Christmas Around the World

Christmas is on December 25. For Christians, it celebrates the birth of Jesus. Many families also celebrate it as a time for family, giving and lights. Families mark it in different ways all around the world.

Long ago, a bishop named Nicholas lived in Myra, in what is now Turkey. People remember him for giving gifts in secret. His feast day is December 6.

Mexico



¡Feliz Navidad!

Las Posadas lasts nine nights, from December 16 to 24. People act out Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay. Posada means inn. There are songs, piñatas and food.

Philippines



Maligayang Pasko!

Homes hang a parol, a bright star lantern. Many families go to Simbang Gabi, nine Masses at dawn from December 16 to 24.

Netherlands



Vrolijk kerstfeest!

In the weeks before December 5, children put out their shoes for Sinterklaas. On the evening of December 5, presents arrive.

Germany



Frohe Weihnachten!

About 400 years ago, people in German lands decorated trees with apples, cookies and paper flowers. On the night of December 5, children leave shoes out for Saint Nicholas.

United Kingdom



Happy Christmas!

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert helped make Christmas trees popular in Britain. Many people there say Happy Christmas.

United States



Merry Christmas!

Dutch settlers brought Sinterklaas to New York. In the 1800s, he grew into the Santa Claus many American families know today.

With Peko Pal, kids print pages like this themselves.

A screen-free first device, before the phone. pekopal.com

Match the Greeting

Draw a line from each country to how people there say Merry Christmas.

Mexico	Happy Christmas!
Philippines	¡Feliz Navidad!
Netherlands	Merry Christmas!
Germany	Vrolijk kerstfeest!
United Kingdom	Maligayang Pasko!
United States	Frohe Weihnachten!

Draw something you see at Christmas where you live.

Answers: Mexico ¡Feliz Navidad!, Philippines Maligayang Pasko!, Netherlands Vrolijk kerstfeest!, Germany Frohe Weihnachten!, United Kingdom Happy Christmas!, United States Merry Christmas!

With Peko Pal, kids print pages like this themselves.

A screen-free first device, before the phone. pekopal.com