

## Christmas

Christmas is an important holiday in many parts of the world. In some countries, it is the biggest and most important festival of the year. Christmas is in the middle of winter, which is not a coincidence. Mid-winter festivals have been held in colder countries for thousands of years, such as Yuletide in northern Europe, but, with the rise of Christianity, the date was chosen for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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Modern Christmas celebrations include many traditions. The tradition of a decorated Christmas tree started in Germany, and the American character of Santa Claus actually started with a monk in Turkey called Nicholas, who was born wealthy but gave away his money and spent his life caring for children and the poor. Singing, giving presents, and eating a big meal are all common parts of many celebrations all around the world, so it is no surprise that they are part of Christmas too!

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Where is Santa Claus originally from?

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What Christmas traditions do you know?

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Can you name a holiday in winter other than Christmas?