

# Christmas

Christmas is a very big celebration in lots of countries around the world. It is celebrated on December 25. Christmas is very important for Christians because it commemorates the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Christmas is only celebrated on the 25th of December but children are on holiday for two weeks. They don't have to go to school.

About one month before Christmas, streets, shops and houses are decorated with colourful Christmas lights and decorations.

One of the most popular and famous symbols of Christmas is Santa Claus. He is also called "Santa" or "Father Christmas". He is an old man. He is very fat, he has a long beard and he always wears a red suit. He is from Lapland, a region in Finland. He makes all the toys for children from all over the world. He lives with his best little friends, the elves. The elves help Santa to make toys.

On the night of December 24, Christmas Eve, Santa travels through the sky on a sleigh. This sleigh is pulled by reindeers. Santa enters the houses through the chimney and leaves the presents under the tree or in a stocking.

In some countries, Santa appears in streets and shopping centres some weeks before Christmas. Children want to sit on Santa's lap and give him their pictures, postcards or wishes.

Christmas is also an important time to visit the family. Most families celebrate together and sing Christmas carols, decorate the Christmas tree and exchange Christmas cards and presents. Also, food is very important at Christmas. Lots of families celebrate Christmas with big meals. Each country has typical Christmas food.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## QUESTIONS

- 1.- What is Christmas ?
- 2.- What does Christmas commemorate ?
- 3.- What are there in the streets ?
- 4.- What is one of the most popular symbols of Christmas ?
- 5.- Describe Santa.
- 6.- Where does Santa live ?
- 7.-Who are the elves ?
- 8.- When is Christmas Eve ?
- 9.- How does Santa travel through the sky ?