' in 'Xmas' actually comes from the first letter of Jesus's name in Greek.

## **Christmas B2**

**1**

### **The Cobweb Christmas Decoration**

1C

2E

3A

4D

5B

**2**

**Kissing Under the Mistletoe**

1B

2D

3A

4C

**2**

*Ss' own answers*