

1. Complete the text with the suitable form of the words given in capital letters.

One of the favourite sweet treats at Christmas is the mince pie.

This _____ pastry is filled with fruit, often soaked in brandy **CRUMBLE**

and flavoured with citrus and mild spice. However the mince pie

was _____ a savoury pie – and not even round! **ORIGIN**



In the Tudor period they were _____, shaped like **RECTANGLE**

a manger and often had a pastry baby Jesus on the lid.

They were made from 13 ingredients to represent Jesus

and his disciples and were all _____ to the Christmas story. **SYMBOL**

As well as dried fruit such as raisins, prunes and figs, they

included lamb or mutton to _____ the shepherds and spices **PRESENT**

(cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg) for the Wise Men. It was only later,

post Reformation, that the mince pie adopted a round shape.

Whilst it seems pretty _____ to us to mix meat with sweeter **PALATE**

ingredients such as figs, raisins and honey, it was quite usual in the Middle Ages.



A Tudor Christmas feast would include several _____ types of pie. **DIFFER**

The pastry crust of a pie was called a coffin and was often made just from a _____ of flour and water and used mainly for decoration. **MIX**

Small pies were _____ as chewets and had pinched tops, giving them **KNOW** the look of small cabbages. The _____ reference to a small **EARLY**

mince pie as a 'minst pye' rather than a chewet occurs in a recipe from 1624, called 'For six Minst Pyes of an Indifferent Bigness'.

It's hard to know _____ when meat stopped being included in the **EXACT**

mince pie. In the Medieval and Tudor period the meat of choice for a mince pie was lamb or veal. By the 18th century it was more

_____ to be tongue or even tripe, and in the 19th century **LIKE** it was minced beef.

It was not until the late Victorian period and early 20th Century that mince pies dropped the meat and had all fruit _____ (albeit with suet). **FILL**

Even today there are traditions _____ with mince pies.

ASSOCIATE

When making the mincemeat mixture for the pies, for good luck

it should be stirred in a _____ direction.

CLOCK

You should always make a wish when eating the

first mince pie of the season and you should never cut one with a knife.

2. Complete the text with a suitable word

All over Britain on Christmas Day, families can _____ found sitting around their dining tables enjoying a traditional lunch of roast turkey with all the trimmings – and all, regardless _____ age, wearing coloured paper hats. It is rumoured that even the Queen wears her paper hat over lunch!

So why this quaint tradition? Where do these paper hats come _____ ? The answer is the Christmas Cracker.



A Christmas Cracker is a cardboard paper tube, wrapped _____ brightly coloured paper and twisted at both ends. There is a banger inside the cracker, two strips of chemically impregnated paper that react with friction so that when the cracker is pulled _____ by two people, the cracker makes a bang.

Each person takes the end of the cracker and pulls. Or if there is a group around the table, everyone crosses their arms to pull all the crackers ____ once.

Everyone holds their own cracker in their right hand and pulls their neighbour's cracker with their free left hand.

Inside the cracker there is a paper crown made ____ tissue paper, a motto or joke on a slip of paper and a little gift. It is a standing joke that the mottos in crackers are unfunny, corny and often very ____ known, as the same jokes have been appearing in crackers for decades!

Crackers can be made from scratch using empty toilet rolls and tissue paper: the maker can then choose small personalised gifts ____ their guests.

Christmas crackers are a British tradition dating ____ to Victorian times when in the early 1850s, London confectioner Tom Smith started adding a motto to his sugared almond bon-bons which he sold wrapped in a twisted paper package. As many of his bon-bons were bought ____ men to give to women, many of the mottos were simple love poems.

He was inspired to add the “bang” when he heard the crackle of a log he had just put ____ the fire. He decided to make a log shaped package that would produce a surprise bang and inside would be an almond and a motto. Soon the sugared almond ____ replaced with a small gift. Originally sold as the Cosaque it soon became known by the public ____ the ‘cracker’.