



# CHRISTMAS in Italy

Buon Natale!

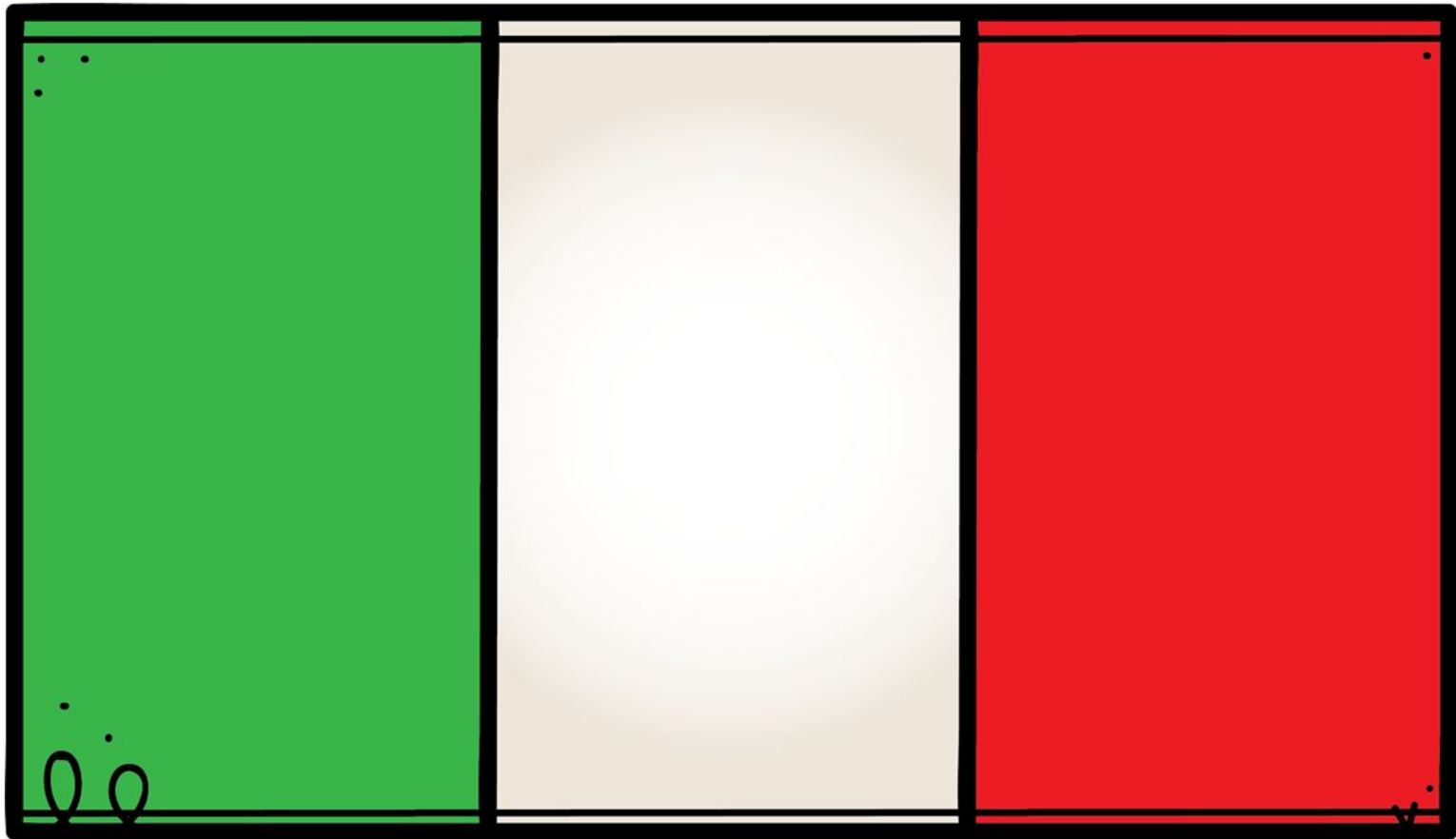
A K-2 Digital Book for any  
Holidays Around the World Unit



# Italy

This is Italy. It is a southern European country, and it is a peninsula. France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia are neighboring countries. Rome is the capital of Italy.  
Can you find Rome?





This is Italy's flag. It has three stripes that are green, white, and red.



Buon  
Natale!

Buon  
Natale!



Can you say "Buon Natale?" This means "Merry Christmas" in Italian.



# Zamponari



Christmas festivities begin in Italy nine days before Christmas. During this time, shepherds come down from the mountains to play bagpipes announcing Christmas is near.

During the Christmas season, hundreds of *presepios* or manger scenes are displayed. In churches, visitors view life-size nativity scenes. In their homes, families carefully unwrap their own presepios that have been treasures handed down for generations.

# Presepios





# Ceppos

The ceppo or Christmas pyramid is often displayed during the holiday season. Although now, many people are now decorating an artificial tree. This decoration has three or four shelves and is decorated with candles, ornaments, small gifts, family treasures, and the nativity scene.



# letters of love



During the Christmas season, Italian children write letters to their parents. They promise to be good next year, and they tell their parents how much they love them. Children hide the letters under their parent's dishes and their letters are read aloud at the dinner table. Often the letters are burned in the fireplace to seal the promise!



# Italy's Gift Givers



Children receive gifts on Christmas from a Santa Claus figure called "Babbo Natale" or Father Christmas. Most gifts are brought to the children on January 6th by an old lady called "La Befana."

# la Befana



La Befana was an old lady who refused to go with the three kings to Bethlehem because she was too busy cleaning her house. After finishing her work, she set out to find Baby Jesus but she lost her way because she was behind. Now, even today, she still continues to search for Baby Jesus.



On January 6<sup>th</sup>, children leave their shoes by the fireplace, hoping that La Befana will slip down the chimney on her broomstick and leave gifts for them.



# Panettone



On Christmas Eve, families come together for a special feast, that usually includes eel, pasta, and "Panettone," a loaf shaped Christmas cake with nuts and fruits.

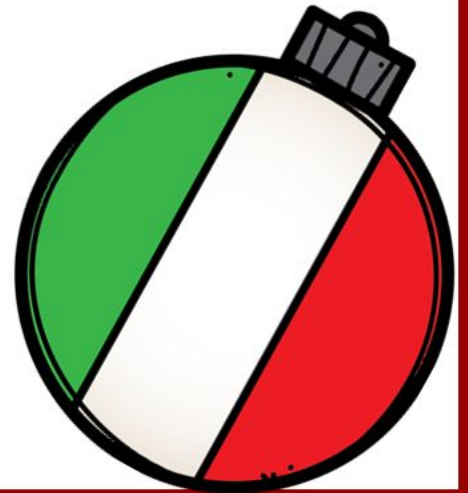


BUON NATALE!

Merry Christmas!

Addio!

Goodbye!



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