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The Ultimate Guide to Christmas on the Net – 2003

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INTRODUCTION

From the Publishers!

Okay, it's that time of year! Are you ready? If you're like most people, Christmas sneaks up on you and before you know it you're scrambling to decorate the house, come up with a menu and find the perfect gift for some distant relative you hardly know.


Well, Merry Christmas! Okay, it may be a little early, but consider this a pre-Christmas gift to help you prepare for this year's holiday season. It's a gift that should be opened well in advance of December 25th. We are here to help you, and best of all you can get all the information you need to survive the season at a click of a mouse!!

We don't have a lot of pictures or graphics in this book for two reasons: First, to save you time downloading this ebook and secondly, to allow you to focus on the information at hand.

As you can see from the table of contents, we cover a wide range of subjects. The guide is set up with hot links, www.lavender-love.com that will take you to the website where you can download the information you need, email a Christmas card, keep your children occupied or purchase that perfect gift.

We intend on making this the best guide available on or through the web for now and into the future. To do this, we need your help, our valued customers. If you come across sites, find errors, have suggestions for additional information or products you think should be included in this guide next year please send an email to comments@christmasebook.com.

If you like the book, let us know too. We have tried to keep this book entertaining, useful and as kid-safe as possible. The book is also for people of all



faiths. We have only touched on a few and would appreciate hearing from other faiths on how to improve our section on religious traditions.

All URL links were in working condition as of September 30, 2003. Please contact us if any become defunct so we can keep next year's version up-to-date.

Special Thanks to www.christmas-quotes.com who have provided us with Christmas quotes to use throughout the book.

SANTA

One of the biggest thrills kids have at Christmas time is writing Santa Claus. Below are links to various post offices around the world where children can send a letter to Santa the old-fashion way.

POST OFFICES

AUSTRALIA

Santa Claus

North Pole 9999

Australia

CANADA

Santa Claus

North Pole HOH OHO

Canada

GREAT BRITAIN

Father Christmas

Santa's Grotto, REINDEERLAND

SAN TA1

UNITED STATES

SANTA CLAUS

Local City, State

ZIP Code

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. --Agnes M. Phar

For other countries, contact your local post office or visit [Other Post Offices](#), which contains links to many other central post offices.

NORTHPOLE

In today's world, email is another option and we have included a link for children to email the North Pole! Here kids can visit the North Pole itself and send an email!

www.thenorthpole.com

NORAD

Norad offers a site that allows kids to track Santa as he circles the world. There is also a wealth of music and information. This is the site created by the North American Air Defense organizations.

The site is available in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Japanese.

www.noradsanta.org

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

--Charles Dickens, Ebenezer Scrooge, A Christmas Carol

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

There are many Christmas legends and traditions with many variations. Here are some of the more well-known legends.

Bell Ringing:

This is a beloved custom that began in Medieval times. On Christmas Eve bells would toll to warn the Devil of the imminent birth of Jesus, who would save the world from darkness. The bells would toll for an hour before midnight and at the stroke of twelve, a joyous pealing of the bells would announce the birth of the Savior.

Thanks to www.bevscountrycottage.com

Birth of Jesus

Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th. Christmas, the annual Christian [holiday](#) commemorating the birth of [Jesus Christ](#). Most members of the [Roman Catholic Church](#) and followers of [Protestantism](#) celebrate Christmas on December 25, and many celebrate on the evening of December 24 as well. Members of the Eastern [Orthodox Church](#) usually delay their most important seasonal ceremonies until January 6, when they celebrate [Epiphany](#), a commemoration of the baptism of Jesus. Epiphany also traditionally commemorates the arrival of the Three [Wise Men of the East](#) in Bethlehem (near Jerusalem, Israel), where they adored the infant Jesus and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The official Christmas season, popularly known as either Christmastide or the Twelve Days

of Christmas, extends from the anniversary of Christ's birth on December 25 to the feast of Epiphany on January 6.

"Christmas," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2003

<http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2003 Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Candles


In today's Christmas ceremonies, candles can be found everywhere from the carolers who walk around and sing to us to many of the beautiful greeting cards we send to our friends and loved ones. Candles are a part of almost every culture's Christmas.

In the sixteenth century candles were placed on evergreen trees to remind children of the heavens from which Christ descended. Our ancestors held winter festivities to signal the return of the sunlight, warmth and fertility with candles. Candles signified life, the living flame, and the renewal of life. Many of today's religions use candles to symbolize the rebirth of the sun's life giving energy.

Candles have been around for centuries and no one really knows who actually invented the candle. But, we do know that candles were replaced by oil lamps and that they were used by prehistoric people to make wall paintings deep inside caves.

Candles were used on Christmas trees for many years until the risk of deadly blazes became very apparent and when electricity became available for all. The use of candles can be traced back to Germany, like so many Christmas traditions. In Germany, the season begins with the start of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas Day. This time period is marked by what is known as the Advent wreath. This wreath consists of a circle of evergreen branches and the evergreen branches are holding four candles. The wreath holds three purple candles and one pink candle. At the end of each week a candle is lit, this signifies the coming of Christmas Day.

The candle continues to play an important role in many seasonal celebrations. In China, Christians celebrate by using paper lanterns to turn Christmas trees into trees of light. In parts of India, clay oil-burning lamps are used. In Sweden,



many believers participate in what is known as Lucia. This is a celebration in which they give thanks to the Queen of Light for bringing hope during the darkest time of the year.

In today's society Christians light candles at Christmas as a symbol of the birth of Christ, and his renewing light force that guides his followers along the righteous path that has been chosen by them. This tradition was taken from the German tradition of lighting candles in the windows and lighting candles on the Christmas tree. The German tradition was to light a candle and place it in the window or on a tree to light the way for the Holy Family on their way to Bethlehem. Today, this still ensures a year of light, warmth and good tidings for the whole family.

Candles are used in non-religious holidays also. In the non-religious holiday of Kwanzaa, a candleholder called a Kinara is used; this was introduced after the Watts riots in the 1960's. The use of candles can also be found in the Jewish holiday Hanukkah. This is the Jewish festival of lights celebrating the victory of Judas Maccabees over the Syrian tyrant Antiochus more than two thousand years ago.

Whether it is a religious holiday or a non-religious holiday, the candle honors the cycles that turn within us representing light and dark.

Thanks to caca.essortment.com/christmascandle

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; it makes no noise at all, but softly gives itself away; while quite unselfish, it grows small.

--Eva K. Logue

Candy Cane

The candy cane represents one of the oldest symbols of Christmas, the shepherd's crook, for the shepherds were among the first to experience that first Christmas.

The colors of the candy cane have special meaning, too. The wide red stripe represents the sacrifice of Christ, "For by his stripes we are healed." The narrow red stripes represent our own sacrifices (giving). The white stripe is a symbol of purity.

The peppermint plant is a member of the hyssop family, referred to in the Old Testament as a medicinal herb used for cleansing.

Thanks to www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres

Christmas Carols

Not all songs that we sing at Christmas time are carols. Most songs sung in church or by church choirs are actually hymns. Centuries ago, a carol was a group dance accompanied by a joyful song. Gradually it came to mean the song itself. A carol became a happy melody that anyone could sing. Caroling still means singing songs of joy but more than that it means singing the beautiful songs about the most joyous news that men have ever heard.

Thanks to www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres

Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree, which is an evergreen with its boughs stretched toward heaven, reminds us of the everlasting life that Christ came to bring sinners. The candles or lights on the tree remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. This

surely is what Martin Luther envisioned back in 1535 when he cut and decorated the first Christmas tree for his children. Prince Albert carried the Christmas tree custom from Germany to Windsor Castle in 1841. Ten years later, a Cleveland minister was accused of sacrilege and idolatry when he put up the first American tree. But a young child saw it right. "Mother", he whispered, "the pastor's got a tree from heaven!"

Thanks to www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres

Holly Leaf

Holly is traditionally associated with masculinity and good luck. Now when it decorates the home at Christmas time, this symbol of joy and merriment brings up thoughts of celebration and good cheer.

(Originally published as "Red-Berried Hollies," by Virginia Klara Nathan, Extension Technician, in The Virginia Gardener Newsletter, Volume 7, Number 12.)

Mistletoe

The tradition of kissing underneath the mistletoe began with a Scandinavian goddess called Frigga. Frigga's son Balder was shot with an arrow made of mistletoe. While Frigga's friends conjured up powers to save the boy, his mother cried tears that became the white berries on the mistletoe. Frigga's friends succeeded in saving Balder's life. Frigga ordered that the mistletoe should never again be used to harm others. Instead, she made it a symbol of love by kissing everyone who passed under it.

Thanks to www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres

Reindeer Legend

Ordinary (*Rangifer tarandus*) and flying ones play a role in Santa Claus's story. The legend of flying reindeers (eight of them) probably originated by Clement

Clarke Moore in early 19th century poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas".
"Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner (Donder) and Blitzen.

Thanks to www.nickspot.com/christmas

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

"Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is the newest addition to the folklore of Santa Claus.

In 1939, Robert May an advertising copywriter for the Montgomery Ward department store, in Chicago, sought something novel for its Santa Claus to distribute to parents and children. May conceived the idea of a shiny-nosed reindeer, a Santa's helper. An artist friend, Denver Gillen, spent hours at a local zoo, creating whimsical sketches of reindeer at rest and at play. May considered many names and finally settled on Rudolph, the preference of his four-year-old daughter. That Christmas of 1939, 2.4 million copies of the "Rudolph" booklet were handed out in Montgomery Ward stores across the country.

"Rudolph" was reprinted as a Christmas booklet sporadically until 1947. That year, a friend of May's, Johnny Marks, decided to put the poem to music. One professional singer after another declined the opportunity to record the song, but in 1949, Gene Autry consented. The Autry recording rocketed to the top of the Hit Parade. The original Gene Autry version is second only to Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" as the best-selling record of all time.

Rudolph became an annual television star, and a familiar Christmas image in many of the countries whose own lore had enriched the international St. Nicholas legend.

Thanks to www.nickspot.com/christmas

Santa Claus

The original Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, was born in the ancient southeastern Turkish town of Lycia early in the fourth century. His generosity was legend, and he was particularly fond of children. We know this primarily through Roman accounts of his patronage of youth, which eventually led to his becoming the patron saint of children.

He is honored in many countries on the day of his death, December 6 in the year 345. Since this is so close to the day chosen to celebrate Christ's birth, the two merged.

The Dutch kept the St. Nicholas tradition alive. The Dutch brought with them to the New World two Christmas items that were quickly Americanized.

In sixteenth-century Holland, children placed wooden shoes by the hearth the night of St. Nicholas's arrival. The shoes were filled with straw, a meal for the saint's gift-laden donkey. In return, Nicholas would insert a small treat into each clog. In America, the shoe was replaced with the stocking, hung by the chimney.

The Dutch spelled St. Nicholas "Sint Nikolass," which in the New World became "Sinterklass", later changed to "Santa Claus".

Much of modern-day Santa Claus lore, including the reindeer-drawn sleigh, originated in America, such as the story, "The Night Before Christmas" which was written by Dr. Clement Clarke Moore in 1822, to read to his children on Christmas Eve.

It was in America that Santa put on weight. The rosy-cheeked, roly-poly Santa is credited to the influential nineteenth-century cartoonist Thomas Nast. From 1863 until 1886, Nast created a series of Christmas drawings for Harper's Weekly. These drawings, exhibit a gradual evolution in Santa from the pudgy, diminutive, elf-like creature of Dr. Moore's immortal poem to the bearded, potbellied, life-size bell ringer familiar to everyone today.

Santa is known throughout the world by many different names, such as:

- Saint Nikolaas (Sinter Klaas) from the Dutch
- Father Christmas, from the English
- Kris Kringle, from the Germans

- Befana from the Italians
- Bobouschka, from the Russians (a grandmotherly figure instead of a male).

Thanks to www.nicksspot.com/christmas

Santa's Long Journey

Santa checks his list to make sure that all the children's names are on it and that all the presents are packed.

Then Santa and his reindeer have to make sure that they're ready to go. Santa checks the sleigh and makes sure that all the reindeer have eaten enough to make this long journey, they can't stop off at McDonalds you know! Santa makes sure he has all the directions to everyone's home.

Santa starts out from his home at the North Pole where all the elves and Mrs. Claus live, along with Santa and the reindeer. This is where all the letters come to from all around the world.

When Santa arrives at night, the children are already asleep and are dreaming of all the presents and candy that they will get when they wake up in the morning.

Santa arrives on your rooftop and makes sure that his list is correct and that all the presents are in his bag. As he starts down the chimney with his bag of presents on his shoulder, he slips down the chimney and makes sure that the fire is not burning so as to not hurt himself. As he reaches the bottom and climbs out of the fireplace, Santa makes sure that everyone is asleep and he is quiet as a mouse as he puts the presents under the tree.

If your house does not have a fireplace, don't worry, Santa is pretty slick, he finds a way in, because Santa is "cool".

Thanks to www.nicksspot.com/christmas

Other symbols

Many more of our symbols are obvious in their meanings, such as the **STAR** representing the Star of Bethlehem; the **ANGEL** representing the Angel of the Lord who appeared to the humble shepherds; the **WREATH** made of evergreen boughs and formed into a circle, both standing for the Eternal love that our Heavenly Father has for each of us, and each of the symbols we use in our homes can remind us, and our little ones, of the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

Thanks to www.bevscountrycottage.com

Yule Log

There is a custom that on Christmas Eve an enormous log of freshly cut wood called the Yule log would be fetched and carried to the house with great ceremony. On Christmas Eve, the master of the house would place it on the hearth, make libations by sprinkling the trunk with oil, salt and mulled wine and say suitable prayers. In some families, the young girls of the house lit the log with splinters from the preceding year, which they had carefully tucked away. In other families, the mother had this privilege. It was said that the cinders of this log could protect the house from lightning and the malevolent powers of the devil. Choices about the variety of wood, the way in which it was lit and the length of time it took to burn constituted a genuine ritual, which could vary from region to region.

The custom, which dates back to the XIIth century, was known in most European countries, notably in France and in Italy where the Yule log was called a *ceppo*. This tradition persisted in Quebec as it did in France until the last quarter of the XIXth century. Its disappearance coincides with that of great hearths, which were gradually replaced by cast-iron stoves. The great log was thus replaced by a smaller one, often embellished with candles and greenery, placed in the center of the table as a Christmas decoration.

Today, the Yule log has become a traditional pastry, a delicious cake roll, smothered in coffee or chocolate-flavored icing and decorated with sugared holly leaves and roses.



Thanks to www.culture.fr



STRESS-FREE CHRISTMAS

Take Stress out of Holidays by Learning how to Delegate

Christmas is probably the most joyous event of the year. The wide-eyed wonderment in children's eyes is always a glorious sight to behold. Christmas is for children. And, because it is for children, as adults we carry the burden of making it a happy time. This desire can bring a lot of stress.

Here are some things to do to help you get through this time and not have it be such a stressful time.

Plan your Christmas budget. Do not overspend. You do not need to buy love. You do not need to pay high interest rates on credit cards because it takes you all year long to pay back your holiday spending. Plan what you can afford to spend, and stay within that plan.

Enlist help. Part of being a family is doing chores and helping each other. Teach your children the values of family, and ask them to help you with things that they can take the responsibility for so that you can have more time to manage the holiday.

Ask for more help from adults. If you are going to prepare a dinner, have people bring a dish, so you don't have a ton of cooking and dishes to do all by yourself. It's okay to ask for help.

Have a hat drawing for adults. Christmas is for kids. However, we all love to exchange gifts, by having a hat drawing then each person in the hat, will buy for whom they draw a name for. Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles. --Unknown

If you have people in your family who won't visit because so and so will be there, put your foot down. It's your party and if they can't grow up and be civil for a few hours, then either invite them both, or don't invite either. Don't play those silly games. It is not your responsibility so don't stress over it.

If you have a single person in your family that is elderly, let them help. People need to feel useful. Don't leave them out in the cold feeling useless. It can help relieve stress for you, and make the other person feel special.

Plan for travel and rides and even have a teenager pick up a grandparent. Everyone can pitch in.

Teach children about giving. Giving does not always have to be a store bought present. Children can pass out IOU's with things they will do as a present, such as a brother's chores for a week, or make a sister's bed for a few days. Or a brother can offer batting practice for two hours, or tutor in math. Whatever they are good at, they can promise time to another as a gift. It lets them share without the worry about money.

Remember, Christmas is about giving, sharing and loving. It should not have you pulling your hair out, so make some time for yourself, too.

Learning how to delegate and how to take some time for yourself is an "art" for most people. Learn it and enjoy it. And, realize that others like to help you, too.

Teresa King

Author of "What Did Mama Forget to Teach You."

CHRISTMAS BUDGETING

It's that time of year. The money starts to flow and some of us just get caught up in the excitement of the season. We have a lot of family and friends we want or feel obliged to please – usually with our pocket books and we end up paying for Christmas the rest of the year.

Here are some hints that will help you make it this year and possibly save some money:

It's hard, but set a budget and stick to it no matter what.

Make handmade gifts. Your family and friends will appreciate it!

Shop early and avoid the rush. Last minute shopping means higher prices and more stress.

What about joining a video, CD, DVD or book club to save money and come up with some gift ideas.

Host a party for Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Discovery Toys or similar groups. You can earn free gifts, which you could give away for Christmas.

Trade names with family members and set a dollar limit.

Make a list of names you need to buy for and don't add more names!

Keep an eye out for sales throughout the year.

Buy items that can be broken into sets and give the separate items to different people.

Use credit cards that pay you back in cash or use cash.

By Kevin Fichtner

Author of “The Ultimate Guide to Christmas on the Net”

MERRY CHRISTMAS!! (The many ways its said around the world)

Here is some information that you can impress your friends and family with – How about guessing how to say Merry Christmas in a number of different languages! Make a game out of it and have fun. Special thanks to the folks at www.santas.net whom have permitted us to share this with you.

How "Merry Christmas" is said...

Afrikaans: Gesëende Kersfees

Afrikander: Een Plesierige Kerfees

African/ Eritrean/ Tigrinja: Rehus-Beal-Ledeats

Albanian: Gezur Krislinjden

Arabic: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Argentine: Feliz Navidad

Armenian: Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev Pari Gaghand

Azeri: Tezze Iliniz Yahsi Olsun

Bahasa Malaysia: Selamat Hari Natal

Basque: Zorionak eta Urte Berri On!

Bengali: Shuvo Naba Barsha

Bohemian: Vesele Vanoce

Brazilian: Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo

Breton: Nedeleg laouen na bloavezh mat

Bulgarian: Tchestita Koleda; Tchestito Rojdestvo Hristovo

Catalan: Bon Nadal i un Bon Any Nou!

Chile: Feliz Navidad

Chinese: (Cantonese) Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun

Chinese: (Mandarin) Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan

Choctaw: Yukpa, Nitak Hollo Chito

Columbia: Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo

Cornish: Nadelik looan na looan blethen noweth

Corsian: Pace e salute

Crazanian: Rot Yikji Dol La Roo

Cree: Mitho Makosi Kesikansi

Croatian: Sretan Bozic

Czech: Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok

Danish: Glædelig Jul

Duri: Christmas-e- Shoma Mobarak

Dutch: Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! or Zalig Kerstfeest

English: Merry Christmas

Eskimo: (inupik) Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivdluaritlo!

Esperanto: Gajan Kristnaskon

Estonian: Ruumsaid juulup|hi

Faeroese: Gledhilig jol og eydnurikt nyggjar!

Farsi: Cristmas-e-shoma mobarak bashad

Finnish: Hyvaa joulua

Flemish: Zalig Kerstfeest en Gelukkig nieuw jaar

French: Joyeux Noel

Frisian: Noflike Krystdagen en in protte Lok en Seine yn it Nije Jier!

Galician: Bo Nada

Gaelic: Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ùr!

German: Froehliche Weihnachten

Greek: Kala Christouyenna!

Hausa: Barka da Kirsimatikuma Barka da Sabuwar Shekara!

Hawaiian: Mele Kalikimaka

Hebrew: Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova

Hindi: Shub Naya Baras

Hausa: Barka da Kirsimatikuma Barka da Sabuwar Shekara!

Hawaiian: Mele Kalikimaka ame Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Hungarian: Kellemes Karacsonyi unnepeket

Icelandic: Gledileg Jol

Indonesian: Selamat Hari Natal

Iraqi: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Irish: Nollaig Shona Dhuit, or Nodlaig mhaith chugnat

Iroquois: Ojenyunyat Sungwiyadeson honungradon nagwutut. Ojenyunyat osrasay.

Italian: Buone Feste Natalizie

Japanese: Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto

Jiberish: Mithag Crithagsigathmithags

Korean: Sung Tan Chuk Ha

Latin: Natale hilare et Annum Faustum!

Latvian: Prieci'gus Ziemsvetkus un Laimi'gu Jauno Gadu!

Lausitzian: Wjesole hody a strowe nowe leto

Lettish: Priecigus Ziemassvetkus

Lithuanian: Linksmu Kaledu

Low Saxon: Heughliche Winachten un 'n moi Nijaar

Macedonian: Sreken Bozhik

Maltese: LL Milied Lt-tajjeb

Manx: Nollick ghennal as blein vie noa

Maori: Meri Kirihimete

Marathi: Shub Naya Varsh

Navajo: Merry Keshmish

Norwegian: God Jul, or Gledelig Jul

Occitan: Pulit nadal e bona annado

Papiamento: Bon Pasco

Papua New Guinea: Bikpela hamamas blong dispela Krismas na Nupela yia i go long yu

Pennsylvania German: En frehlicher Grischtdaag un en hallich Nei Yaahr!

Peru: Feliz Navidad y un Venturoso Año Nuevo

Philipines: Maligayan Pasko!

Polish: Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia or Boze Narodzenie

Portuguese: Feliz Natal

Pushto: Christmas Aao Ne-way Kaal Mo Mobarak Sha

Rapa-Nui (Easter Island): Mata-Ki-Te-Rangi. Te-Pito-O-Te-Henua

Rhetian: Bellas festas da nadal e bun onn

Romanche: (sursilvan dialect): Legreivlas fiastas da Nadal e bien niev onn!

Rumanian: Sarbatori vesele

Russian: Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom

Sami: Buorrit Juovllat

Samoan: La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou

Sardinian: Bonu nadale e prosperu annu nou

Serbian: Hristos se rodi

Slovakian: Sretan Bozic or Vesele vianoce

Sami: Buorrit Juovllat

Samoan: La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou

Scots Gaelic: Nollaig chridheil huibh

Serb-Croatian: Sretam Bozic. Vesela Nova Godina

Serbian: Hristos se rodi.

Singhalese: Subha nath thalak Vewa. Subha Aluth Awrudhak Vewa

Slovak: Vesele Vianoce. A stastlivy Novy Rok

Slovene: Vesele Bozicne. Screcno Novo Leto

Spanish: Feliz Navidad

Swedish: God Jul and (Och) Ett Gott Nytt År

Tagalog: Maligayang Pasko. Masaganang Bagong Taon

Tami: Nathar Puthu Varuda Valthukkal

Trukeese: (Micronesian) Neekiriisimas annim oo iyer seefe feyiyeech!

Thai: Sawadee Pee Mai

Turkish: Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

Ukrainian: Srozhdestvom Kristovym

Urdu: Naya Saal Mubarak Ho

Vietnamese: Chung Mung Giang Sinh

Welsh: Nadolig Llawen

Yugoslavian: Cestitamo Bozic

Yoruba: E ku odun, e ku iye'dun!

Thanks for the folks at www.santas.net for the above information. From Home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another. The warmth and joy of Christmas, brings us closer to each other.

--Emily Matthews

AROUND THE WORLD

Ever wonder how your neighbors across the world celebrate Christmas?

To give you a feel of what Christmas is like in different parts around the world, here is a sampling from 4 different countries. For a more comprehensive list, please visit www.santas.net.

Christmas in Scotland

The Scottish people have their big celebrations on New Year's Day, called **Hogmanay**. There is a superstition that it is bad luck for the fire to go out on Christmas Eve, since it is at this time that the elves are abroad and only a raging fire will keep them from coming down the chimney.

On Christmas day, people sometimes make big bonfires and dance around them to the playing of bagpipes. **Bannock** cakes made of oatmeal are traditionally eaten at Christmas.

In Scotland, Christmas had traditionally been celebrated very quietly, because the Church of Scotland - the Presbyterian Church - has never placed any great emphasis on the Christmas festival. However, the Scots that are members of the Church of England or other churches generally celebrate Christmas in the same way as the English people.



Christmas in Iraq

In the Christian homes an unusual ceremony is held in the courtyard of the home on Christmas Eve. One of the children in the family reads the story of the Nativity from an Arabic Bible. The other members of the family hold lighted candles, and as soon as the story has been read a bonfire is lit in one corner of the courtyard. The fire is made of dried thorns and the future of the house for the coming year depends upon the way the fire burns. If the thorns burn to ashes, the family will have good fortune. While the fire is burning, a psalm is sung. When the fire is reduced to ashes, everyone jumps over the ashes three times and makes a wish.

On Christmas day a similar bonfire is built in the church. While the fire burns the men of the congregation chant a hymn. Then there is a procession in which the officials of the church march behind the bishop, who carries an image of the infant Jesus upon a scarlet cushion. The long Christmas service always ends with the blessing of the people. The bishop reaches forth and touches a member of the congregation with his hand, putting his blessing upon him. That person touches the one next him, and so on, until all have received "the Touch of Peace."

Christmas in Finland


Everybody's house is given a very good clean in readiness for Christmas. Hours are spent in the kitchen cooking and baking special treats for the festive season.

Fir trees are felled, tied onto sleds, and taken home to be decorated.

A sheaf of grain is often tied to a pole, together with nuts and seeds and placed in the garden for the birds. Many of the peasants will not eat their Christmas dinner until the birds have had their dinner.

The meal was begun as soon as the first star appeared in the sky.

In Finland the Christmas tree is set up on Christmas Eve. Apples and other fruits, candies, paper flags, cotton and tinsel are used as decorations, and candles are used for lighting it.




The Christmas festivities are preceded by a visit to the famous steam baths, after which everyone dresses in clean clothes in preparation for the Christmas dinner, which is served at 5-7 in the evening.

Christmas gifts may be given out before or after the dinner. The children do not hang up stockings, but **Santa Claus** comes in person, often accompanied by as many as half a dozen Christmas elves to distribute the presents.

The main dish of the dinner is boiled codfish served snowy white and fluffy, with allspice, boiled potatoes, and cream sauce. The dried cod has been soaked for a week in a lye solution, then in clear water to soften it to the right texture. Also on the menu is roast suckling pig or a roasted fresh ham, mashed potatoes, and vegetables.

After dinner the children go to bed while the older people stay up to chat with visitors and drink coffee until about midnight.

Christmas Day services in the churches begin at six in the morning. It is a day for family visits and reunions. In some parts of the country the **Star Boys** tour the countryside singing Christmas songs. During all these days the people keep wishing each other a "**Merry Yule.**"



Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display-- so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow. It isn't the tree not the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again.

--Unknown



Christmas in India

Christians in India decorate banana or mango trees. They also light small oil-burning lamps as Christmas decorations and fill their churches with red flowers.

They give presents to family members and baksheesh, or charity, to the poor people.

In India, the **poinsettia** is in flower and so the churches are decorated with this brilliant bloom for the Christmas Midnight Mass.

In South India, Christians put small clay lamps on the rooftops and walls of their houses at Christmas, just as the Hindus do during their festival called **Diwali**.



It comes every year and will go on forever. And along with Christmas belong the keepsakes and the customs. Those humble, everyday things a mother clings to, and ponders, like Mary in the secret spaces of her heart.

--Marjorie Holmes



CREATING A FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Here is a great list of ideas to start your family on the road to creating your own Christmas traditions.

21 Ideas for Creating Family Traditions

1. Read the Christmas story from the Bible on Christmas Eve with your family.
2. Have your children or family act out the birth of Christ.
3. Buy or make an inexpensive nativity scene that small children can hold and play with.
4. When setting up your nativity scene, allow the children to place one figure in the scene each day as you read the corresponding scripture. Place baby Jesus in the scene on Christmas Eve.
5. Make an advent calendar.
6. Make an advent wreath.
7. Bake a birthday cake for Jesus. Light the candles on Christmas day and sing happy birthday.
8. Throw a happy birthday Jesus party for your child's friends. Have the children bring as a gift a can of food that could be donated to the local food bank. As an activity, have the children make homemade Christmas cards to send to the local nursing home.
9. Have the children make homemade gifts for one another or for other family members.

10. Plan with other family members who you normally exchange gifts with to exchange homemade ornaments or goodies instead of store bought gifts.
11. Make a special ornament each year for each child. Include somewhere on the ornament the child's name and the year. These ornaments can be passed on to the children when they marry.
12. Take a picture of each child at Christmas and frame it to hang on the tree. Picture frame ornaments can be purchased or handmade with a few scraps of cardboard and fabric. Be sure to date the pictures. It's fun to look on the tree and see how each child has grown over the years.
13. Sponsor a needy child, family, or elderly person for Christmas. Let your child help select the gifts.
14. Create your own Christmas cards using an original piece of artwork that your children have created.
15. Let the children help in the kitchen with the holiday baking. Even small children can roll dough and cut Christmas cookies.
16. If you like having a real Christmas tree, take your family to a tree farm and pick out that "perfect" tree together.
17. Set aside a specific time each year to decorate the Christmas tree. Enjoy some hot chocolate while you string popcorn and cranberries and make gingerbread or sugar cookies to hang for an old fashioned look. Set aside a whole day of uninterrupted time to spend making memories.
18. Celebrate Epiphany on January 6th. Epiphany is a celebration of the visit of the wise men to Jesus.
19. Open your home to a local serviceman, college student or young couple or family who may be away from home and family during the holidays.
20. Spend time with your children listening to or singing your favorite Christmas songs and carols.
21. Watch your favorite Christmas movie together. My personal favorites are "White Christmas" and "It's a Wonderful Life".



Thanks to the folks at www.geocities.com/Heartland who compiled this great list.

Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day.
--Helen Steiner Rice



SURVIVAL LIST

A list for Christmas survival

The Christmas season is easier to manage when you plan for it as a family. Have a family meeting, as early as possible in the Fall, to sit down and make plans for the entire holiday season.

1. Mark all activities on your family calendar.
2. Make lists.
3. Allocate responsibilities to each family member.
4. Post your lists and calendar in a prominent, easy-to-read place in your home.
5. Tell people who are special to you that you appreciate them--co-workers, bosses or employees, pastors, etc.
6. Pick out a "Living Tree" then plant it after the holidays.
7. Chop down your own Christmas tree at a Christmas tree farm with your family.
8. Make your own greeting cards.
9. Have an old-fashioned caroling party.
10. Build an ornament collection for each child in the family.
11. Invite someone for Christmas dinner that would otherwise be alone.
12. Give a gift of your time to a hurried friend, aging relative or a sick friend. Perhaps you can watch a child while a parent goes shopping or take an elderly friend shopping.



13. Bake a birthday cake for Jesus and make it an important part of your Christmas meal.
14. Norwegians celebrate Little Christmas Eve on the 23rd of December. Try it.

Thanks to [Tech Direct Inc](#)

Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.

--Washington Irving



QUIZ TIME

Christmas is the season of giving. We'll give you the questions, you give us the answers.

Name the original reindeer?

What is the traditional time frame of Christmas?

Which country has the distinct tradition of having a female Santa?

Who started the practice of sending Christmas Cards?

What country brought Sinter Klaas to America?

According to legend, who started the tradition of the miniature Nativity?

Kissing under the Mistletoe. Roman, German, or Celtic Custom?

What is "Korvatunturi"?

What is Thomas Nast known for?

What Papal Title was held by St. Nicholas?

Who were the Priests of Zarathustra better known as?

Who was Virginia O'Hanlon?

How many Lord a leapin'?

What Christmas Carol talks about the feast of Stephen?

What well-known Christmas Carol was written by an Austrian parish priest?

ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE – NOW NO PEEKING!!

Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given-- when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes.

--Joan Winmill Brown

Answers to Christmas Legends

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, (Donder) and Blitzen.

There were 12 days of Christmas (of course), from December 24, to January 6.

Italy has the tradition of Old Belfana... a female gift-giver.

Sir Henry Cole sent the first cards, in 1843.

Holland.

St. Francis of Assisi is believed to have created the first Nativity.

It is a Roman custom; mistletoe was a symbol of peace.

The "Finnish" dwelling place of Father Christmas.

Nast was an artist for "Harper's Weekly", who drew the first picture of Santa Claus, based on Clement Moore's description in " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

He was the Bishop of Myra.

The Three Magi (the wise men).

The girl who wrote the New York Sun in 1897 and whom promoted the response "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

Ten.

Good King Wenceslas.

Joseph Mohr wrote the words to "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night); Franz Gruber, was later given credit for composing the music. A little extra trivia: The little parish church was called "The St. Nicholas' Church of Oberndorf.

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing; It makes no noise at all, But softly gives itself away; While quite unselfish, it grows small.

--Eva K. Logue

CHRISTMAS MEALS

How to thaw the Christmas turkey?

WE HAVE THE ANSWER! THANKS TO THE FOLKS AT [ALL RECIPES.COM](http://ALLRECIPES.COM)

The secret ingredient is your time and lots of it. Buying, preparing, and roasting a turkey are time-consuming. With careful preparation and attention to timing, you will be rewarded with a beautiful and tasty main course.

Your first decision will be selecting between a frozen or fresh turkey. A fresh bird is more expensive, but will save you time and precious refrigerator space. Buy the bird the day before you wish to roast it, but remember to reserve your turkey with the butcher. What a catastrophe to find that the only turkey left for your intimate four-person dinner is a 26-pound glacial beast!

A frozen turkey needs to be defrosted. The preferred method is to defrost it in the refrigerator. (Yes, the one filled with the rest of the holiday fare.) Allow one day per 5 pounds. A 15-pound turkey will require three days to defrost thoroughly. An alternate method is to defrost the bird in a cold-water bath. Allow 30 minutes per pound. That 15-pound turkey will require only 7 1/2 hours to defrost using this approach. It is also possible to use a combination of these methods.

Now you are ready to prepare the turkey for roasting. First remove the giblets. This is a fundamental step not only because you might want to use them to make the gravy, but also because it is disconcerting to find these paper-wrapped lumps when carving. Next, rinse the bird inside and out. Pat dry with paper towels. If you are stuffing the bird, do so now with a freshly prepared dressing. Stuff loosely, allowing about 1/2 to 3/4 cup per pound of bird. Brush the skin with melted butter or oil. Tuck the drumsticks under the folds of skin or tie together with string. Lastly, insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh. The thermometer should point towards the body, and should not touch the bone.

Place the bird on a rack in a roasting pan, and into a preheated 350 degree F (175 degrees C) oven. Use the following chart to estimate the time required for baking.

Weight of Bird	Roasting Time (Unstuffed)	Roasting Time (Stuffed)
10 to 18 pounds	3 to 3-1/2 hours	3-3/4 to 4-1/2 hours
15 to 22 pounds	3-1/2 to 4 hours	4-1/2 to 5 hours
22 to 24 pounds	4 to 4-1/2 hours	5 to 5-1/2 hours
24 to 29 pounds	4-1/2 to 5 hours	5-1/2 to 6-1/4 hours

Bake until the skin is a light golden color, and then cover loosely with a foil tent. During the last 45 minutes of baking, remove the foil tent to brown the skin. Basting is not necessary, but will promote even browning.

The best test for doneness is the temperature of the meat, not the color of the skin. The turkey is done when the thigh meat reaches an internal temperature of 180 degrees F, and when the breast meat reaches an internal temperature of 170 degrees F. If your turkey has been stuffed, it is important to check the temperature of the dressing. The stuffing should be 165 degrees F. When the turkey is done, remove from the oven and allow to stand for 30 minutes.

Here is another excellent recipe to follow

Turkey


1 (18 pound) whole turkey

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 1/2 quarts turkey stock

8 cups prepared stuffing

- 
1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Place rack in the lowest position of the oven.
 2. Remove the turkey neck and giblets, rinse the turkey, and pat dry with paper towels. Place the turkey, breast side up, on a rack in the roasting pan. Loosely fill the body cavity with stuffing. Rub the skin with the softened butter, and season with salt and pepper. Position an aluminum foil tent over the turkey.
 3. Place turkey in the oven, and pour 2 cups turkey stock into the bottom of the roasting pan. Baste all over every 30 minutes with the juices on the bottom of the pan. Whenever the drippings evaporate, add stock to moisten them, about 1 to 2 cups at a time. Remove aluminum foil after 2 1/2 hours. Roast until a meat thermometer inserted in the meaty part of the thigh reads 180 degrees F (80 degrees C), about 4 hours.
 4. Transfer the turkey to a large serving platter, and let it stand for at least 20 to 30 minutes before carving.

Some other great Christmas recipes to follow:

Egg Nog

Ingredients

6 eggs

1/4 cup sugar


1/4 teaspoon salt (optional)

1 quart milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions


1. In large saucepan, beat together eggs, sugar and salt (if desired); stir in 2 cups of the milk. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick enough to coat a metal spoon with a thin film and reaches at least 160 degrees F (70 degrees C). Remove pan from heat.

- 
2. Stir remaining 2 cups milk and vanilla extract into the mixture. Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled; several hours or overnight. Just before serving, pour the egg nog into a bowl or pitcher.

Fruit Cake

Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) containers candied cherries
- 1 (8 ounce) container candied mixed citrus peel
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 cup currants
- 1 cup dates, pitted and chopped
- 2 (2.25 ounce) packages blanched slivered almonds
- ½ cup brandy
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 6 eggs



$\frac{3}{4}$ cup molasses

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup apple juice

Directions

1. In a medium bowl, combine cherries, citrus peel, raisins, currants, dates, and almonds. Stir in brandy; let stand 2 hours, or overnight. Dredge soaked fruit with $\frac{1}{2}$ -cup flour.
2. Preheat oven to 275 degrees F (135 degrees C). Grease an 8x8x3 inch fruit cake pan, line with parchment paper, and grease again. In a small bowl, mix together 2 cups flour, baking soda, cloves, allspice, cinnamon, and salt; set aside.
3. In a large bowl, cream butter until light. Gradually blend in brown sugar and eggs. Mix together molasses and apple juice. Beat into butter mixture alternately with flour mixture, making 4 dry and 3 liquid additions. Fold in floured fruit. Turn batter into prepared pan.

Bake in preheated oven for 3 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of cake comes out clean. Remove from pan, and lift off paper. Cool cake completely, then wrap loosely in waxed paper. Store in an airtight container.

Makes 16 servings

It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again. --Unknown

Gingerbread

1 teaspoon lemon zest

1 ½ tablespoons lemon juice

½ cup molasses

2 eggs

1 teaspoon lemon zest

1 ½ tablespoons lemon juice

½ cup molasses

2 eggs

3 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 tablespoon ground ginger

2 teaspoons ground allspice

6 egg whites

4 (16 ounce) packages confectioner's sugar, sifted

Directions:

1. First cut out in thin cardboard: a side wall, 4 1/2 x 8 inches; an end wall, 4 1/2x5 inches; a triangular gable, 4 1/2x3x3 inches; and a roof rectangle, 4 1/2x9 inches. Tape the rectangular end wall piece to the triangular gable piece: match the long side of the triangle, 4 1/2 inches, to one of the 4 1/2 inch sides of the end wall.

2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in lemon zest, lemon juice, and molasses. Gradually beat in 2 eggs. Sift the flour, baking powder, and spices together; stir into creamed mixture. Wrap dough in parchment paper, and refrigerate for 1 hour.
3. Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Divide into 6 portions, 2 slightly larger than the others. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the 4 smaller pieces to approximately the size of the side wall and the end wall with gable templates; cut out two of each. Roll out remaining dough, and cut into two rectangular roof pieces. Transfer gingerbread onto greased baking trays.
4. In a preheated 375 degree F (190 degrees C) oven, bake gingerbread for 10 minutes, or until crisp. When removing from the oven, leave the gingerbread on the baking trays for a few minutes to set, then transfer to wire racks. Leave out over night to harden.
5. In a large bowl, lightly whisk 2 egg whites. Gradually beat in approximately 5 cups confectioner's sugar. The icing should be smooth and stand in firm peaks. Spread or pipe a 9-inch line of icing onto a cake board, and press in one of the side walls so that it sticks firmly and stands upright. If necessary, spread or pipe a little extra icing along either side to help support it. Take an end wall and ice both the side edges. Spread or pipe a line of icing on the board at a right angle to the first wall, and press the end wall into position. Repeat this process with the other two walls until they are all in position. Leave the walls to harden together for at least two hours before putting on the roof. Spread or pipe a thick layer of icing on top of all the walls, and fix the roof pieces in position; the roof should overlap the walls to make the eaves. Pipe or spread a little icing along the crest of the roof to hold the two pieces firmly together. Leave overnight to set firmly.
6. When ready to decorate, make the remaining icing. In a large bowl, lightly whisk 4 egg whites, and mix in remaining confectioners' sugar as before. Use this to make snow on the roof, and to stick various candies for decoration. Finish with a fine dusting of sifted confectioner's sugar.

Plum Pudding

¼ cup butter

1/3 cup brown sugar

1 cup milk

12 dates, pitted and chopped

½ cup raisins

¼ cup currants

¼ cup candied mixed fruit peel, chopped

1 orange, zested

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 cup self-rising flour

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 pinch salt

Directions

1. Well grease a pudding mold.
2. In a large saucepan combine butter, sugar, milk, dates, raisins, currants, mixed fruit peel and zest of the orange; bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in baking soda. Sift in the flour, cinnamon and salt; mix gently until blended. Pour into prepared pudding mold.
3. Cover with a double layer of greased wax paper and steam for 2 hours.

Ready-to-eat Ham

5 pounds ready-to-eat ham

¼ cup whole cloves

¼ cup dark corn syrup

2 cups honey

2/3 cup butter

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).

Score ham, and stud with the whole cloves. Place ham in foil lined pan.

In the top half of a double boiler, heat the corn syrup, honey and butter. Keep glaze warm while baking ham.

Brush glaze over ham, and bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes in the preheated oven. Baste ham every 10 to 15 minutes with the honey glaze. During the last 4 to 5 minutes of baking, turn on broiler to caramelize the glaze. Remove from oven, and let sit a few minutes before serving.

Here are some other great sites to get Christmas recipes from:

Allrecipes.com , www.christmas-baking.com , www.christmas-joy.com

www.christmasrecipe.com , www.meals.com , www.merry-christmas.com

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

--Calvin Coolidge

The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas.

--W. C. Jones

PREPARING FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

First you need party supplies

Party411.com

This site has all your party needs to setup the perfect Christmas party.

Need food? Check these sites below - they will deliver right to your door!

Cheese & Wine Unlimited

Hickory Farms

Lobster Anywhere.com

Games to play

Bored? Sitting around the table with your relatives and wondering what to do? This site provides you the rules for hundreds of card games you can play right at home. The only thing you need is a deck of cards and a few people willing to play!

www.pagat.com

Christmas Party Etiquette

So you've been invited to a holiday office party. Now what? To avoid mistakes follow the guidelines on the next page. Thanks to the folks at Christmas.com for this great piece of advice.

Even though the music is playing, food and alcohol is being served, and people are laughing – the office party is a business function. Keeping this in mind before your every action can only lead to successful behavior.

Remember that a lot of women are now in business. No matter what type of business, the women in attendance could well be the boss, manager supervisor, or CEO.

Office parties are usually mandatory. Thus, you cannot avoid them. That doesn't mean you have to be there from beginning to end, unless it is held during the workday. Arrive on time, mingle, speak to the boss, eat a few hors d'oeuvres, thank the host, make a graceful exit.

If the party is not actually at the office, make sure you have accurate directions, so as not to arrive late.

Upon arrival, don't head straight to the bar or food table. You are at the party to socialize with your co-workers, boss, and to make new connections. Circulate the room before you make your plate or get a drink


When being introduced to someone, make sure you look the person in the eye, and greet them with a firm but not knuckle crushing handshake.

Speaking of handshakes- always keep the right hand clean and free to shake hands. Balance your food, drink, and napkin in your left hand to prevent having to switch items from hand to hand. This may take some practice, but it can be done.

If you have clients that are attending the party, remember they are your responsibility. You should stay close by, make sure they have plenty to eat and drink, and introduce them to the most important people.

Make sure you chat with your co-workers and tell them how great it was to work with them all year. Remember to thank those that worked with you on projects throughout the year.

Eat and drink in moderation. It is better to go back for seconds than to put the entire buffet table on your plate. Keep the alcohol to the barest minimum. This is the worst place ever to get drunk. This action usually leads to the undoing of many. If you do plan to drink, it is a good idea to eat a little before you arrive to reduce the effects of alcohol.



Avoid salty, greasy, or sweet foods. These tend to make you thirsty, giving you an excuse for having an alcoholic beverage. Instead, eat foods that are rich in starch and protein. These stay in the stomach longer and slow the absorption of alcohol in the bloodstream.

If the party is being held away from the office determine what the proper attire is before you and your companion arrive. If the party is formal, wear formal dress. Women should wear conservative party dresses. Leave the revealing and bright colored dresses for strictly social affairs and not the office party.

If spouses of employees are invited, make sure they are recognized and treated as real people and not as an appendage. Include them in your conversations and talk to them about their own interests.

I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.

--Harlan Miller (Better Homes and Gardens)



DECORATIONS, LIGHTS AND TREES

You need a tree, lights and decorations? Check these sites out. They have all the decorations you need to make your home ready for Christmas – from Tinsel to stockings from lighting to nativity scenes.

We have included a little bio on each site that tells you in their own words what they can offer to you.

AChristmasgifts.net

Site: www.achristmasgifts.net

Welcome to the world's largest shopping mall of individually personalized products where you can order just 1 or 100 of our unique products and always find top quality & accuracy.

We "get it right" the first time, with our management team having over 40 combined years in the personalization business, and delivered over 2 million personalized gift orders!

Fast delivery - Most orders are personalized and shipped in just 24-48 hours to U.S., Canada or Europe!

Christmas-depot.com

Site: www.Christmas-depot.com

The Internet's premiere retail Christmas site.





With over 10,000 illustrated Christmas product listings, we offer the best selection of Christmas trees, lights, garlands, ornaments, animated figures, holiday music boxes and outdoor decorations available anywhere on the Internet.

We carry the full line of fine quality Village products and collectible Snow babies from Department 56, the finest name in the business. We are the exclusive worldwide distributor of Holiday Tree & Trim Company's full line of premium quality, American-made artificial Christmas trees. We are the place to purchase everything from ornament hooks to complete professional quality animated scenes!

On-line since 1997, ChristmasDepot.com has quickly distinguished itself. We have been featured on Live with Regis and Kathy Lee, the Discovery Channel, and several regional news broadcasts. We have been written up in the New York Times, Smart Money Magazine and Better Homes and Gardens.



Christmas Lights etc.com

Site: www.christmaslightsetc.com

Large selection of artificial and real Christmas Trees, pre-lit wreaths and garlands, Christmas Lights.

Christmas Plus.com

Site: www.christmasplus.com

ChristmasPlus.com is a Web-Based retailer focused exclusively on providing you with the best shopping experience possible. We look forward to serving you through this Web site that features a vast array of competitively priced Christmas products, detailed product information, and decorating tips, through easy-to-use Web pages.

Our products include a large selection of high-quality life-like trees, extra long-life lighting products, and outdoor decorations that make it easy for you to create the best-looking house on the block! By combining our expertise in Christmas products and our commitment to excellent customer service, bundled with the convenience of Internet retailing, we are able to deliver a unique shopping experience directly to you, just in time to enjoy the best Christmas season ever.

Christmas Treasures.com

Site: www.christmas-treasures.com

Based in Blue River Oregon On the McKenzie River, Christmas Treasures is richly decorated with an assortment of ornaments, collectibles and accessories.

City Lights Collectibles.com

Site: www.citylightscollectibles.com

Our Store: City Lights, Southern California's largest holiday store with over 12,000 sq. ft of displays and product, would like to welcome you. The store is one big holiday wonderland, where children and adults alike get whisked away into the holiday spirit, viewing awe inspiring displays of villages, collectibles, wonderfully decorated trees, and trains that will blow the mind.

The selection is unsurpassable, and the prices are so low, they don't seem fair.

Santaland.com

Site: www.santaland.com

**Founded 1991 - The First Christmas Site on the Internet
2003 - Over A Decade of Holiday Magic**

In 1994, Santaland.com was established as an Internet web site. We believe the site is the oldest and one of the most heavily visited Internet sites of its type currently on the World Wide Web. With a minimum amount of publicity, we depend on word-of-mouth and as such we have had a loyal following for many years.

Santaland.com has received numerous awards and credits for being one of the top Christmas sites on the Internet. We do not seek out awards or credits. The design of Santaland.com is intended to evoke a feeling and sentiment of an old fashioned Christmas. Our aim is to make the site family friendly for end users of all ages.

Wilson evergreen.com

Site: www.wilson-evergreens.net

Welcome to Wilson Evergreens! For over 20 years we have been a legend in making quality Christmas wreaths and Christmas garlands. We are the nation's largest producer of fresh evergreen decorations. Our friendly personnel and fast customer service along with the highest quality products will surely help make your holiday decorating full and enjoyable.

The Xmas Shop.com

Site: www.thexmasshop.com

The Xmas Shop is one of the largest Christmas Stores in the United States! We carry several collectible lines including Department 56 porcelain houses, Boyd's Bears, plush teddy bears and resin figurines, Fontanini, Lladro, Pipka, Enesco, Precious Moments and many more!

10 Steps to a beautiful Tree

Do you dread decorating the tree? Here is a guide to create and decorate the perfect tree.

Light and shape tree.

Place tinsel garland one-third out from the tree trunk.

Hang bead garland one-half out from the tree trunk.

Run ribbon throughout the tree.

Place colored glass bulbs from center to one-third of the way out of tree alternating color.

Place a few colored bulbs on the outside of the tree.

Add bows, if desired, at third row from the bottom of the tree to tie in the ribbon. The ribbon should run through the tree from the outside to two-thirds of the way in the tree.

Add decorated ornaments to outside edges and 2" from tips throughout tree.

Specialty ornaments, such as angels, should be highlighted. Use ornament to add movement and bring attention to special ornaments.



Icicles should be applied as a finishing touch.

If using tinsel, put at least 3 to 5 strands together and arrange every 3 to 5 tips throughout the tree.

If using glass or acrylic icicles, group 3 to 5 throughout the tree in at least 5 to 9 areas.

Thanks to www.christmasplus.com for their contribution

There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions.

--Bill McKibben Author, Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case For a More Joyful Christmas

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Sending Christmas cards is a tradition we all love. It feels great to send and receive cards, bringing us closer to our family, friends, colleagues, neighbors or whomever we chose to share the season with.

History of the Christmas card



The sending of greeting cards at Christmas began in the Victorian era. Though wood engravers produced prints with religious themes in the European Middle Ages, the first commercial Christmas and New Year's card is believed to have been designed and printed in London, England in 1843.

John Callcott Horsley (born 1817-- died 1903), a British narrative painter and a Royal Academician, designed the very first Christmas and New Year's card at the suggestion and request of his friend Sir Henry Cole (the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum). In 1843 an edition of 1,000 of these Christmas cards was placed on sale in London. They were printed in lithography by Jobbins of Warwick Court, Holborn, London, and hand-colored by a professional "colorer" named Mason. The Christmas card was lithographed on stiff cardboard, 5 1/8 by 3 1/4 inches, in dark sepia, and shows a family party in progress, beneath which is the greeting, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." It also states that it was "Published at Summerly's Home Treasury Office, 12 Old Bond Street, London." The price was 1s each. An original copy of this card is considered very rare, but copies of a facsimile reprint issued in 1955 can still be found today.

Thanks to www.victoriana.com

Present day

There are now a few alternatives. There are the traditional cards you purchase at the store and mail out, there are personalized cards you can design yourself or purchase from a printer and thirdly, there are a variety of electronic e-cards that you can send via email

Here are some of the major on-line and traditional greeting card suppliers;

www.123greetings.com

Cards for Rosh Hashanah, Oktoberfest Ecards, Kiss Day Greeting Cards and more...

Send Free Online Greeting Cards, Free Ecards to your friends & loved ones!

www.americangreetings.com

Cards you need for every occasion!

www.Bluemountain.com

One of the pioneers in the e-greeting card business. Take a visit!

Care2 Network

Care2 is the largest Environmental Network connecting over 2 million Consumers with Nonprofit Organizations and Eco-Oriented Corporations.

www.carltoncards.com

Carlton Cards is dedicated to meeting the specific needs of every customer. It's our goal to please you and the special people in your life. That's why we offer a complete line of all-occasion greeting cards, specialty gift wrap, colorful ribbons and bows, balloons, candy, stationery and more.

In fact, much more. Like our unique assortment of figurines and ornaments that makes Carlton Cards a destination for any collector. Special ornaments such as our very own [Heirloom Collection](#) that features exclusive cartoon and movie legends, as well as a variety of holiday favorites. And, our treasured collectibles range from popular Precious Moments™ to lovable [Bainbridge Bears™](#).

[eInvite](#)

Fine paper. Superb craftsmanship. Designs with artistic integrity. And CheckMate™ Technology.

eInvite.com is an online dealer of fine custom stationery, invitations, announcements and holiday cards. Our value lies within our years of experience in the stationery business, the quality of our product and the personalization technology we offer.

www.hallmark.com

Joyce C. Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards, Inc., lived the American dream. Born August 29, 1891, in tiny David City, Neb., Hall overcame both poverty and a lack of a formal education to become the architect of an industry, friend of two presidents and a prime minister, patron of the arts and recipient of high honors from three nations.

Hallmark has an extensive selection of cards from traditional to alternative. Visit their website to find out more.

www.holiday-cards-store.com

This site has a vast selection of Halloween, Thanksgiving, Photo Cards, Holiday Cards and Holiday Invitations

Somehow, not only for Christmas, But all the long year through, The joy that you give to others, Is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing, The poor and lonely and sad, The more of your heart's possessing, Returns to you glad.

--John Greenleaf Whittier

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

One of the best aspects of the Christmas season is the music we share with one another. In this section you will find a couple things – some Christmas songs you can download to your PC, musical instruments, a list of sites where you can find sheet music and recorded music and finally, the words to a few of our favorite Christmas carols.

Musical Instruments

[Music123.com](#)

Zapf's Music123.com now has over 125,000 products available on the site. The depth of product information is unequaled, and new products and services are featured daily.

[Musicians Friend](#)

Musician's Friend was founded in 1983 by Robert and Deanna Eastman and the company grew rapidly to become the world's largest direct marketer of music gear. The founders operated the company on one major premise: to give musicians the best prices and selection, along with superior service to help musicians achieve their goals in music.

Currently, Musician's Friend offers over 36,000 products in its mail order catalogs and on its website, [musiciansfriend.com](#). Products offered include guitars, basses, keyboards, percussion, amps, as well as recording, mixing, lighting, and DJ gear. Hundreds of new products are added monthly as the company continues to broaden and deepen its offerings.

Music Download

[Click HERE](#) to download the Christmas Music Player! It will play 40 Christmas Songs on your Computer.

Recorded and Sheet Music

[BMG Music](#)

BMGmusic.com is one of the most heavily trafficked e-commerce sites on the Internet. Our unbeatable introductory offer of 12 CDs for the price of 1 and our daily discount specials place us among the favorites in music-related websites.

[Columbia House](#)

The world's largest direct marketer of Music CDs, DVDs and Videos.

[Music Notes.com](#)

Musicnotes.com is the leading Internet-based sheet music store offering more than sixteen thousand pieces of **digital sheet music** with many titles from others coming soon. In addition to the instant delivery of **digital sheet music**, the site also offers **music books & more**, a catalog of more than two hundred thousand traditional music titles, CDs and videos.

MusicnotesTM has been featured in numerous publications, including *Billboard*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *USA Today*.

[Sheet Music Plus](#)

Want to buy sheet music, songbooks or guitar tabs? Try Sheet Music Plus. We have over 366,000 titles to choose from, and you can order online.

Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl.
But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart... filled it, too, with a melody that would last forever.

--Bess Streeter Aldrich

Christmas Carols

Here are a number of Christmas carols that are available for the public domain. This means there are no copyright restrictions on using the words so feel free to click on the link which will take you to the back of the book and you can print out the words for your family and friends to sing!

[Deck the Halls](#)

[Jingle Bells](#)

[Jolly Old Saint Nicholas](#)

[O Christmas Tree](#)

[The Twelve Days of Christmas](#)

[Up On the Housetop](#)

[We Wish You A Merry Christmas](#)

[O Come All Ye Faithful](#)

[It Came Upon a Midnight](#)

[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#)

[The First Noel](#)

[Silent Night](#)

[What Child Is This?](#)

[God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen](#)

[Angels we have heard on high](#)

[Joy to the world](#)



[Angels from the realm of Glory](#)

[Away in a Manger](#)

[Auld Lang Syne](#)

[Good King Wenceslas](#)

[I Saw three Ships](#)

[O Holy Night](#)





KIDS

Christmas is a time of great joy and anticipation for children of all ages. Fill the weeks before Christmas with activities that show your friends and family as well as those less fortunate than yourself how much you care

Below is a collection of sites that are kid-safe. They have loads of games and crafts, all with a Christmas theme. Enjoy!!

Amazingmoms.com

Looking for ideas on how to keep the kids busy during the holiday season? Visit amazingmoms who have put together an awesome collection of fun and games.

[Christmas Stockings](#)

Great site on Christmas traditions in Canada and France.

[Christmas Trivia Quiz](#)

Check out the Christmas Trivia quizzes at familygames.com. They have put together three different quizzes to test your Christmas knowledge.

[Craft Exchange: Christmas Ornaments](#)

This site is loaded with Christmas crafts – wreaths, snowflakes, ornaments and potpourri of other crafts to keep the children busy.

www.santaland.com

The design of Santaland.com is intended to evoke a feeling and sentiment of an old fashioned Christmas. Our aim is to make the site family friendly for end users of all ages.



Time was with most of us, when Christmas Day, encircling all our limited world like a magic ring, left nothing out for us to miss or seek; bound together all our home enjoyments, affections, and hopes; grouped everything and everyone round the Christmas fire, and make the little picture shining in our bright young eyes, complete.

--Charles Dickens

The [Oswego City School division](#) has compiled a great list of sites for kids of all ages to visit

1. [*A Letter from Santa Worldwide delivery*](#)
Send a letter to a child, worldwide delivery, free badge included, signed by Santa Claus.
2. [*Allspirit Christmas*](#)
Christmas Stories, a Nativity, and Christmas poetry. Lots of family fun.
3. [*Awesome Clipart for Kids-Christmas*](#)
This site is filled with clipart images for the Christmas theme.
4. [*Christmas*](#)
Christmas songs, poems, and fingerplays for children and Christmas tongue twisters
5. [*Christmas at Alphabet Soup*](#)
Alphabet Soup is a site for the young and the "young at heart"! This site is filled with things about Christmas.
6. [*Christmas Customs of Ireland*](#)
This site has information about Christmas customs in Ireland.
7. [*Christmas Time at Kids Domain*](#)
Holiday Macintosh and PC shareware and freeware. Original coloring pages, crafts, word searches and mazes.

8. [*December Holiday Theme Page*](#)
Find lesson plans, thematic units, books, activities, ideas, and resources for building a theme around the holidays of December - Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanakkah, and more!
9. [*History of Christmas*](#)
Learn about the history of Christmas, how Santa came to be, Christmas around the world and more.
10. [*Jens Christmas Chest*](#)
Everything Christmas, fun pages to send, graphics and more!
11. [*Mrs. Claus' Workshop*](#)
This is a web-based learning activity written for students in K-3 grades. Contains a quiz on reindeer, recommended literature for kids, craft ideas, etc.
12. [*Nathaniel and Dillon's Merry Christmas Adventure!*](#)
You're invited to come along with our two dogs, Nat and Dilly, as they visit some friends and discover how Christmas is celebrated in 20 European countries, then return with them to our Canadian home for Christmas in Niagara!
13. [*Sally Saves Christmas*](#)
An online reading adventure about Sally Saves Christmas.
14. [*Santa's Net*](#)
Santa's favorites, e-mail letter write to Santa Claus North Pole.
15. [*Santa's Secret Village*](#)
This site has Christmas stories to read and color, recipes, games, and hidden stories.
16. [*Winter, Christmas and Hanukkah Crafts*](#)
This site provides ideas for crafts for winter, Christmas, and Hanukkah.
17. [*www.holidays.net*](#)
A multi-faceted site with lots to do. Enjoy!



Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind.

--Mary Ellen Chase

Christmas, waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

--Norman Vincent Peale





HUMOR

Need a little humor at Christmas. Here are some site we found that poke fun at one of our favorite times of year.

[Kids Jokes](#)

[Christmas jokes](#)

www.xmas-jokes.com

www.jokes.net

www.happychristmas.com

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic.

--Unknown

Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? Because every buck is dear to him

--Unknown



GIFTS IDEAS

To help you in your hunt for the best Christmas gifts we have provided you with a list of great sites that will satisfy all your Christmas gift needs. We have found over 100 sites that sell toys of all kinds, clothing, perfume, food, software, books, DVDs, batteries for your toys, flowers, etc. All will deliver directly to your door too!

If your spouse, significant other or children need some help, let their fingers do the walking with their mouse and show them the list!

Have fun and let us know what you find that is unique!

1. **For Everyone** – gifts suitable for all
2. **Men** – husbands, boyfriends, fathers, brothers, etc
3. **Women** - wives, girlfriends, mothers, sisters, etc
4. **Toys** for Kids and kids-at-heart
5. **Miscellaneous** – other helpful links
6. **Amazon** Top 100 lists of their best selling CDs, Books, DVDs and Videos
7. We have also included some links for **toy testing** in the US and Canada. Check these sites to ensure your kids are getting good and safe toys.

Lots of these sites will have seasonal sales so search throughout!

With some links you may need to hit enter twice if an error message appears.

If there is no joyous way to give a festive gift, give love away.
--Unknown

For everyone

Company Name	Brief Description	Website (click here)	Product Description
1.800-Florals	Flowers	1-800-FLORALS	Flowers
800 wine.com	Wine	800WINE.com	Wine, gift baskets, sake, crystal
Altrec.com Outdoors	Outdoor activities	altrec.com	All your outdoor camping, hiking, cycling, climbing, paddle, ski, snowboard, snowshoe, running gear
Allpets.com	Pet supplies	All Pets.com	Discount pet supplies for dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, small pets
Aluria Software	Software	Aluria	Software including a Kidsafe browser
Amazon.com	Books	Amazon.com all	Books, videos, DVDs
			Long and short

Americanapparel.net	T-shirts	American Apparel	sleeve T-shirts, tanks, tops and head gear for men, women and kids
Art.com	Art works	Art.com	Carry works form over 7,000 artists and includes poster art
Art from Montana.com	Western art and wildlife prints	Art From Montana	Western art and wildlife prints
Ballystore.com	Sports equipment	Bally Fitness	Equipment from every sport imaginable
BackPacker	magazine	Backpacker magazine	A top magazine covering all aspects of backpacking
Barnes & Noble.com	Books	Barnes and Noble	Books, DVDs, video and music
Batteries.com	All types of batteries	Batteries.com	Invaluable at Christmas – all types of batteries
Bicycling	Magazine	Bicycling magazine	A top magazine covering all aspects of the sport of bicycling

Blackwelders	Furniture	BlackWelders	Beautiful furniture for bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, home offices
Bluefly	Designer clothing	Blue Fly Fashions	Designer brands at discounted prices!
BMG Music Service	CDs	BMG Music	All Cds for all types of music
Buy.com	Electronics	Buy.com	Computers, software, electronics, cellular, music, games, sports equipment, DVDs
Cheese and Wine Unlimited	Cheese and wine baskets	Cheese & Wine Unlimited	Cheese and wine baskets for all occasions
Columbia House Videos	Videos	Columbia House Video Club	Videos

Consumer Direct Warehouse	Home electronics	Consumer Direct warehouse	Videos, home audio, home speakers, cables & connections, TVs, DVD players, video recorders, cordless phones, car audio, surge protectors remotes.
Dell computers	Computer equipment	DELL computers	Computer equipment
DVD Planet	Carries both DVDs and DTS	DVD Planet	Carries both DVDs and DTS
Family Christian Stores	Religious items	Family Christian Stores	Books, music, bibles, software, gifts, apparel, cards, church items, video
Fujitsu PC Corporation	Computer laptops	Fujitsu	Computer equipment specializing in laptops
The Fuller Brush Company	Household cleaning supplies	Fuller Brush Company	Brushes, brooms, mops, cleansers

Genericgifts.com	Unique gifts	Generic Gifts.com	Wide range of unique gifts, especially for Christmas
Giftbaskets.com	Gift baskets	GiftBaskets.Com	Gift baskets created for any occasion
GiagAGolf.com	Golfing equipment	GigaGolf Gifts for Golfers	Golfing equipment and accessories for beginners to pros
Hickory farms	Food items	Hickory Farms	Beef & cheese, fresh fruit, dessert, sweets & nits, - all in packages that are easy to ship
The Golf Warehouse	Golfing equipment	The Golf Warehouse	Wide selection of golf products at low prices
Integrity Music	Music supplies	Integrity Music	Christian music
Kmart	Department store	Kmart	Apparel, baby & toddler, health & beauty, electronics, entertainment, jewelry, toys and sports

LobsterAnywhere.com	Live Maine lobster	Lobster Anywhere.com	Live Maine lobster shipped within 24 hours to continental US. Shellfish, steaks and chowder also available
Luggage Online	Brand name luggage	Luggage Online	Brand name luggage, backpacks, briefcases, travel and business
Musiciansfriend.com	Musical equipment	Musicians Friend	Guitars, bass, keyboards, drums, DJ and recording equipment
Music 123	Musical equipment	Music123.com	Guitars, amps, keyboards, lighting, woodwinds, brass, strings and sheet music
Ofoto	Digital photos	Ofoto.com	Have digital photos to finish? Visit Ofoto - A Kodak company
Organic Gardening	Magazine	Organic Gardening magazine	A top magazine on the topic of Organic

			Gardening
Outdoor SuperStore	Outdoorsmen goods	Outdoor SuperStore.Com	Archery, hunting, fishing, marine, camping, shooting,
ParagonGifts.com	Unique giftware	Paragon Gifts	A unique and exciting assortments of special occasion, collectible and seasonal giftware.
PetCareRx	Prescription and pet supplies	PetCareRx.com	Prescription and non-prescription drugs as well as other pet supplies
1-800-Flowers	Popcorn gift packages	The Popcorn Factory.com	Various gift packages using popcorn as the main themes
Runners world	Magazine	Runners World	A top magazine covering all aspects of running
Sheetmusicplus.com	Sheet Music	sheetmusicplus.com	Sheet music of all kinds

Shoes.com	Shoes.	Shoes.Com	Shoes for men, women, kids & athletics. Includes accessories.
Swiz Army	Swiss Army knives, etc.	SwizArmy.com	Swiss Army knives, watches, multi-tools, pouches, etc
Rand McNally	Maps	Rand McNally	Maps, books, GPS, software, luggage
Red Fox Java	Coffee related gourmet gift baskets	Red Fox Java	Gourmet gift baskets, container gardens, coffee related items, and unique toys & gifts
Reebok	Running shoes	Reebok Store	Women's, men's, kids shoes and accessories
Scuba Diving	Magazine	Scuba Diving magazine	A top magazine covering all aspects of Scuba Diving
SHECOOLHECOOL.COM	Body Jewelry	SheCoolHeCool	Body Jewelry and temporary tattoos

Shop PGA Tour	PGA golf supplies	Shop PGA	Golf equipment, shoes, accessories, merchandise
TUMI	Luggage	TUMI Luggage	Luggage for home, travel, business. Also handbags & accessories
TV Land	Classic TV gear	TV Land	Classic TV gear from shows like The Brady Bunch, Three Stooges, I Dream of Jeannie
Uncommon goods	Occasionals	UncommonGoods	Nothing from the norm. Includes accents, bed & bath, dining, his & hers, occasionals, lighting and collectibles.
Newsbuck.com,	Newspaper	USA Times newspaper	Sign up for new newspaper being launched January 1, 2004

USOutdoor	Outdoor gear	US Outdoor Store	Clothing, snow sports, footwear, water sports, skate shop, climbing, camping, sleeping bags, tents, packs and bags, watches, eyewear and car racks
Watch Zone	Watches	Watch Zone	Watches from every manufacturer
Wolf Camera	Cameras	Wolf Camera	Digital cameras, 35 MM, Polaroid, underwater, camcorders
Woodwind & Brasswind	Musical instruments	Woodwind & Brasswind	Largest supplier of instruments for bands as well as a large assortment of other musical instruments
Your Active pet	Pet adventure gear	YourActivePet.com	Adventure Gear for your dog including backpacks, boots, bowls, coats, collars, etc



Men

Company Name	Brief Description	Website (click here)	Product Description
1Stop Auto	Car purchase	1 Stop Auto	New car buying Service
Autobarn.com	Auto parts	Auto Barn	Everything you need in Auto parts
BoatersWorld.com	Fishing gear	Boaters World	Electronics, fishing gear, anchoring/docking, binoculars, boat covers, gps, engines, pumps - the list goes on!
Bike Bandit.com	Motor bike gear	Bike Bandit.com	Everything you need for your motor bike – OEM parts, accessories, apparel & gear, replacement parts
Boys Stuff	Unique toys for big boys	BoysStuff.co.uk	All the toys for big boys – from the UK such as spy cams, etc
Digital Sat	Digital Satellite	Orbit Satellite	Digital Satellite and all the accessories you need.

Eangler	Fishermen gear	www.Eangler.com	The ultimate site for fishermen – tackle, lures, licenses, clothing, electronics, reels, rods, etc, etc.
International Jock	Men’s underwear	International Jock	Jockstraps, hard and soft cups, fashion jocks, compression shorts and thongs.
Men’s Health	Magazine	Mens Health	A top magazine covering all aspects of men’s health & fitness
Mile Post Four	Men’s clothing	MilePost4 mens clothes	Very nice shirts, sweaters, casual pants, dress slacks, shorts, shirts, belts and underwear
Motorcycle Superstore.com	Motorcycle gear	Motorcycle Superstore	Street gear, dirt gear, casual, parts, accessories, ATV, snow
Northern Tool.com	Tools	Northern Tool	Every tool you can imagine – engines, generators, power tools, pressure washers, logging, electrical and hundreds of other

			tools.
Overtons	Water sports	Overtons	The worlds largest water sports dealer – boating, water sports, covers, wakeboards, skis and much more.
Toledo Sword	Swords and Armour	Toledo Sword	Homemade Swords and Armour
VMC Satellite Inc	Satellite	VMC Satellite	VMC Satellite was the only company selected by the Federal Government to install satellite TV in the United States Capitol Complex.

Somehow, not only for Christmas, But all the long year through, The joy that you give to others, Is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing, The poor and lonely and sad, The more of your heart's possessing, Returns to you glad--John Greenleaf Whittier

Women

Company Name	Brief Description	Website (click here)	Product Description
All recipes	Recipes	All Recipes	Feel good about the food you eat. Follow the Nutri-planner program
Alle Fine Jewelry	Jewelry	Alle Fine Jewelry	Gold, diamonds, gemstones, pearls, platinum.
Auntie's Beads	Beads and Jewelry	Aunties Beads	Everything you need for beading and jewelry making (and much more!)
Babies on-line	Baby care	Babies on-line	If you're a new parent, you need to visit this site
Baby universe.com	Baby care	Baby Universe	Everything you need for maternity, baby and toddlers
Beauty.com	Make-up, etc.	Beauty.Com	Make-up, fragrances, skin care, bath & body, hair care, accessories and gifts

Body Jewelry	Jewelry	BodyJewelry	Jewelry for body-piercing
Candle Bay	Candles	Candle Bay	All types of candles available
Club Mom	Child care ideas	Club Mom	The website every mother needs to visit regularly
CollectiblesToday.com	Top collectibles	Collectibles Today	Top collectibles from the Bradford Exchange
Crossing Pointe	Beautiful clothes	CrossingPointe	Beautiful clothes in the finest fabrics at great prices
dELiAs	Women's fashion.	dELiAs.cOm	All the fashions you need in one spot.
Exotic Gardens	Flowers	Exotic Gardens	Worldwide delivery of flowers since 1914
The Franklin Mint	Collectibles	The Franklin Mint	All your collectibles available here

FragranceNet.com	Perfume	FragranceNet.com	The worlds largest Discount Fragrance Store
Just Flowers.com	Flowers	Just Flowers	Same day flower delivery in the US and Canada
Just my Size Clothing Company	Womens clothing	Just My Size	Womens clothing for sizes 14w-40w
Lavender – Love.com	Bath products	lavender-love	Bath bubbles, salts, teas, soap, etc
Limoges Jewelry	Rings, etc	Limoges Jewelry	Rings, pendants, chains, bracelets, watches & accessories and personalized gifts
Love Fifi.com	Lingerie, etc	LoveFifi.com	Lingerie, bras, corsets, clothes and panties
Mondera	Jewelry, etc	Mondera Jewelry	Loose diamonds, engagement rings, earrings,

			necklaces, pins, brooches, birthstones, gold, etc
OneHanesPlace	Bras, etc	OneHanesPlace.com	Bras, panties, Shapers, legwear, etc
Palm Beach Jewelry	Jewelry, etc	Palm Beach Jewelry	Fragrances, rings, chains, bracelets, earrings, pendants, watches and more
Prevention Magazine	Magazine	Prevention magazine	A top magazine covering all aspects of women's health
Strawberrynet	Skin care, etc	Strawberry net cosmetics	Skin care, make-up, women and men's fragrances
SZUL	Jewelry, etc	SZUL	Diamonds, gemstones, bridal

TOYS

Company Name	Brief Description	Website (click here)	Product Description
ABC123 Toys.com	Toys	ABC 123 Toys	Huge selection of toys at discounted prices
Animal Den	Pet supplies	Animal Den	Gift items and merchandise on specific animals, pets, cats, dog breeds and wildlife. Shirts, mouse pads, address labels, mugs, calendars, jewelry, wind chimes and much more.
Blades Board and Skate	Boarding	Blades Board and Skate	Snowboarding, skateboarding, in-line skating, footwear – all you need
Tactics Boardshop	Boarding	Boardtactics.com	Snow, skate, surf, clothing, bags. All cool stuff!

Disney On-line	Disney movies	Disney Movie Club	Your source of all available Disney movies in DVD or VHS
Disney Store	Disney products	DisneyStore.com	Disney products
GameStop.com	Gaming Products	GameStop	Worlds Largest collection of Gaming Products includes Playstation 2, playstation, gamecube, Xbox, gameboy
eToys.com	Toys	eToys	Toys for children aged 0 to 99!!
HobbyTron.com	Hobby & Toys	HobbyTron	The Web's Most Popular Hobby / Educational / Toy Store
Hooked on Phonics	Reading	Hooked on Phonics	Help your child learn to read – the best gift of all!

Interstate Batteries	Batteries	Interstate Batteries	All your battery needs for toys, cameras, cell phones, etc
MagicWorld.co.uk	Magic supplies	Magic World	Your one-stop-shop for quality magic supplies
Rad Scooters	Scooters, etc	Rad Scooters	Gas scooters, electrical scooters, safety equipment, parts, bikes
Red Wagons.com	Toys	Red Wagons	Original Radio Flyer wagons, Alex, Step 2, Peg-Perego, InSTEP, KidKraft
TOYSRUS.com	Toys	Toys-R-Us (@ Amazon.com)	Click on the toys tab at amazon.com and find any toy you want
URBAN scooters.com	Scooters to get you around	Urban Scooters	All types of scooters to get you around

Amazon.com – top lists

[Amazon Top 100 books](#)

[Amazon Top 100 CDs](#)

[Amazon Top 100 Videos](#)

[Amazon Top 100 DVDs](#)

Christmas sites

www.Christmas-depot.com

www.thexmasshop.com

www.achristmasgifts.net

www.christmasplus.com

www.santaland.com

www.wilsonevergreens.net

www.christmaslightsetc.com

www.citylightscollectibles.com

www.christmas-treasures.com

Other

Company Name	Brief Description	Website (click here)	Product Description
Dental Plans.com	Dental Plans	Dental Plan	Need a good dental plan? Visit us now.
Lens Quest	Contact Lenses	Lens Quest	All types and brands of contact lenses and accessories
Personal Financial Freedom Inc	Business opportunity	Financial Freedom	A website dedicated to helping you find the tools you need to start your own internet business

Toy testing

Canada

www.toy-testing.org

The Canadian Toy Testing Council (CTTC) is a non-profit, voluntary, registered charitable organization, working for parents since 1952. Our job is to test toys and to help you make good toy purchases! The Council's year-round toy testing program is central to all of our activities. Every year, hundreds of toys are selected as representative of those being offered on the market. These toys are then tested by Canadian children in everyday settings, to assess design, function, durability and play value. The Council rates each toy, awarding Three Stars, Two Stars, One Star, Novelty or Not Recommended. You can find the ratings and a review of each toy tested in editions of the Toy Report, published by the CTTC.

We invite you to find out more about the Canadian Toy Testing Council and our work by visiting this site's different areas.

United States

www.toy-tma.com (Toy Industry Association)

Together with the U.S. government, TIA has led the world in the development of toy safety standards, including the creation in 1971 of a comprehensive voluntary safety standard for toys, which is now known as [ASTM F963](#).

STORIES AND BOOKS

Here is the classic Christmas story by Clement Moore in its original form.

The Night Before Christmas

**Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the
house**

**Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.**

**The children were nestled all snug in their bed,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads,
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap...**


**When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.**

**Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,**

**But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.**

**More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:**

**"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!**



Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes -- how they twinkled -- his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his teams gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

Clement C. Moore



Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

--Norman Vincent Peale



Another Classic!

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

From the Editorial Page of The New York Sun, written by Francis P. Church, September 21, 1897.

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor--I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would

that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world, which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, "God Bless Us, Every One!"

--Charles Dickens

Children's books

1. [How the Grinch Stole Christmas](#)
by Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss captures the spirit of Christmas with his own unique charm. Makes a wonderful gift for the "Cindy-Lou Who" in your life.

2. [The Night Before Christmas](#)
by Clement Moore, Jan Brett (illustrator)

A beautiful version of one of the most popular Christmas stories, lavishly illustrated by Jan Brett.

3. [A Small Miracle](#)
by Peter Collington

The whole family will enjoy this heart warming and mystical tale.

4. [Lyle at Christmas](#)
by Bernard Waber

He's lovable, wacky, lives in NY City, and he's a crocodile.

5. [The Polar Express](#)
by Chris Van Allsburg

Simply a beautiful dreamlike book.

6. [Madeline's Christmas](#)
by Ludwig Bemelmans

The irrepressible Madeline saves the day.

7. [Father Christmas](#)
by Raymond Briggs

This humorous book depicts Santa as you've never seen him before. Santa acts like a grumpy sailor as he begrudgingly conducts his rounds. This is British humor at its best (not recommended for children under 6).

8. [Santa Cows](#)
by Cooper Edens, Daniel Lane (Illustrator)

Laughter wins out over tradition in this whimsical version of "A Visit From St. Nicholas."



9. [Wolf Christmas](#)

by Daniel Manus Pinkwater, Jill Pinkwater (Illustrator)

You'll be part of the pack for this wolf's eye view of Christmas. A must for kids who like animals.

10. [Santa Mouse and the Ratdeer](#)

by Thacher Hurd

Adorable illustrations accompanied by a cute and goofy story line will endear this new book to your kids. Pull up a chair by the fire, make some hot chocolate, plop the kids on your lap and read it together. I'm sure it will do for your spirits, what it did for Santa Mouse's.

Christmas--that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance--a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.

--Augusta E. Rundel



MOVIES

Here is a list of some of the Classic Xmas movies we all love. Some are from an earlier generation while others take a new look at the Xmas story.

1. A Christmas Carol (50th Anniversary Edition) (1951)
[VHS](#) [DVD](#)
2. A Christmas Carol (1984)
[VHS](#) [DVD](#)
3. A Christmas Story (1983)
[VHS](#) [DVD](#)
4. A Flintstones Christmas Carol (1994)
[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable
5. A Garfield Christmas (1991)
[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable
6. Alvin & the Chipmunks: A Chipmunk Christmas (1981)
[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable
7. A Muppet Family Christmas (1987)
[VHS](#) [DVD](#)
8. A Walt Disney Christmas (1982)
[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable
9. Barney's Night Before Christmas (1999)
[VHS](#) [DVD](#)
10. Beauty and the Beast - The Enchanted Christmas (Special Edition) (1997)
[VHS](#) [DVD](#)



11. Bob the Builder - Bob's White Christmas (2001)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

12. Casper's Haunted Christmas (2000)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

13. Dora the Explorer - Christmas (2002)

[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable

14. Elmo Saves Christmas (1996)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

15. Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas (1977)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

16. A Tuna Christmas (1994)

[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable

17. It's Christmas Time Again, Charlie Brown (1992)

[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable

18. Mickey's Christmas Carol (1983)

[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable

19. Miracle on 34th Street (1994)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

20. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

21. Pink Panther: A Pink Christmas (1989)

[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable

22. SpongeBob Squarepants - Christmas (1999)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

23. The Grinch (2000)

[VHS](#) [DVD](#)

24. The Jetsons Christmas Carol (1985)

[VHS](#) DVD - unavailable





25. The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

[VHS](#)

[DVD](#)

26. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

[VHS](#)

[DVD](#)

27. The Wiggles - Wiggly, Wiggly Christmas (2002)

[VHS](#)

[DVD](#)

28. VeggieTales - The Star of Christmas (2002)

[VHS](#)

[DVD](#)

29. White Christmas (1954)

[VHS](#)

[DVD](#)

30. Santa Clause (1994)

[VHS](#)

[DVD](#)

There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions.

--Bill McKibben, Author, Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case For a More Joyful Christmas



WALLPAPER, ICONS AND MORE FUN

Okay – here is a fun page! This page includes all the links you need to find the perfect background, cursor or holiday graphics. Enjoy!!

christmas-software.com

Has free software.

www.christmas-graphics.com

Large selection of graphics free from copyright issues.

holidaycursors.cometsystems.com - Holiday Cursors for U!

Welcome to Holiday Cursors!

Celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa on your desktop. The Comet Cursor lets you change your mouse pointer from that boring black and white arrow into a cool Holiday cursor. It's **fast**, it's **free** and **no registration** is required! Change your cursor into Santa Claus, Rudolph, a Menorah, Kinarah, Christmas Tree, Snowman, Snowflake, or thousands of other animated and static images.

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch

A site with a small section of Christmas clip art.

www.YuleLoveit.com

Has links to many other sites with Christmas and holiday season graphics.



Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.

--George Mathew Adams





DISCUSSION GROUPS

If you just cannot get enough of Christmas, please check out these discussion groups where you can talk about Christmas all year round!

christmasforall.proboards21.com

groups.msn.com/ChristmasLuversHome/_whatsnew.msnw

groups.msn.com/ChristmasLuversHome/postboards.msnw

www.mymerrychristmas.com

The merry family gatherings-- The old, the very young; The strangely lovely way they Harmonize in carols sung. For Christmas is tradition time-- Traditions that recall The precious memories down the years, The sameness of them all.

--Helen Lowrie Marshall



CHRISTMAS RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Christianity

The basis of Christmas for Christians is the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Below is the scripture from the bible, which describes the birth of Christ.

MATTHEW 1:18 – 2:12 KING JAMES VERSION

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

²⁵ And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2

¹ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.

³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Judea: for out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Another version from the book of Luke 2 1 – 20 King James Version

The Birth of Jesus

¹ And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.


⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

- 
- ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
- ¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
- ¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger
- ¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
- ¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things, which were told them by the shepherds.
- ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
- ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Thanks to biblegateway.com for the above passages

Children's version

Go to [The Christmas Story](#) for an excellent version of the birth of Christ for children

Hanukkah (Chanukah)

The Story of Hanukkah

Over 2,000 years ago the Jewish people fought against an enemy who would not allow them to practice their religious traditions. Their enemy destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, which contained many holy objects including a sacred lamp called the menorah. One small band of people, called the Maccabees, was

led by a brave man named Judah. He led them in a fight against their enemies. Even though they were outnumbered the Jewish people were brave and won the battle!

When Judah returned to the Temple in Jerusalem the first thing he did was restore the sacred lamp. But there was almost no oil left -- only enough for one day. The lamp was filled with this oil and lit. Instead of lasting only one day, it burned brighter, and brighter, lasting eight days -- a miracle!

How Hanukkah is Celebrated Today

Hanukkah (also Chanukah) is the Jewish Festival of Lights. The word Hanukkah means rededication. Every year the celebration honors the hard-fought victory of those trying to keep their faith despite a powerful enemy. It is an eight-day holiday that will be celebrated this year starting at sundown on November 29th, 2002. The first night usually includes a big family dinner with foods such as potato latkes, beef brisket, and jelly doughnuts.

After dinner the family gathers to light the menorah candles -- a new one each night until all 8 are lit. Blessings and songs are part of the ceremony. Children then get to open gifts from family and friends. They play games with toys such as the traditional dreidel and chocolate coins, called gelt.

Thanks to www.hanukat.com for their contribution to the story of Hanukkah

Now it's time for a little quiz!

Can you guess where some of the traditions for Hanukkah today came from?

- a. The lamp
- b. The Olive Oil
- c. Persecution from religious practice
- d. The Maccabees

Check out the next page for the answers!

THE STORY OF HANUKKAH

The lamp was only supposed to stay lit for one night. The 8 days that the oil lamp burned was the "miracle" of long ago.



The precious olive oil for the lamps was almost completely destroyed. It was a miracle that one flask was found that should have provided one day's light.

While under the rule of their enemy the Jewish children were not allowed to study the *Torah*. They continued their studies anyway and when the soldiers saw them, they pretended to be playing a children's game with the dreidel.



HANUKKAH TODAY

The menorah is a nine-stemmed candle. One candle, called the shamus, is raised higher than the others. It is used to light the remaining candles. One candle is lit the first night, 2 the second, 3 the third, etc., until all are lit on the eighth night.

Wonderful foods are an integral part of the Jewish holidays. Potato latkes, and jelly donuts, both fried in oil, are popular Hanukkah dishes.

A dreidel is a top with four square sides that is spun in a children's game. On each side of the dreidel is a character. The characters are read as "a great miracle happened there" if played in America and "a great miracle happened here" if played in Israel. Often the



game is played with chocolate Hanukkah gelt -- gold coins. [Make a dreidel and play the game.](#)

The Maccabees were determined to retain their beliefs and culture. After their victory they returned to the Temple of Jerusalem and rededicated it.

The word Hanukkah means rededication. The holiday symbolizes a yearly rededication to the Jewish faith and its traditions.

Blessed is the season, which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

--Hamilton Wright Mabi

Kwanzaa

A

The information below is courtesy of www.tike.com and describes an African American celebration held at Christmas time.

"Kwanzaa Yenu Iwe Na Heri!"

is a festive, non-religious celebration, founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, during which African Americans celebrate and reflect upon their rich heritage. It begins December 26 and lasts for seven days. Each day focuses on one of seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.



DEFINITION OF KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors and culture.

Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili, has gained tremendous acceptance. Since its founding in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide, as reported by the New York Times. When establishing Kwanzaa in 1966, Dr. Karenga included an additional "a" to the end of the spelling to reflect the difference between the African American celebration (kwanzaa) and the Motherland spelling (kwanza).

Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding principles), one for each day of the observance, and is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

- Umoja (**OO-MO-JAH**) Unity stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community, which is reflected in the African saying, "I am We," or "I am because We are."
- Kujichagulia (**KOO-GEE-CHA-GOO-LEE-YAH**) Self-Determination requires that we define our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and community.
- Ujima (**OO-GEE-MAH**) Collective Work and Responsibility reminds us of our obligation to the past, present and future, and that we have a role to play in the community, society, and world.
- Ujamaa (**OO-JAH-MAH**) Cooperative economics emphasizes our collective economic strength and encourages us to meet common needs through mutual support.
- Nia (**NEE-YAH**) Purpose encourages us to look within ourselves and to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community.

- Kuumba (**KOO-OOM-BAH**) Creativity makes use of our creative energies to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community.
- Imani (**EE-MAH-NEE**) Faith focuses on honoring the best of our traditions, draws upon the best in ourselves, and helps us strive for a higher level of life for humankind, by affirming our self-worth and confidence in our ability to succeed and triumph in righteous struggle.

CELEBRATING KWANZAA

As it is always better to get an early start, I suggest that you begin the first week in December by making a check list for the following items: A **Kinara** (candle holder); **Mkeka** (placemat preferably made of straw); **Mazao** (crops, i.e., fruits and vegetables); Vibunzi/Muhindi (ears of corn to reflect the number of children in the household); **Kikombe cha umoja** (communal unity cup); **Mishumaa saba** (seven candles, one black, three red, and three green); and **Zawadi** (gifts that are enriching).

It is important that the **Kinara** not be confused with the menorah.* The Kinara holds seven candles to reflect the seven principles which are the foundation of Kwanzaa. If you don't have a Kinara and don't know where to get one, it is suggested that you use "kuumba" (creativity) and make one. A 2x4 or a piece of driftwood will do just fine, and screw-in candle holders can be purchased in most hardware stores. The **Mkeka** (place mat) shouldn't present a problem. While straw is suggested because it is traditional, cloth makes an adequate substitute. If cloth is used, one with an African print is preferred.

The other symbols are easy to come by and warrant no further discussion other than to caution against placing the **Mazao** (crops) in a cornucopia, which is Western. A plain straw basket or a bowl will do just fine. One last note, even households without any children should place an ear of corn on the place mat to symbolize the African concept of social parenthood. All seven symbols are creatively placed on top of the place mat, i.e., the symbols should be attractively arranged as they form the Kwanzaa centerpiece.

DECORATING THE HOME

The Kinara along with the other symbols of Kwanzaa should dominate the room, which should be given an African motif. This is easily achieved and shouldn't result in too much expense. The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green. This should be kept in mind when decorating the home. Black, red and green streamers, balloons, cloth, flowers, and African prints can be hung tastefully around the room. Original art and sculpture may be displayed as well.

GIFTS

Kuumba (creativity) is greatly encouraged. Not only is Kuumba one of the seven principles, it also brings a sense of personal satisfaction and puts one squarely into the spirit of Kwanzaa. Therefore, those symbols that can be made, should be made. The giving of gifts during Kwanzaa should be affordable and of an educational or artistic nature. Gifts are usually exchanged between parents and children and traditionally given on January 1st, the last day of Kwanzaa. However, gift giving during Kwanzaa may occur at any time.

THE KWANZAA FEAST OR KARAMU

The Kwanzaa Karumu is traditionally held on December 31st (participants celebrating New Year's Eve, should plan their Karamu early in the evening). It is a very special event as it is the one Kwanzaa event that brings us closer to our African roots. The Karamu is a communal and cooperative effort. Ceremonies and cultural expressions are highly encouraged. It is important to decorate the place where the Karamu will be held, (e.g., home, community center, church) in an African motif that utilizes black, red, and green color scheme.

A large Kwanzaa setting should dominate the room where the karamu will take place. A large Mkeka should be placed in the center of the floor where the food should be placed creatively and made accessible to all for self-service. Prior to, and during the feast, an informative and entertaining program should be presented. Traditionally, the program involved welcoming, remembering, reassessment, recommitment and rejoicing, concluded by a farewell statement and a call for greater unity.

Tamshi la Tambiko (Libation Statement)

It is tradition to pour libation in remembrance of the ancestors on all special occasions.

Kwanzaa, is such an occasion, as it provides us an opportunity to reflect on our African past and American present. Water is suggested as it holds the essence of life and should be placed in a communal cup and poured in the direction of the four winds; north, south, east, and west.

It should then be passed among family members and guests who may either sip from the cup or make a sipping gesture.

LIBATION STATEMENT

For The Motherland cradle of civilization.

For the ancestors and their indomitable spirit

For the elders from whom we can learn much.

For our youth who represent the promise for tomorrow.

For our people the original people.

For our struggle and in remembrance of those who have struggled on our behalf.

For Umoja the principle of unity which should guide us in all that we do.

For the creator who provides all things great and small.

APPENDIX A - CHRISTMAS SONGS

Deck The Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

'Tis the season to be jolly

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Don we now our gay apparel

Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.

Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

See the blazing Yule before us.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Strike the harp and join the chorus.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Follow me in merry measure.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

While I tell of Yule-tide treasure.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Fast away the old year passes.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Hail the new year, lads and lasses

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Sing we joyous, all together.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

heedless of the wind and weather.


Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
On a one-horse open sleigh,
Over the fields we go,
Laughing all the way;
Bells on bob-tail ring,
making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way!
O what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

A day or two ago,
I thought I'd take a ride,
And soon Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side;
The horse was lean and lank;
Misfortune seemed his lot;
He got into a drifted bank,
And we, we got upsot.
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way!
What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago,
the story I must tell
I went out on the snow
And on my back I fell;
A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there




I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away.
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way!
What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young,
Take the girls tonight
And sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bob-tailed bay
two-forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! you'll take the lead.
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way!
What fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Jolly old Saint Nicholas,
lean your ear this way!
Don't you tell a single soul
what I'm going to say:
Christmas Eve is coming soon;
now, you dear old man
Whisper what you'll bring to me;
tell me if you can.

When the clock is striking twelve,
when I'm fast asleep
Down the chimney, broad and black,
with your pack you'll creep
All the stockings you will find



hanging in a row
Mine will be the shortest one,
you'll be sure to know

Bobby wants a pair of skates,
Suzy wants a sled
Nellie wants a picture book,
yellow, blue, and red
Now I think I'll leave to you
what to give the rest
Choose for me, dear Santa Claus;
you will know the best.

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are
your branches!
Your boughs are green
in summer's clime
And through the snows
of wintertime.
O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are
your branches!

O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me
When oft at
joyous Christmas-time
Your form inspires
my song and rhyme.
O Christmas Tree,



O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me

O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can
teach a lesson
That constant faith
and hope sublime
Lend strength and
comfort through all time.
O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can
teach a lesson


The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the third day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the fourth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:




Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the fifth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the sixth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the seventh day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the eighth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Eight maids a milking,
Seven swans a swimming,




Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the ninth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a milking,
Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the tenth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Ten lords a leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a milking,
Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the eleventh day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a leaping,




Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a milking,
Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

On the twelfth day of Christmas
my true love sent to me:
Twelve drummers drumming,
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a milking,
Seven swans a swimming,
Six geese a laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French Hens,
Two turtle doves
And a Partridge in a pear tree.

Up On the Housetop


Up on the housetop
reindeer pause,
Out jumps good old Santa Claus.
Down thru' the chimney
with lots of toys,
All for the little ones,
Christmas joys.
Ho, ho, ho!



Who wouldn't go!
Ho, ho, ho!
Who wouldn't go!
Up on the housetop,
click, click, click,
Down thru' the chimney
with good Saint Nick.

First comes the stocking
of little Nell,
Oh, dear Santa
fill it well;
Give her a dolly
that laughs and cries
One that will open
and shut her eyes.
Ho, ho, ho!
Who wouldn't go!
Ho, ho, ho!
Who wouldn't go!
Up on the housetop,
click, click, click,
Down thru' the chimney
with good Saint Nick.

Next comes the stocking
of little Will,
Oh just see
what a glorious fill
Here is a hammer
and lots of tacks,
Also a ball
and a whip that cracks.
Ho, ho, ho!
Who wouldn't go!
Ho, ho, ho!




Who wouldn't go!
Up on the housetop,
click, click, click,
Down thru' the chimney
with good Saint Nick.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy New Year.
Glad tidings we bring
To you and your kin;
Glad tidings for Christmas
And a happy New Year!

We want some figgy pudding
We want some figgy pudding
We want some figgy pudding
Please bring it right here!
Glad tidings we bring
To you and your kin;
Glad tidings for Christmas
And a happy New Year!

We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
We won't go until we get some
So bring it out here!
Glad tidings we bring
To you and your kin;
Glad tidings for Christmas
And a happy New Year!



We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a happy New Year.
Glad tidings we bring
To you and your kin;
Glad tidings for Christmas
And a happy New Year!


O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb:
Very God,
Begotten, not created; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the highest; *Refrain*

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*



Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not live thee,
Loving us so dearly? *Refrain*


Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the heavenly strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;




And man, at war with man, hears not
The tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

O ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;



The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,



Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

Come, Desire of nations come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the Woman's conquering Seed,
Bruise in us the Serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface:
Stamp Thine image in its place;
Second Adam, from above,
Reinstate us in thy love. *Refrain*


The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*



Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought. *Refrain*

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior, is born!
Christ the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

What Child Is This?


What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
*Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The Cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
the King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
*Raise, raise the song on high,
The Virgin sing her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,



Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!*


From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name. *Refrain*

"Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's power and might." *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
Doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply



Echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?

Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see?

What glad tiding did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee

Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid

Whom the angels praise above;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,

While we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Joy To The World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:


let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:

let men their songs employ,



while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

Angels From The Realms Of Glory


Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain

Come and worship,
Come and worship
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light:
(Refrain)

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar:
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
(Refrain)



Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:
(Refrain)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?
For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne


Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out
on the feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about,
deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gathering winter fuel.

Hither, page, and stand by me.
If thou know it telling:
yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence
by Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.
Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine
when we bear them thither.
Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together
through the rude wind's wild lament
and the bitter weather.

Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger.
Fails my heart, I know not how.
I can go no longer.
Mark my footsteps my good page,
tread thou in them boldly:



Thou shalt find the winter's rage
freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his master's step he trod,
where the snow lay dented.
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor
shall yourselves find blessing.

I Saw Three Ships


I saw three ships come sailing in
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.
I saw three ships come sailing in
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three
on Christmas Day in the morning?

The Virgin Mary and Christ were there
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.
The virgin Mary and Christ were there
on Christmas Day in the morning.

O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.



Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
Now come the wise men from out of the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friends.
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,

Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind.

--Mary Ellen Chase



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