

YOU and the U.S.



Christmas 2013

Hi! Welcome to a special Christmas edition of the U.S Embassy newsletter. We thought we'd bring you a special holiday edition full of Christmas cheer, and pack in some puzzles to see you through to January, so until then...Enjoy!!!

Did you know...?

Scientists in the USA worked out that Santa would have to visit 822 homes every second to deliver presents to all the world's children on Christmas Eve! He'd have to be extremely quick!

Quick Trivia

- Can you name Rudolph's eight reindeer friends?
- What presents did the three wise men bring to baby Jesus?
- Where does Santa live?

More information for teachers can be found on our [blog - Education Matters!](#)



HEALTHY CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is a wonderful time to indulge in our favourite foods, but how about trying some of these healthier alternatives as well :

- There are lots of seasonal fruits and always good to eat the traditional Satsuma!
- Nut stuffing - great for vegetarians!
- Vegetables!
- How about baked potatoes instead of roast?
- English Christmas pudding - full of fruit!

Exercise is another great way of having a healthy Christmas. For those of you who may get new bikes, why not go for a bike ride in the Winter Snow???

*But it is important to treat yourself, too! How about some holiday Gingerbread?
Check out the Gingerbread White House, below!*



Hanukkah

The holiday of Hanukkah often overlaps the Christmas period. It is the Jewish Festival of Lights. A candle is lit on an eight-stemmed candelabrum every day.

The Candle represents how God looked after the Jewish people at a difficult time in their history.

During the 2nd Century, a Syrian king forced the Jewish people to bow to a statue of a Greek god even though they were forbidden to worship statues, as set in The Ten Commandments. The Jewish people refused and rebelled, and a war that lasted for three years, followed. Jerusalem was reclaimed by the Jews, but they had to repair their temple.

Once this was all done, a lamp was lit, symbolising God. This is where Hanukkah originated.

It is common for Jewish children to play with a Dreidel during Hanukkah - a toy that remembers this time in history. It is a spinning top with four sides, each imprinted with a Hebrew letter representing the phrase **Nes Gadol Haya Sham**- "A great miracle happened there".



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN THE U.S.

Christmas is celebrated in many different countries across the world, but which unique customs does America have compared to elsewhere?

- Eggnog - a traditional Christmas drink that consists of milk or cream, egg, sugar, and alcohol, with cinnamon or nutmeg sprinkled on the top!
- Rockefeller Christmas tree - A large Christmas tree displayed outside The Rockefeller Center, in New York City, that usually stands between 70 and 80ft high, with the star on top weighing 550 pounds (250kg)!!! That's heavier than a lion!
- Santa Claus - the name, for the man himself, is originally from the United States and is based on the Dutch word, St Nicholas. Santa became widely known when the American author, Washington Irving, wrote about him in 1809.
- 'Twas the Night Before Christmas written by Clement C. Moore is one of the most famous children's stories read over the holidays and comes from the U.S.
- Christmas lights on the House - homes and businesses are often decorated with electric lights - this makes it easier for Santa to find his way!
- Yule Log - a broadcast that features a film loop of a log burning in a fireplace, with Christmas music playing. There are no commercials during this time and it plays for between two and four hours!

Christmas is also celebrated in different ways *across* the USA.

- In Hawaii, Santa arrives by boat
- In New Orleans, an ox is decorated with holly and ribbons
- In Alaska, children go from house to house with a star placed on top of a pole, whilst singing Christmas carols

Quick Trivia answers: a) Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen; b) Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh ; c) The North Pole!



Christmas Puzzle Extravaganza!

- Reindeer
- Turkey
- Eggnog
- Star
- Santa Claus
- Gifts
- Tree
- Angel
- Tinsel
- Holiday
- Stocking
- Lights

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

Translation Game!

Even though the English language is spoken in both the United States and the United Kingdom, there are many differences in the words we use for everyday items - can you match up the correct words, below?

U.K

Football

Lorry

Bonnet (car)

Autumn

Bill (restaurant)

Biscuit

Flat (home)

Caravan

Rubbish

Pavement

Car Park

Nappy

Dummy

Petrol

U.S.A

Sidewalk

Trailer

Garbage

Diaper

Parking Lot

Pacifier

Truck

Gas

Fall

Cookie

Apartment

Check

Hood

Soccer

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! Ho, Ho, Ho!!!



Word Games

Add a letter to the front of the word 'EAT' to provide answers to the clues below:

- a) A rhythmic sound that could be created on a drum...
- b) When you need a rest, you may take a...
- c) When it gets too hot, you may not be able to stand the...
- d) This may be a part of your roast dinner...
- e) If you're a tidy person, you could be described as ...

Change the first letter of the words below to create new ones!

- a) **LOCK** becomes something you wear on your feet
- b) **ROCKET** becomes a type of necklace
- c) **TRAIN** becomes an important organ in your body
- d) **TRICK** becomes a material used to build a wall
- e) **SUM** becomes something you can chew

Rearrange the jumbled letters below to discover some festive words:

- a) **NORIB**
- b) **LEF**
- c) **ETOSTLEMI**
- d) **ONSWAMN**
- e) **STPRNSEE**

Change one letter at a time on this word ladder to get from the top word to the bottom word:

TIME

_____ Type of brick on the roof

_____ A measure of distance

_____ An animal that digs underground

MOLD

Unravel the phrase below to find a message just for you!

EW HWSI OYU A REYRM TSIHSCAMR !!!