

Christmas around the World

Statement Sorter

Read each statement then write where that person is celebrating Christmas: ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, DENMARK, MEXICO, INDIA or JAPAN.

In my country, we decorate mango and banana trees at Christmas time. Lots of people hang stars outside their homes and give gifts and sweets to their neighbours. We normally go to a special church service at midnight. In some parts of the country, people light small clay lamps as decorations. In other parts, people plant trees to celebrate Christmas.

We have huge markets in the weeks leading up to Christmas. They are such fun and you can buy almost anything you need for Christmas Day. Some people travel for days to visit them even! The main celebration in my country is called Los Posadas and on this day lots of people go from door to door re-enacting Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. Do you know the best part of Christmas in my country though? We get to break open a piñata and share the lollies that fall out!

Here we have our Christmas feast at midnight on Christmas Eve. We get to have a delicious rice pudding for dessert. My parents hide an almond inside the pudding and if you find it, you'll have good luck for the whole year! Instead of Santa Claus, we have Julemanden. His elf helpers are called julenisse, they live in your attic!

In my country, children receive gifts from Père Noël. He has a friend who travels with him called Père Fouettard who tells him whether children have been naughty or nice. We don't really have Christmas trees in our homes, but we do eat a delicious log shaped cake called a bûche de Noël. If you walk past my house, you'll see a display of clay figures called santons.

Not many people are Christians in my country, but we love Christmas all the same. Lots of shops have beautiful displays and decorations. Gift giving is very important where I live so Christmas is a really fun time. Instead of Santa Claus, we have a Buddhist monk called Hotei-osho who goes from house to house delivering presents to all the children. People say

he has eyes in the back of his head, so we have to behave ourselves!

Where I live, we celebrate Christmas on 7th January. A lot of people in my country fast for forty days before Christmas Day, just like Jesus Christ did in the desert. At dawn on Christmas morning, we go to church, then there are really loud and colourful celebrations. In the afternoon, we play a really fun game called gena; it's kind of like hockey.

Christmas around the World

Statement Sorter **Answers**

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INDIA

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MEXICO

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DENMARK

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FRANCE

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JAPAN

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ETHIOPIA