

Name: _____

The History and Traditions of Christmas



This lesson is designed to help you learn about the history and traditions that surround Christmas in Canada. Please follow the instructions carefully and do not click anywhere unless instructed to on this sheet or by your teacher. You can type in the addresses given or use the links on the sd71 Christmas Page. If you see any interesting facts that would make good trivia questions don't forget to write them down on the second page.

1. Type in the following address: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/1170/candycane.html>
Use the arrow on the right to scroll down to the section about Santa Claus. What was the first Santa Claus' real name and why did he give people presents secretly?

2. Type in the following address: <http://www.chin.gc.ca/christmas/basnoel.htm>
Read the second paragraph. What did children in Quebec put by the fire instead of stockings?

3. Read the fourth paragraph. Why are Japanese oranges special to people in the Canadian Prairies at Christmas time?

4. Click on **Home** at the bottom of the screen then click on **Family Celebrations** and then the word **Tree**. Read the first sentence. What symbols does the Christmas tree stand for? _____

5. Click on **introduced** at the bottom of the screen. Who first brought Christmas trees to Canada and in what year was the first Christmas tree planted? _____

6. Click on the **left arrow** at the bottom to go back to the last page and then click on **ornaments** at the bottom. What is the real name of the balls that we place on our Christmas trees and what was their original purpose? _____

7. Type in the following address: http://home.ican.net/~marlatt/craig/boxing_day.html
Read the information about Boxing Day.
During the first Boxing Days in England, who received gifts? _____

8. Where in the world today is Boxing Day celebrated? _____

9. Type in the following address: <http://terripeterson.com/legendsofxmas/legends.htm>
Use the arrow at the bottom right of your screen to scroll down and click on The Legend of Wreaths. What do the evergreen leaves symbolize? _____

10. At the bottom of the screen click on the **down arrow**, then click on **Candy Canes** and then click **Go**. Who received the first candy canes and why? _____

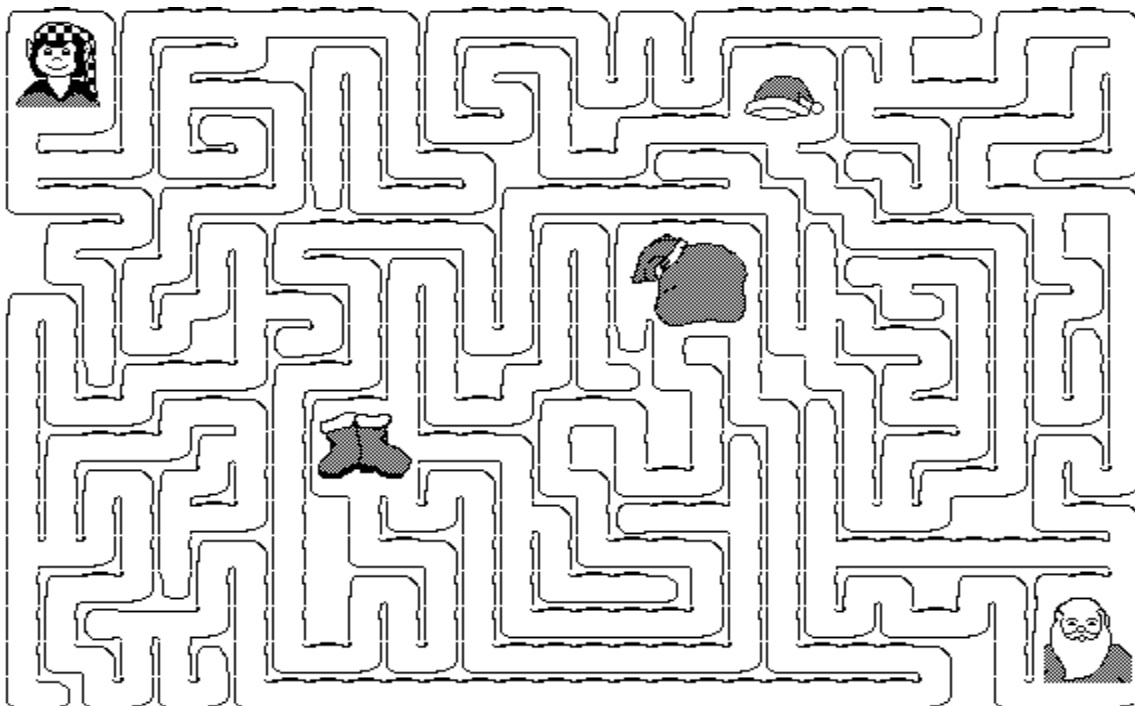
11. What colour were the first candy canes? _____
12. At the bottom of the screen click on the down arrow, then click on Christmas Bells and then Go. Why did people start ringing bells? _____

13. Why do people ring bells at Christmas now? _____

14. Type in the following address: <http://www.absolutelycrackers.com/historynew.html>
In what year were crackers invented and who invented them? _____

15. What is usually inside of the Christmas crackers? _____

16. Type in the following address: <http://www.talkcity.com/santasworkshop/library/tradition.html>
Read the section on Christmas Cards. Who wrote the first Christmas cards and in what year were they sent? _____
17. Use the arrow at the bottom right to scroll down to the section on **Christmas Carols**. In what year was "**Silent Night**" written and who wrote it? _____



Help the Elf get Santa ready

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Christmas

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

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|---------|------------|-----------|
| CAROLS | GIFTS | SANTA |
| COLD | LIGHTS | SLEIGH |
| ELVES | MRS CLAUS | STOCKINGS |
| FAMILY | NORTH POLE | TOYS |
| FEAST | REINDEER | TREE |
| GARLAND | ROOFTOP | WORKSHOP |

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<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>

ANSWERS:

1. The first Santa was named Nicholas and he gave the presents secretly because he didn't want to receive the glory for himself.
2. Children in Quebec traditionally placed their shoes by the fire to get their presents.
3. Japanese oranges are special because they are bright and colourful and arrive at the coldest time of the year.
4. The Christmas tree symbolises what creation has to offer: light and the movement of angels, harvests from the orchard and fields, forest and sea and the star is the end of the journey to the place of peace.
5. Servants and trades people received gifts on Boxing Day. Also the poor people carried boxes to people's doors and received food and gifts.
6. The balls are called kugels and they were originally hung to protect people from evil spirits.
7. The first Christmas trees were brought to Canada by the German immigrants and the first tree was planted in 1781.
8. Boxing Day is celebrated in the United Kingdom, Canada and other Commonwealth Nations.
9. The evergreen leaves symbolize the strength of life overcoming the winter.
10. Children who behaved well in church got the first candy canes.
11. The first candy canes were plain white.
12. The first bells were rung to ward off evil spirits or they thought it would fend off lightning.
13. The bells are rung now to welcome the Christmas Spirit.
14. Christmas crackers were invented in 1847 by Tom Smith.
15. A bright hat, a gift, a balloon and a joke are inside the crackers.
16. The first Christmas cards were written in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole.
17. Silent Night was written by an Austrian priest and his organist in 1818.