

CHRISTMAS SAYINGS AND SUPERSTITIONS

CHRISTMAS DICTIONARY

„Jingle Bells”

Popular Christmas carol which refers to the Christmassy sound of bells.

A winter wonderland

Typical Christmas scene – lots of snow where everything is white.

Ho ho ho!

Santa Claus's famous expression as he arrives at people's homes to deliver gifts

Rudolph

Who doesn't know him? He's the most famous reindeer in the world who works for Santa Claus. Just look for the red nose.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

What you say to people around Christmas time.

Trim the Christmas tree

To put decorations on a tree

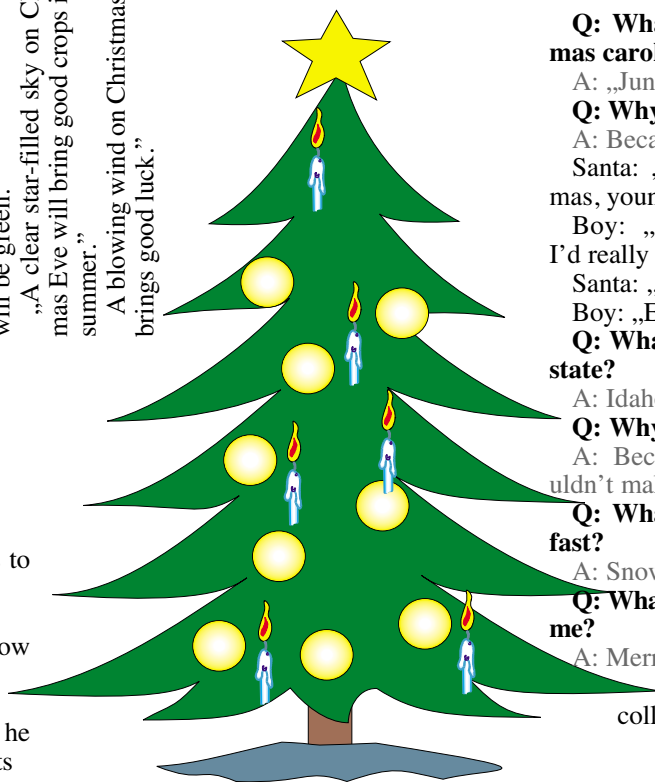
Eggnog

Traditional drink made with egg, rum and spices

Christmas pudding

It is a traditional dessert made with dried fruits and lit on fire before serving.

„To have good health throughout the next year, eat an apple on Christmas Eve.”
 „Wearing new shoes on Christmas Day will bring bad luck.”
 „Snow on Christmas means Easter will be green.”
 „A clear star-filled sky on Christmas Eve will bring good crops in the summer.”
 A blowing wind on Christmas Day brings good luck.”



THE ACTUAL GIFT GIVERS ARE DIFFERENT IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES:

Spain and South America: The Three Kings

Italy: La Befana (a kindly old witch)

England: Father Christmas

France: Pere Noel (Father Christmas)

Russia: In some parts - Baboushka (a grandmotherly figure). Other parts it is Grandfather Frost.

Germany: Christkind (angelic messenger from Jesus). She is a beautiful fair haired girl with a shining crown of candles.

Scandinavia: a variety of Christmas gnomes. One is called Julenisse

Holland: St Nicholas.

Poland: Angel. Baby Christ. Santa Claus.

CHRISTMAS JOKES

Q: What is Tarzan's favorite Christmas carol?

A: „Jungle Bells”.

Q: Why is Santa like a busy gardener?

A: Because all he does is hoe, hoe, hoe.

Santa: „What do you want for Christmas, young man?”

Boy: „Well, there's a certain thing I'd really like.”

Santa: „What thing is that?”

Boy: „Everything!”

Q: What is Santa's favorite American state?

A: Idaho-ho-ho!

Q: Why is Santa Clause so old?

A: Because if he was young he wouldn't make money to buy toys.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes!

Q: What is Santa Clause's wife's name?

A: Merry Christmas!

collected by Agnieszka Jurkiewicz

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

New Zealand

In New Zealand, it is the middle of summer at Christmas time. Instead of a hot drink Santa often gets a cooling beer as a snack on Christmas Eve. Christmas day families often have a picnic or go to the beach for Christmas Dinner. It is more traditional to have a cold ham than a hot turkey.



South Africa

In SOUTH AFRICA, Christmas comes in the middle of the summer. After a large Christmas lunch, families visit the homes of friends to ask for and receive a „Christmas box” which usually has food inside.



Australia

In AUSTRALIA, Santa's sleigh is pulled by eight white kangaroos. Christmas dinner is eaten outdoors and is followed

by a visit to the beach or a game of cricket.

Czech Republic

In the CZECH REPUBLIC, Saint Nicholas is helped by the Infant Jesus to give presents to the children. The Infant Jesus rings a little bell to let the children know he has come. People believe that Christmas Eve has a certain magic and that you can see your future on that night.



Switzerland

In SWITZERLAND, during the holiday season the Star Singers (Sternsingers) dressed as the Three Kings parade through the streets of cities and towns singing Christmas songs.

In Zurich, Santa visits in a special fairytale tram and gives the children a ride through the city, singing songs with them and sharing a basket full of sweets.

