



The Whole World Celebrates Christmas! Right?
GALLERY POLL QUESTIONS

NAME _____ DATE _____

1. Originally, St. Nicholas was a real person.



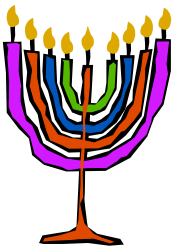
2. An appropriate greeting, for this time of the year, would be "Happy Holidays".

3. Candles are important to all December holiday celebration.



4. The Christmas celebration has traditions unique only to the United States.

5. Christmas is the only holiday celebrated in December.



6. Many celebrations, in December, go back to pagan festivals.

The Whole World Celebrates Christmas! Right?

Teacher's GALLERY POLL QUESTIONS

NAME ____Answer Sheet____ DATE _____

1. Originally, St. Nicholas was a real person. TRUE
- Christian Bishop of the City of Myra (Asian Minor), liked children. He was very generous and gave gifts to Children.
2. An appropriate greeting, for this time of the year, would be "Happy Holidays". TRUE
- Especially to a stranger, "Happy Holidays" is a very appropriate greeting, because of the many other celebrations at this time of year. Those who do not celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ may not want to hear Merry Christmas.
3. Candles are important to all December holiday celebration. TRUE

Kwanzaa Candle holders, placed in middle of a straw mat, 7 candles -
Meaning 7 Principles,

Candleholders symbolizes the original the stalk man

Christmas Feast of light meaning faith & intelligence

Star, Martin Luther placed lights on the tree Irish custom to welcome guests with white light.

Luminaries - is the passage of light in the city.

Hanukkah Celebration of the Festival of Lights 8 candles for 8 days.

Ramadan starts with the sighting of the new moon which is new light.

4. The Christmas celebration has traditions unique only to the United States. FALSE

Our traditions and symbols are not unique or original to the United States, They come from around the world. The following is a list of many of the fun traditions we know today, little known facts about them and where they originate from:
St. Nicholas became Santa Claus.

Holland - Dec. 6th - Children receive special gifts from the bearded saint who rides a white horse, carrying a basket of gifts for good children and birch rods for naughty children, to be placed in the children's shoes left outside by the front door.

1809 - Washington Irving wrote about the Jolly Chubby fellow, riding through the air in a sleigh, drawn by reindeer.

December 1822 - Dr. Clement C. Moore wrote the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" and talked about the "sleigh full of

toys." which showed the generosity of the saint, "The stocking...hung by the chimney with care" were the shoes of the children of Amsterdam and the "sleigh and 8 tiny reindeer" were the white horses. Dr. Moore added the red, fur trimmed coat that Santa wears.

Trees - tradition came from Germany

Brought to the US by an Ohio pastor in 1851

First used in the White House by Calvin Coolidge in 1929

Tinsel on the tree - used to decorate and make tree look like it is covered with spider webs.

"O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum" - Oh Christmas Tree,
Oh Christmas Tree

Part of winter rites in 17th century Germany

Shows joy and good will

Holly and Ivy - Over 150 varieties grow. They bear fruit in winter and make nice decoration

The Mistletoe - Misteltan means different twig

"Give me a Kiss"

Lad gives a kiss to a girl under the mistletoe, then removes a berry. When all berries are gone, NO MORE KISSES

Christmas Rose - The Shepherd girl's gift to the child

Star - Sacred symbol for many

Yule Log - Yule mean "rol" - wheel represents the changing

Seasons

Fire - symbol of home and safety

Christmas Caroling - started to share festival with friends

Christmas Cards - first produced in 1840s in England

Christmas seal - first sold for treatment of tuberculosis sufferers in Denmark

Christmas Stocking replaced Dutch children's shoes

Exchanging of presents started with Boxing Day in England - Dec. 26th, as giving gift to the servants, In Germany it was the

"Christmas Ship - or a ship full of toys. In Holland it was a piggy bank full of money and in Mexico it still is a Pinata (an earthenware jar, animal shaped, filled with toys and candy.

Poinsettia - Beautiful red, green and yellow flower in December

Out door decorations were first seen in 1918 in Denver, Colo.

Candles go back to Roman times and the Jewish Festival of lights

Or the Spanish Luminaries (lanterns) lighting the way

Williamsburg does the Grand Alimentation

Candles in the window is an Irish custom to welcome guests to your home.

White light is the passage of candles through the city.

Charles Dickens is said to have invented an English Christmas, in his Christmas Carol

Feliz Navidad - Spanish speaking meaning Merry Christmas

Towns named Christmas are located in Arizona, Florida, Kentucky

and Mississippi

A Lake named Christmas is located in Minnesota

Towns named North Pole are located in New York, Alaska, and Colorado.

5. Christmas is the only holiday celebrated in December. FALSE (check this year's calendar for exact dates)

-Hanukkah generally starts in late November or early December and lasts 8 days.

-Ramadan starts at the full moon in late November and early December and lasts for a full month, this time is known as Taraweeh Salah.

-Christmas is always celebrated on December 25th, but preparations begin with the 4 Sundays before Christmas day, known as Advent.

-Kwanzaa is celebrated starting on December 26th, and lasts for 7 days.

6. Many celebrations, in December, go back to pagan festivals. TRUE

The Romans honored the God of Agriculture for a good harvest.

The Persians held a Feast revering the sun.

Teutonic Tribes celebrated this time as the time of the rebirth of the sun,

as December 21st is the shortest day of the year, with the longest night. On December 22nd the days start to get longer.

NAME _____

ASSESSMENT for:

The Whole World Celebrates Christmas! Right?

1. State one important fact you learned about America's Christmas traditions.

2. Why do people think it is important to say "Happy Holidays" to someone they do not really know?

3. State one fact that is common to all four December/winter holidays.

Holiday Recipes

Gingerbread

The easiest thing to do is purchase a Betty Crocker or other brand Gingerbread cake and cookie mix and make it according to the directions on the back of the box.

Hot Lemon Sauce (one recipe for each Gingerbread Cake)

½ cup sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ cup cold water
¾ cup boiling water
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons butter



Combine sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Gradually stir in cold water. Gradually stir in boiling water and cook for 3 minutes, or until smooth, clear and thickened slightly. Stir in remaining ingredients. Makes 1 ½ cups.

Wassail (Serve hot or cold)
Any spiced fruit punch will do.