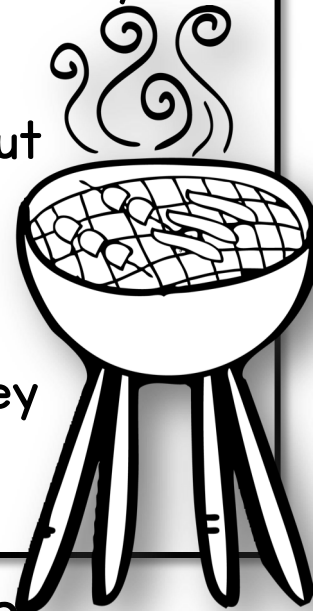Name: _____

_____

Australia

In Australia, Christmas happens in summer! Summer in Australia starts in December and ends in February because it is on the south side of the world. They put up Christmas trees and wreaths but also have something called a Christmas Bush. This is a small Australian tree with red flowers. For the family Christmas dinner, they like to eat barbecued seafood!

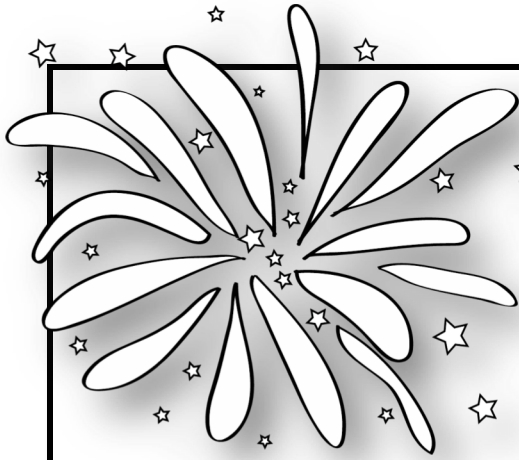1. When does Christmas happen in Australia?

_____

_____

2. What is a Christmas Bush?

_____

_____

_____

3. What do Australians have for Christmas dinner?

_____

_____

Name: _____
_____

Brazil

In Brazil, Christmas happens in the summer. On Christmas Eve, many go to a Midnight Mass at church. There is a big fireworks show after the Mass is over. The Brazilian Secret Santa is called amigo secreto (secret friend). Your amigo secreto gives you little presents every day in December, and on Christmas Day, you find out who your amigo secreto is!

1. When does Christmas happen in Brazil?
_____
_____

2. What happens on Christmas Eve?
_____
_____

3. Who is a amigo secreto?
_____
_____
_____
_____

Name: _____

Canada

A Canadian Christmas is very similar to an American one, with Christmas trees, lights, and cookies. Many Canadians open their presents on Christmas Eve, but some wait until Christmas Day. The traditional Christmas dinner is roast turkey. French-Canadians have a giant party called a Réveillon that can last all night long!

1. What is Canadian Christmas similar to?
_____
_____

2. What are some Canadian Christmas traditions?
_____
_____
_____

3. What is a Réveillon?
_____
_____

Name: _____

England

In England, Christmas is celebrated with trees, lights, and lots of gifts. Instead of cookies, mince pies and brandy are left out for Santa. Sometimes, letters to Santa are tossed into the fireplace, and Santa reads the smoke that floats out of the chimney! A popular dessert is Christmas Pudding, which is a thick plum pudding.

1. What do people leave out for Santa in England?

_____

_____

2. How are letters delivered to Santa?

_____

_____

_____

3. What is Christmas pudding?

_____

_____

Name: _____

France

In France, they say "Joyeux Noel", which means "Merry Christmas!" A Yule Log burns all night on Christmas Eve. The traditional Christmas meal is called Réveillon. It is eaten on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning after people have come back from a midnight church service. Réveillon includes roast turkey or goose, lobster, oysters, cheese, and a dessert called bûche de Noël. It is a delicious chocolate sponge cake, shaped like a log.

1. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in French?

_____

_____

2. What burns all night on Christmas Eve?

_____

_____

3. What is bûche de Noël?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Italy

In Italy, Nativity scenes are very important. On Christmas Eve, many people do not eat red meat before going to Midnight Mass. Merry Christmas in Italian is "Buon Natale!" Italian Christmas cake is called Panettone. It is fruity and eaten with hot cocoa. Small gifts are given on Christmas by Santa Claus, but most gifts are given on Epiphany, which is January 6th.

1. What is important during Christmas in Italy?

_____
_____

2. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Italian?

_____
_____

3. When are gifts usually given?

_____
_____
_____

Name: _____

Russia

In Russia, Christmas is on January 7th, and it is a smaller holiday than in America. A Christmas Eve meal has 12 dishes for the 12 disciples of Jesus. One of these is often borsch, a beet soup. After the meal, people go to midnight church services and don't get home until 5 AM! Russian Christmas cookies, or Kozulya, are are shaped like sheep, goats, or deer.

С рождеством!
s rah-zh-dee-st-VOHM
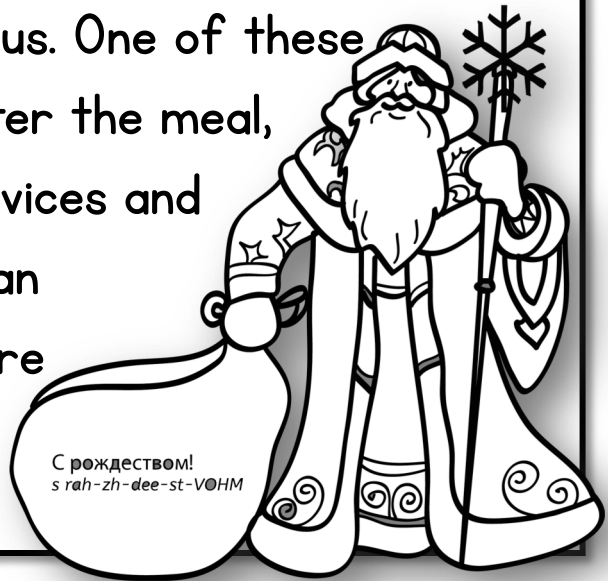
1. When is Christmas celebrated in Russia?
_____
_____

2. How many Christmas Eve dishes are there?
_____

3. What do Russians do after the Christmas meal?
_____
_____
_____

Spain

In Spain, people decorate Christmas trees and have a Nativity scene at home called a Beléne. Christmas Eve is important to spend with the family, and dinner could be turkey, lamb, or seafood. Many people go to Midnight Mass after dinner. Some presents are given on Christmas, but most of them are given on Epiphany, which is on January 6th.
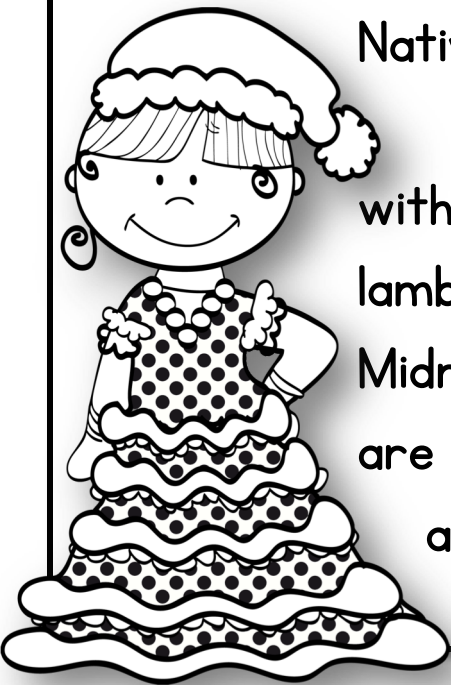
1. What is a Beléne?

_____

_____

2. What kinds of food do people eat for Christmas dinner?

_____

_____

_____

3. When are presents usually given?

_____

_____

Name: _____

Sweden

In Sweden, St. Lucia's Day (December 13th) is just as important as Christmas. St. Lucia was a girl who helped Christians many years ago. Many girls dress up as her. On Christmas Eve, people have a big feast and exchange presents. On Christmas morning, many people go to church. In some homes, there is a goat made out of straw that protects the Christmas tree!
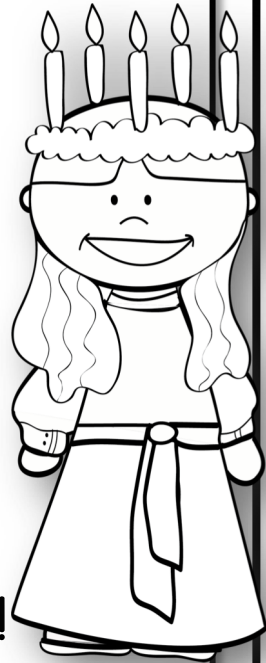
1. What day is just as important as Christmas in Sweden?

_____

_____

2. Who was St. Lucia?

_____

_____

3. What do people do on Christmas Eve?

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Mexico

Christmas in Mexico lasts from December 12th until January 6th. People decorate with Christmas trees, Nativity scenes, and poinsettias. The week before Christmas, there are parties at night, to celebrate family and friends. On Christmas Eve, people go to church at midnight and eat a feast after. Gifts are usually given on Epiphany, not during Christmas. Epiphany is on January 6th.
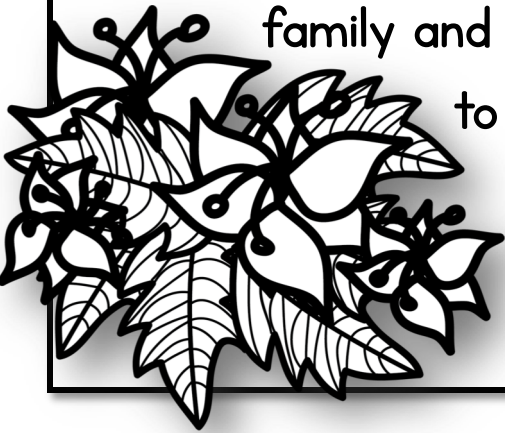
1. When is Christmas in Mexico celebrated?

_____

_____

2. What happens the week before Christmas?

_____

_____

_____

3. When are gifts usually given?

_____

_____

Name: _____

Germany

In Germany, Christmas is celebrated with the Advent calendar--a countdown calendar. On December 6th, St. Nicholas and a monster called Krampus gives good children small gifts and punishes bad children. On Christmas Eve, gifts are delivered by an angel called the Christkind and are opened that night. Some people believe in Santa Claus, but most believe in the Christkind.

1. What is an Advent calendar?
_____
_____
_____

2. Who is Krampus?
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Who do most people believe in?
_____
_____
_____

Name: _____

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, St. Nicholas is Sinterklass, and he gives out presents on December 5th. Sinterklass is more popular than Santa. Christmas is two days long, but most people do not exchange Christmas gifts. They spend time with family, eat good food, and go to church. Some people believe Santa visits on Christmas, so they will exchange presents.
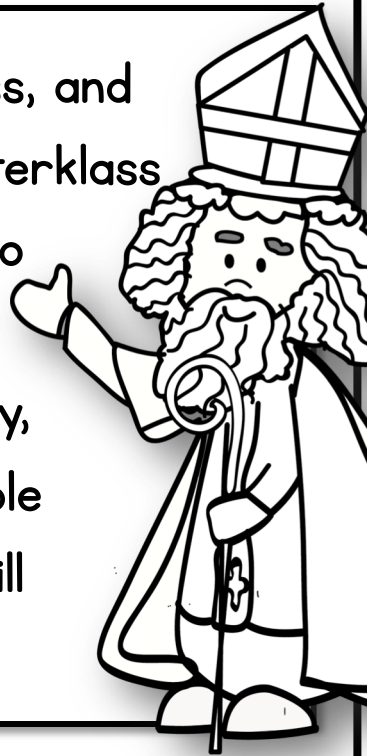
1. Who is St. Nicholas in the Netherlands?
_____
_____

2. How long does Christmas last?
_____
_____

3. What do people do on Christmas?
_____
_____
_____
_____

Name: _____

The United States

Christmas in the United States has many traditions because so many different people live there. Many people send Christmas cards to friends and family, decorate their homes, and put up Christmas trees. Some people go to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Many children leave cookies and milk out on Christmas Eve for Santa, who brings lots of presents!

1. Why does the United States have many Christmas traditions?

_____

_____

_____

2. What do people do on to celebrate Christmas?

_____

_____

_____