

# How Do We Celebrate Christmas? Answers

1. Where in the world do Christians believe Jesus was born?

**Christians believe that Jesus was born in a stable, in Bethlehem.**

2. Where are the letters for Father Christmas sent to?

**The letters for Father Christmas are usually sent to the North Pole.**

3. Name two things that might be used in a school Nativity play.

**Two from: costumes, props and songs.**

4. How many Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year?

**Around 8 million Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year.**

5. Name two ornaments that may be used to decorate people's homes.

**Two from: reindeer, stars, elves, lights and trees.**

6. What do some vegetarians have as part of their Christmas dinner?

**Some vegetarians have a nut roast at Christmas time.**

7. Why might some people not eat their Christmas meal on 25th December?

**Varied answers. May include people may be working on Christmas Day (e.g. doctors, police, firefighters, nurses etc.), people have their traditional meal on Boxing Day and people not celebrating Christmas.**

8. What is put underneath the royal icing on a Christmas cake?

**Marzipan is put underneath the royal icing on a Christmas cake.**

9. What does the word 'traditional' mean?

**Varied answers. Traditional means something that you repeat, you do each year. It is something people have been doing for a long time.**

10. What traditions do you have in your family at Christmas time?

**Varied answers.**

# Reindeer Answers

1. What do reindeer look like and how big are they compared to caribou?  
**Reindeer vary in colour and size, but are smaller than caribou.**
2. Name three things reindeer eat.  
**Reindeer eat lichens, leaves, grass, mushrooms and fish. (Accept any three)**
3. Name five places in the world you might find wild reindeer.  
**You might find wild reindeer in Norway, Finland, Alaska, Canada and Greenland.**
4. Which real fact about reindeer noses do you think Rudolph's bright nose is linked to?  
**Rudolph's bright nose is linked to the real fact about reindeer having special noses to warm up the cold air they breathe.**
5. How and why do their footpads change in the winter?  
**Their footpads shrink and tighten in the winter to help stop them from slipping.**
6. Write the last three lines of the song about Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer  
**As they shouted out with glee.  
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,  
You'll go down in history!**
7. Explain your favourite reindeer fact and why.  
**Answers will vary.**

# Saint Nicholas Answers

1. Which country would Patara be part of today?

**Patara would be part of Turkey.**

2. Finish this sentence: 'He devoted his life to helping...'

**He devoted his life to helping the poor and needy.**

3. What do you think the word 'honourable' means?

**Honourable means someone who is honest and trustworthy.**

4. Who is Saint Christopher?

**Saint Christopher is a saint who watches over travellers.**

5. What do you think the word 'modest' means?

**Modest means that someone is not boastful.**

6. Give two different names that Saint Nicholas is known by.

**Sinter Klaas in Holland, Saint Nikolaus in Germany and Father Christmas in the U.K.**

7. How many children will be receiving Christmas presents on Christmas Eve?

**Around 90 million children will receive presents on Christmas Eve.**

8. Why did people thank God for their gifts, rather than Saint Nicholas?

**Saint Nicholas wanted his gift-giving to remain secret, so he delivered them at night. People were thankful and so thanked God for the amazing gifts.**

9. How do we know that Saint Nicholas is an important figure?

**He is a saint. He lived around 1,700 years ago and is still celebrated today.**

10. Think about your gifts and talents. What could you be the saint of?

**Varied answers.**

# Answers

1. What do Christians prepare for during Advent?  
**Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.**
2. What does the word 'Advent' mean and what does it come from?  
**The word 'Advent' comes from a very old word 'Adventus' which means the arrival of something or someone important.**
3. Explain two Christian beliefs about Advent.  
**Christians look forward to a time when Jesus will come again. They believe that the Three Kings travelled to meet Jesus on 'Epiphany', the 6th January.**
4. When does Advent start and end?  
**Advent begins on the nearest Sunday to November 30th, and ends at midnight on Christmas Eve.**
5. How many years ago did Advent begin?  
**Advent began over 250 years ago.**
6. What do all five candles in the Advent wreath mean?  
**The four candles around the circle mean the light of God: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. The fifth centre candle means Jesus, light of the world.**
7. Why do you think Christians use an orange for the Christingle?  
**Answers will vary. Should focus on the similar shape it represents.**
8. Explain two things Christians might do to celebrate Advent and how you might like to celebrate.  
**Christians might celebrate Advent by: using an Advent calendar, spending time with friends and family, praying, going to church, singing hymns or Christmas carols, make Advent crowns, Advent wreaths or Christingles. (Accept any two). How they might like to celebrate – answers will vary.**

# Answers

1. What do many people feel about Christmas trees?  
**Many people feel that Christmas trees are an important part of Christmas.**
2. Name two Christmas tree decorations we use now.  
**We use baubles, lights, tinsel, angels, stars and ribbons as decorations now. (Accept any two)**
3. When do people decorate their tree?  
**Many people choose to decorate their tree in December, but some choose an earlier date.**
4. Name two Christmas tree decorations people used a long time ago.  
**People used to have fruit, bread, dough, paper baskets, sewn snowflakes, candles and sweets as decorations. (Accept any two)**
5. Why do some people like real trees and some like fake trees?  
**Some people like real trees because they can have a woodland smell and some people like fake trees because they make less mess.**
6. Where does the famous Trafalgar Square Christmas tree come from?  
**The famous Christmas tree comes from the people of Norway each year.**
7. When did decorating a Christmas tree first begin?  
**People began decorating trees in Germany, in the 1500s.**
8. Why do you think it was dangerous to put candles on a Christmas tree?  
**Answers will vary.**