

# Christmas in France

"Merry Christmas" in French is "Joyeux Noël"

Christmas celebrations start on December 6, Saint Nicholas Day. It is common for people to decorate their homes with a Christmas tree and a nativity scene. As well as Jesus, the shepherds and other figures normally found in a nativity scene, characters such as a hunter, a policeman and a baker are included in the nativity scene. Mistletoe is often hung above doors. People say that that kissing at midnight will bring good luck.



Advent wreath

Children are often given an advent calendar which helps them count down to Christmas. Another traditional Christmas decoration in France is the advent wreath, which is made of pine tree branches and is decorated with four candles.

On the eve of Saint Nicholas Day, children place their shoes near the fireplace. Families tell Christmas stories and sing Christmas songs. Children then go to bed hoping that their shoes will be filled with gifts by morning. It is said that children who have been naughty will receive a bundle of twigs or coal!

Santa Claus is called Père Noël in France. He is a large figure who has a white beard and wears red robes with a black belt. The main feast, Réveillon, is held the night before on Christmas Eve. The Christmas feast includes 13 desserts! One popular dessert is bûche de Noël, which is a sponge cake shaped as a yule log. Popular Christmas foods in France include turkey, duck, snails and cheese.



Bûche de Noël

Christmas Day is a time for families. Some families exchange gifts on Christmas Eve while others do so on Christmas Day. Many people will attend church on Christmas Day.

Answer the questions:

1. What do French families use to decorate their homes?
2. How many desserts do French eat for Christmas?
3. When do families usually go to church?

Choose TRUE OR FALSE:

1. French families decorate their living rooms with snowman:

TRUE      FALSE

2. The wreath is a traditional French decoration.

TRUE      FALSE

3. Children usually put their stockings on the fireplace.

TRUE      FALSE

4. Santa Clause is called Père Noel in France.

TRUE      FALSE

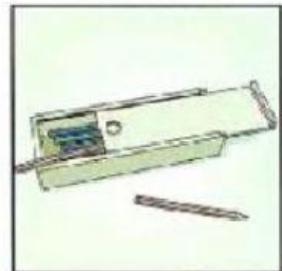
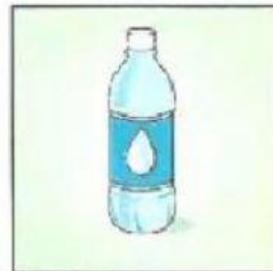
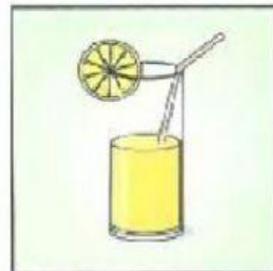
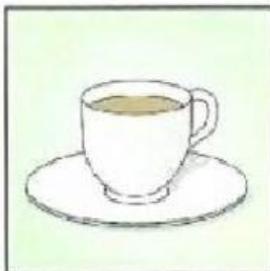
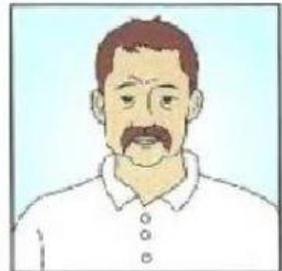
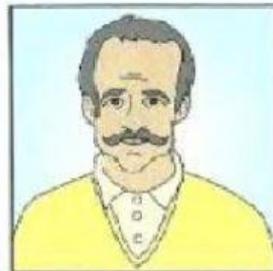
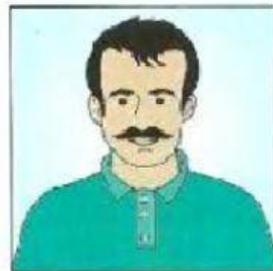
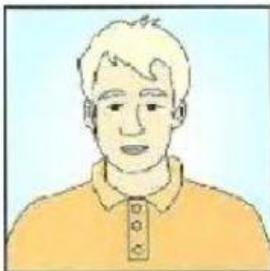
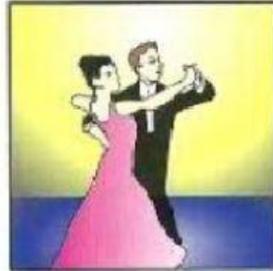
5. French families eat Christmas dinner on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.

TRUE      FALSE

6. Turkey, duck, snails, and cheese are popular Christmas food in France.

TRUE      FALSE

# Odd-one-out



Find the differences

