



# Christmas

## AROUND THE WORLD

Stories of Christmas  
Traditions and Celebrations



***Christmas Around the World: Stories of Christmas Traditions and Celebrations***

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# How to Use

There are ten units in this resource that explore Christmas traditions in ten countries of the world. Each unit is completely self-contained, so you can study them in any order or pick and choose units to study as needed.

Each lesson has short, informative text followed by comprehension questions based on what was read.

The student can read the lesson text (or a parent/teacher can read it aloud) and use the notebooking page that is included for written narration, using the questions as writing prompts. This often works better for students who struggle with reading comprehension questions. Alternatively, you can ask the questions orally if that suits your student's learning style best.

Suggested vocabulary words are bolded. You can have your student look up the definitions and use them to create a notebook. Students can also find suggested definitions for the words in the glossary at the end of the unit.

In addition to reading comprehension questions, each lesson is followed by prompts for additional research and a notebooking page to record what is found. A notebooking page for an essay on the student's favorite Christmas tradition and bonus activities are also included at the end of the unit.

You will find answer keys for all reading comprehension questions at the end of the resource. Answer keys for the additional research are not included as many of these answers will vary based on the sources used for research.



## Introduction:

Christians around the world celebrate Christmas in many different ways, but the one thing all Christians have in common is that we are celebrating the coming of Jesus to the world to save everyone who trusts in Him from their sins. The foods we eat, the clothes we wear, and even the weather might be different for all of us, but in the end, Christmas is about Who we are celebrating!

Something important to remember as we learn about how Christmas is celebrated in different places is that what is common in one part of the country or with one group of people isn't the only way Christmas is celebrated in the entire country. For example, if you live in Pennsylvania in the United States and your great-great-grandmother was from Poland, your family's traditional Christmas dinner might look a little different than someone who lives in Idaho whose great-great-grandmother was from Norway.

## Lesson One: Australia

A fun way to celebrate Christmas in Australia is caroling by candlelight—but it's not the door-to-door caroling you might think of first. Carols by Candlelight is a tradition that goes by many names all over Australia, but it began in 1937 when Norman Banks, a radio announcer for Melbourne's 3KZ, was walking home from work one night in December. He saw an older woman in her house singing Christmas carols with only the radio to keep her company.

That started him thinking about all the people in Melbourne who might be alone with only a radio, so he got to work. Throughout 1938, he planned and made arrangements. He invited everyone who wanted to sing Christmas carols together to meet at Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne. It's doubtful Norman knew the impact and appeal his simple invitation would have. Thousands of people came that first night, and a tradition was born. The festival has grown and spread to a number of cities in Australia, and the funds raised from the events help countless charities. Everyone who attends the events can enjoy the company of thousands of others all singing the same familiar carols.

Since Australia is enjoying summer in December, a Christmas dinner might include barbecued shrimp or cold meats. Dessert could include **Pavlova**, a delicious meringue dessert created in honor of Anna Pavlova, a Russian ballerina. Both Australia and New Zealand claim to be the birthplace of this delightful dessert.



# Lesson One: Australia



## Comprehension Questions

1. Who started the tradition? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What job did he have? \_\_\_\_\_

3. When was the first Christmas by Candlelight celebration? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the name of a dessert named for a Russian ballerina? \_\_\_\_\_

## Written Narration

[illegible]

## Additional Research

Use books or the Internet with a parent's permission, and answer the following questions. Try to answer them with information in addition to what you learned in the lesson.



**What is a popular Christmas song in Australia?**

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**What is a popular Christmas food in Australia?**

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**What is a popular Christmas decoration in Australia?**

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**What is a popular Christmas tradition in Australia?**

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**Draw a picture of something you learned about that represents Christmas in Australia and describe it below.**

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A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for a drawing.