



About the history and traditions of the Christmas Day



History of British Christmas traditions

- From decorating the tree to eating mince pies and kissing under the mistletoe, here is our guide to British Christmas traditions and their origins.



- Although Christmas will be very different for many of us this year, we can still enjoy festive activities such as decorating the tree, eating and drinking festive food and drink and refreshing [winter walks](#).
- [Christmas](#) has a long history in the UK, but we have the Victorians to thank for many of our most loved festive traditions, including sending cards and decorating Christmas trees. In fact, before the 19th Century, Christmas was barely celebrated in Britain.



How did the Victorians celebrate Christmas?



- Much of our understanding of a merrie old English Christmas has more to do with the writings of Charles Dickens or Washington Irving than our real medieval ancestors. For the early Victorians, Christmas was an antiquated curiosity, but one that the English bourgeoisie were beginning to remember. Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* is more an idealised romance based on his own childhood memory rather than a chronicle of what was happening at the time. But when the Victorians did rediscover Christmas they couldn't stop themselves and soon we had Christmas cards, crackers and the sense that Christmas was a time for family. And, as Tiny Tim observed: "God bless us, every one."

A 19th Century engraving of Victorian Christmas by Davidson Knowles (1852-1901) a British landscape painter (Photo by: Getty Im



When did Christmas become Xmas?

- The first examples of the abbreviation Xmas being used can be found in 15th century ecclesiastical writings. The X originally represented the first letter of the Greek word Χριστός, meaning Christ. Of course, its prominence in the 20th century probably had more to do with the fact that Xmas has the same amount of letters as the word sale.





History of Christmas decorations

Why do we have Christmas trees?

- In the UK the Christmas tree was first introduced in 1800 by the wife of King George III, Queen Charlotte, who brought the tradition from her native Germany, where it was common custom to have a Christmas tree in your home Yew. She requested a Yew tree be brought to Queen's Lodge in Windsor, which she decorated herself.



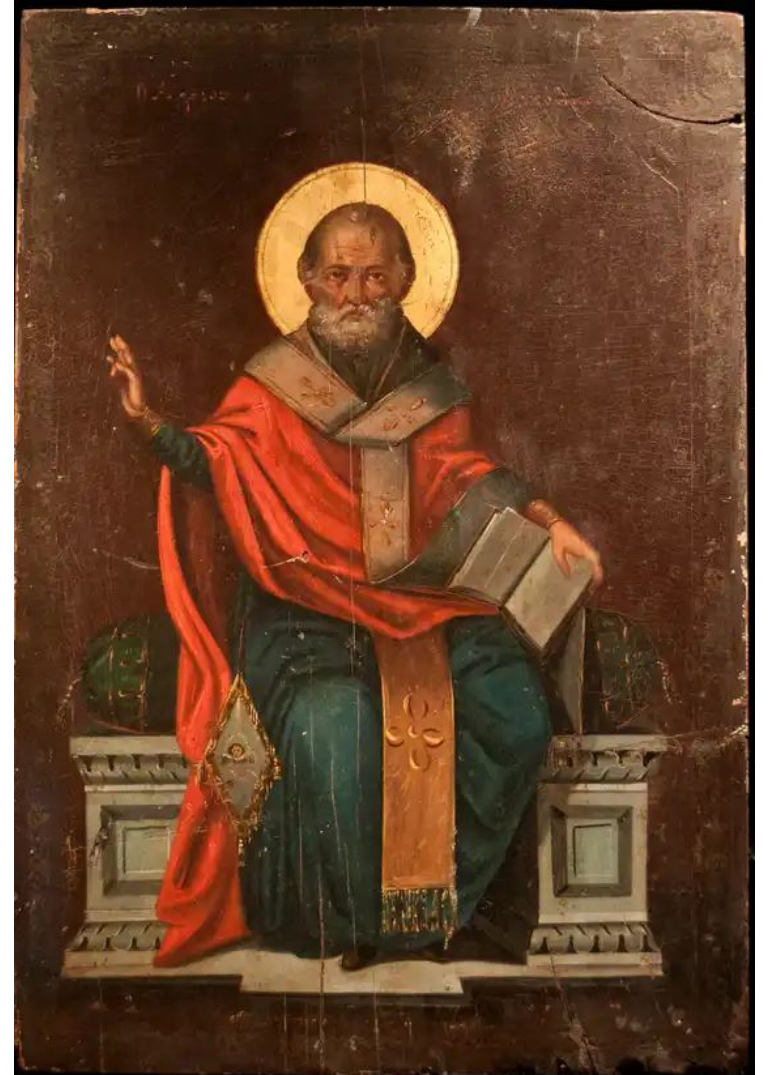
Why is mistletoe hung at Christmas?

- Before it became a romantic symbol, Mistletoe was considered so sacred in ancient Britain that it could only be cut by druids with a golden sickle. The plant had connotations of peace, and people who met underneath it were forbidden from fighting, even if they were bitter enemies. Homes decorated with mistletoe offered shelter and protection to anyone who entered.



Who was the real Father Christmas?

- St Nicholas, a 4th-century archbishop in what is now Turkey, is the patron saint of girls and boys thanks to various stories of his miracles raising children from the dead, saving girls from prostitution and giving presents. Over the years, in Britain he has become associated with the figure we now know as Father Christmas and, for the last 150 years, the Americanised Santa Claus. The figure of Father Christmas first appeared during the 1650s, when the Puritans banned the festive season.



Christmas Dinner

- The typical dinner consists of turkey with potatoes and other vegetables such as carrots and sprouts. In Britain this is followed by Christmas pudding - a sweet pudding containing a lot of dried fruit and often covered with burning brandy. Other traditional dish in Britain is a Christmas cake – a cake containing a lot of dried fruit and usually having a covering of icing .



Decorating houses





Christmas quiz

- When do British people celebrate Christmas?
- When do Russian people celebrate Christmas?
 - Where does Santa Claus live?
 - How does Santa Claus come to British children?
 - What is the traditional Christmas food in Britain?
 - Where are the presents for all the family?
 - What is another name for Santa Claus in Britain?



Christmas Quiz

Can you answer these questions about Christmas in Britain?



1. Father Christmas and Santa Claus are two names for the man who brings children's presents at Christmas.

True False

2. The day before Christmas Day is called Boxing Day.

True False

3. Families have a Christmas tree at Christmas time. It's a small pine tree. They put lights and decorations on it.

True False



4. Father Christmas brings children their presents at night. In the morning. On Christmas Day, they see presents in a stocking at the bottom of their bed.

True False



5. Father Christmas is the Children's father, uncle or grandfather. He wears a red and white costume.

True False

6. At noon families have a big Christmas dinner. This is usually turkey, roast potatoes and vegetables. After the dinner they have Christmas pudding.

True False



7. Christmas pudding is a dark and heavy fruit cake. You eat it hot with cream.

True False

8. Some people put a silver coin in the pudding. The person who finds it has bad luck.

True False

9. In the evening, on Christmas Day, people eat Christmas cake. This is dark, rich fruit cake with a white sugary 'coat' around it.

True False

10. In the afternoon on Christmas Day, the Queen makes a speech on television.

True False



Christmas Vocabulary Quiz

Choose the correct answer:

1. We usually have ____ at Christmas.

- a) a pudding
- b) a cake
- c) a pie



2. ____ brings us a lot of presents.

- a) Mr Frost
- b) Santa Claus
- c) Santa Brown



3. Santa Claus comes to us on his ____.

- a) car
- b) skies
- c) sleigh



4. We also put house.

- a) birch tree
- b) Christmas tree
- c) apple tree

5. We always decorate the Christmas tree with ____.

- a) candles and sweets
- b) nuts and candles
- c) lights and balls.



6. We always put

- a) socks
- b) stocking
- c) gloves

7. We also decorate our house with branches of ____.

- a) holly
- b) flowers
- c) trees



9. Our parents put a lot of ____ under the Christmas tree.

- a) books
- b) balls
- c) presents



11. We light the ____ in our house.

- a) candles
- b) lamps
- c) torches



8. Rudolph is the name of Santa's favourite ____.

- a) bird
- b) dog
- c) reindeer



10. Our parents always hang ____ on the door.

- a) a portrait
- b) a wall paper
- c) a wreath

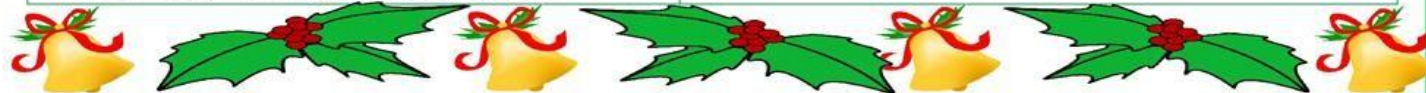


12. Children often build ____ in the street.

- a) snowballs
- b) snowflakes
- c) a snowman



iSLCollective.com



END





On Christmas people wish their nearest and dearest
a Merry Christmas. They like to sing a song:

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring
To you and your king,
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !!!

Task for
today

Coming NY
(Future Simple)



Previous NY
2021
(Past Simple)



Usual NY
(Present Simple)