



Achievement Post

Holiday Celebrations Around the World

RAMADAN

By Liulty Kiros

What is Ramadan you ask? Ramadan is the ninth month of Islamic lunar calendar. Everyday during this month, Muslims around the world spend the daylight hours in a complete fast. During the blessed month of Ramadan, Muslims all over the world abstain from food, drinks and other physical needs during daylight hours. As a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on god, and practice self-sacrifice. Ramadan is much more than just eating and drinking.

DIWALI

By Kenny Wright

Diwali is celebrated in October and December. Diwali is also called the “Festival of Lights” and is one of the most important holidays of the year in Hindu culture. Diwali is celebrated in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and many other countries.



Diwali Celebration

Diwali is celebrated by lighting clay lamps and letting the goddess Lakshmi feel welcome. Fireworks are blasted to keep the evil spirits away. Families gather in new clothing and share sweets with each other.

There are five days of Diwali. On the first day, workers begin their financial year and make prayers for success and prosperity. On the second day, lord Krishna marks Naraka the demon as a sign of protection from evil spirits for

all Hindu people. On the third day, people worship Lakshmi for her benevolent spirit. On the fourth day, the god Bali goes to his kingdom and takes his reins. On the last day, Bali invites his sisters and brothers to his house. Likewise, Hindu families come together on the last day of Diwali in fellowship and celebrate the end of the “Festival of Lights” together.

Holiday Celebrations Around the World

What is Kwanzaa?

By Tyra Johnson

Well I'll tell you, Kwanzaa is celebrated by some African Americans in the United States. Kwanzaa is a week long celebration honoring universal African-American heritage and culture, observed from December 26 to January 1 each year. Kwanzaa celebrations include activities like lighting a candle holder with seven candles. Kwanzaa celebrations end with a big feast and gift giving. Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966. The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red, and green. The seven principals of Kwanzaa are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and determination), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).



Kwanzaa Symbols

Christmas in South Korea

By Dimilah Jones

Did you know in South Korea to some people Christmas is all about giving sacrifices and work? Christian people in South Korea exchange gifts among themselves. Santa Claus in this wonderful country passes out chocolates to children that pass by. I bet you did not know that some individuals think of Christmas just as another passing day of life! Could you go one year without celebrating Christmas and not getting any presents? I know that I could not.

In South Korea on Christmas night some restaurants have special deals and some people come out and dance, give flowers, and cook many different traditional Korean dishes. Also, in South Korea toys and clothes are not common presents. The main item people exchange is money. South Korea is really not that different from the United States and many of the foods they eat we eat too, like meatloaf and cakes. Do you see that people in South Korea are not that different from us? People all over the world have different cultures but now you and I know that some South Korean traditions are the same as ours!



Children in South Korea sing in Christmas concert to raise money for the poor

Boxing Day

By Xavier Brown

In Canada there is a holiday called Boxing Day. Boxing Day is also celebrated in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom (UK), and many other commonwealth nations. Boxing day was renamed to Day of Goodwill in 1994. Boxing Day is celebrated on December 26th, the day after Christmas. If December 26th falls on a Sunday, Boxing Day will be celebrated on the following Monday.

Traditionally, Boxing Day was a day for people to give money and gifts to those who were needy and in service positions. In the UK, it was a custom for the wealthy to collect "Christmas boxes" and fill them with money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas. They would give these boxes to their servants as thanks for good service throughout the year. In exchange for ensuring that wealthy landowners' Christmases ran smoothly, their servants were allowed to take the 26th off to visit their families. The employers gave each servant a box containing gifts and bonuses (and sometimes leftover food). The tradition has been dated to the middle ages. However, in modern times Boxing Day has become a big shopping day where stores open very early and offer deep discounts, very similar to the day after Thanksgiving in the United States.

Christmas Tree at Harbor

By DeMetrius Pinkney & Elijah Giles



Christmas at the National Harbor is amazing! The decor includes a 65-foot tall Christmas tree made of synthetic "candy" glass, sparkling icicles lighting up the 20-story atrium, a miniature Potomac Express Train Village and much more. It's a winter wonderland created entirely of 5,000 blocks of ice weighing 2 MILLION POUNDS! hand-sculpted by 40 international artisans and kept at a chilling nine degrees Fahrenheit. The National Harbor will kick off the holiday season by lighting up the night sky with fireworks and a 60ft. Christmas tree will be decorated with 20,000 lights. The evening's finale will be a spectacular light show featuring the lighting of the National Harbor Tree. The light show will continue each night through the holiday season. The light show begins the half hour after sunset and continues every half hour until 10 pm and it's FREE! Regional vendors will offer holiday goods and specialty foods including handmade crafts, handmade scarves and mittens, hot chocolate, roasted chestnuts and hot apple cider. So make a plan over Christmas break to go see the lights at The National Harbor with your family.

Creative Writing

The Raccoons X-mas

this time he wished that everyday could be just like today. Real Christmas is the best day ever!

By Sean Dixon.

Long ago in an enchanted forest raccoons and all creatures could talk . A week before Christmas there was a baby raccoon at home and he was watching a Christmas special. He always wondered if Santa Claus was real. He also wondered how a big man in red could slim himself down enough to fit through a thin chimney?

The little raccoon became sad thinking about the upcoming Christmas holiday because his parents never had enough money to get him gifts. The other raccoons teased him because his parents were not as rich as the other kids parents. He thought it should be x-mas instead of Christmas. "I hate x-mas," he said to himself.

But one year, two-days before Christmas, he saw a wishing star. Of course he wished on that star for his parents to be rich. And to his surprise, the next morning they were! They had jobs, and got up early to head off to work.

That year on Christmas Day the little raccoon got all of the gifts he had ever asked for. He played and played and played all day. All of the other raccoons that had teased him before came over and looked through the windows, they wanted to join in his fun. The little raccoon decided to let the other kids come in and play with all of his new toys even though they had been mean to him. The raccoons had so much fun playing together that day.

Later all the other raccoons went home and the little raccoon sat down for Christmas dinner with his family. Everybody was happy and all together. That's when the little raccoon began to realize that Christmas is not about getting lots of gifts and toys. Christmas is a time to spend time with your family and your friends. It is a time to be nice to other people even if they haven't been nice to you all year long. That night when he went to bed and he saw another wishing star and

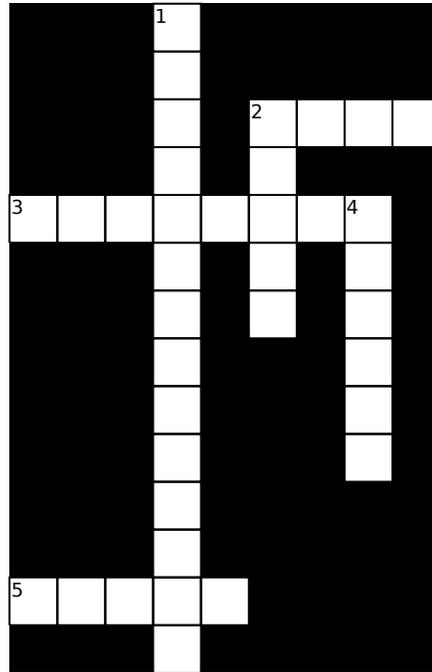


Puzzles & Games

Christmas Puzzle

Xavier Brown

It is all about christmas.



- Across
- 2 I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 - 3 I have a ribbon on top and a surprise on the inside. Maybe Santa will bring me to you this Christmas.
 - 5 I work in Santa's workshop and make lots of toys all year long.

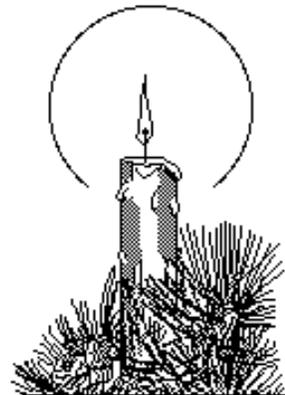
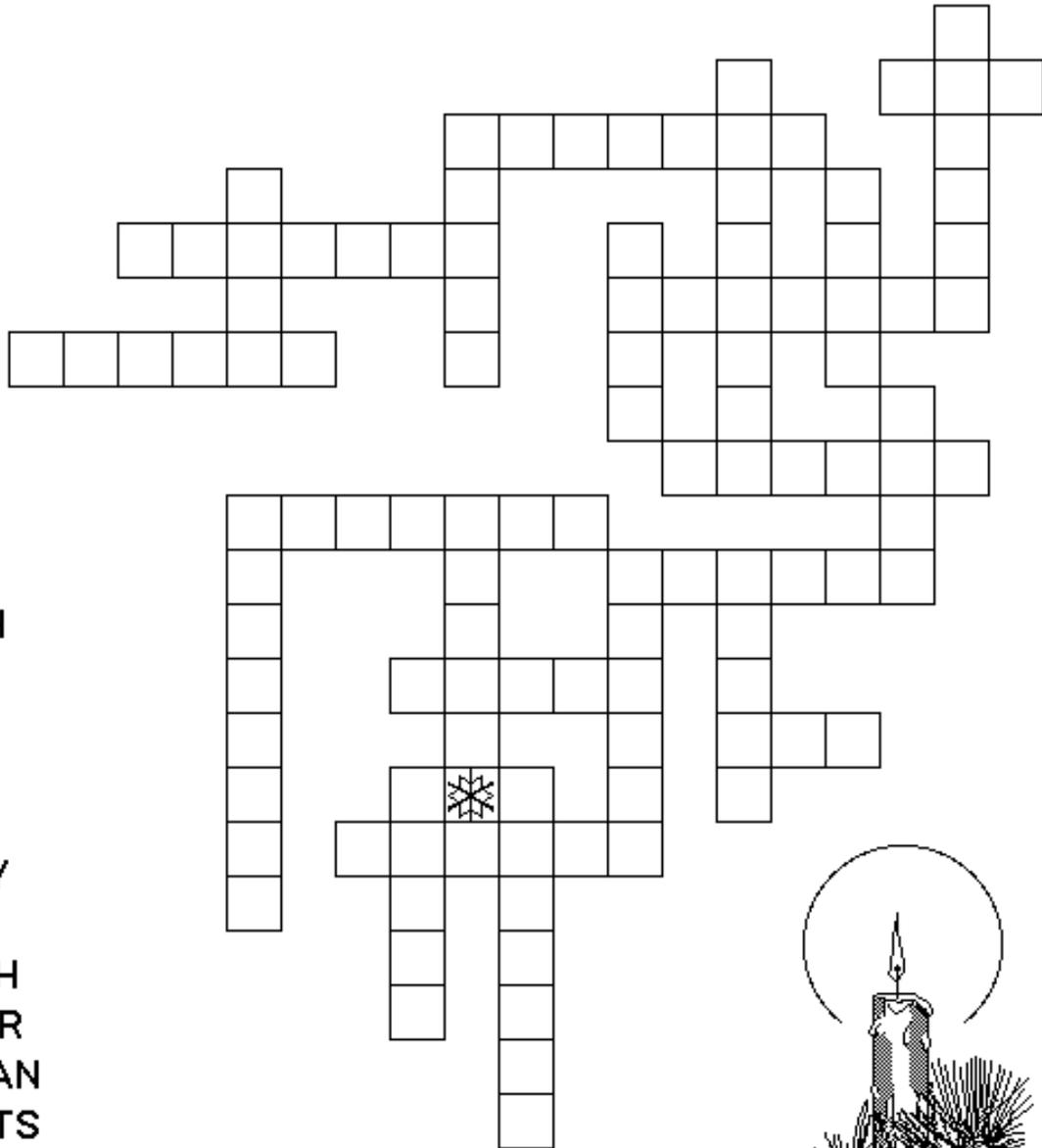
- Down
- 1 You can find me in the forest or in your home covered with ornaments.
 - 2 I have a white beard and a red coat. "Ho-ho-ho Merry Christmas."
 - 4 I'm pulled by reindeer. On Donner, on Dixon, on Dasher, on Blitzen.

Puzzles & Games

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

- ELF
- TOY
- GIFT
- BELL
- TREE
- STAR
- SANTA
- COMET
- CUPID
- VIXEN
- CANDY
- FROSTY
- WREATH
- DASHER
- DONNER
- SLEIGH
- DANCER
- CHIMNEY
- BLITZEN
- RUDOLPH
- PRANCER
- SNOWMAN
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER



Puzzles & Games



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Christmas Word Search

U Z F H R U D O L P H P U H U
 N U V A Y E L L E B A R W N T
 L O S I G T I L S C U P I D E
 T E R A X L S N A M W O N S M
 S S P T N E J O D B R H R E O
 T T R S H T N I R E H S A D C
 N O E L U P A A K F E K T Y H
 Y C S E W G O C C Z X R S E T
 B K E D R R A L L Y Y O T N A
 G I N G E R B R E A D W I M E
 S N T N C W M G P E U N B I R
 M G N T N E Z T I L B S A H W
 K O U D A N C E R F U S A C K
 D N P R R C H R I S T M A S A
 L A A G P E A C E A Z V S V K

BALL	FROSTY	SANTA CLAUS
BELL	GIFT	SLED
BLITZEN	GINGERBREAD	SNOWMAN
CANDYCANE	NOEL	STAR
CHIMNEY	NORTHPOLE	STOCKING
CHRISTMAS	NUTCRACKER	SUGARPLUMS
COMET	PEACE	TOY
CUPID	PRANCER	TREE
DANCER	PRESENT	VIXEN
DASHER	REINDEER	WORKSHOP
DONNER	RUDOLPH	WREATH
ELF	SACK	

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