

Name: _____

Religious Studies

Christmas Celebrations around the World (Part 1)

Christmas celebrations vary from place to place because of cultural differences. However, there are many common aspects to the celebrations. Caroling, feasting, and gift giving, along with prayers and best wishes are part of Christmas celebrations everywhere.

Christmas in Bethlehem

The little town where Jesus is said to have been born is the site of the **Church of the Nativity**, which is ablaze with flags and decorations every Christmas. On Christmas Eve natives and visitors alike crowd the church's doorways and stand on the roof to watch for the dramatic annual procession.

Christmas in Brazil

In Brazil, Christmas is one of the most important festive days, or “dia de fiestas”. It is celebrated on 25th December. The festivities in the country are influenced by ethnic ways. Caroling is quite a popular custom here. Various Christmas carols are sung during Christmas to commemorate the birth of Christ.

Christmas in Australia

With all the glitter, tinsel and razzmatazz, Australians consider Christmas a time for remembering the true meaning of Christmas.....a time to remember the birth of Jesus and the spiritual meaning of Christmas. For many, Christmas will begin with families attending a mid-night mass.

The message of Christmas is wrapped up in Jesus Christ. The Bible states that because God loved the world He gave His Only Son, Jesus to redeem mankind back to him. (John 3:16). When the angels delivered the message of Jesus' birth to the shepherds they brought "good tidings of great joy." (Luke 2:10) Many Christmas carols share a message of peace, love and joy.

Bethlehem



Brazil



Australia



Multiple Choice.

- Which country is the birth place of Jesus Christ?
a) Bethlehem c) Australia
b) Brazil d) Bahamas
- Which country celebrates Christmas as “día de fiestas”?
a) Bethlehem c) Australia
b) Brazil d) Bahamas
- Which country will begin their Christmas celebrations by attending a mid-night mass?
a) Bethlehem c) Australia
b) Brazil d) Bahamas
- In which country can you find the Church of the Nativity?
a) Bethlehem c) Australia
b) Brazil d) Bahamas

Answer each question.

5. Why do Christmas celebrations differ from place to place?

6. Give the meaning of the words, "*día de fiestas*".

7. Name three (3) common aspects of Christmas celebrations shared by different countries.

8. Sally says that, "*Christmas is about being a good girl or boy in order to get presents from Santa*". Do you agree with this statement? Tell why or why not.

9. a). What are Christmas carols? _____

b). What message do they share? _____

10. Use a Bible to tell what these memory verses say.

a) John 3:16 = _____

b) Luke 2:10 = _____

11. Write a sentence comparing *similarities* of Christmas celebrations in these countries to that of The Bahamas.

i. Bethlehem = _____

ii. Brazil = _____

iii. Australia = _____