

# Some Bizarre Facts About Christmas

Fill in the gaps with the right preposition or conjunction

Early illustrations of St. Nicholas make him out to be a stern symbol of discipline

& rather \_\_\_\_\_ the jolly, overweight elf that children know today

There is a village in Peru where people settle the previous year's grudges \_\_\_\_\_ fist fighting. They then start the new year off on a clean slate

Some zoos accept donated Christmas trees \_\_\_\_\_ food for their animals

During Christmas in Newfoundland people called Mummers dress up in crude disguises and go from house \_\_\_\_\_ house dancing and playing music while the hosts try to identify them

It is estimated that the song "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin is the best selling single in history with \_\_\_\_\_ 100 million copies sold

Paul McCartney earns nearly half a million dollars every year from his Christmas song, which many critics regards \_\_\_\_\_ his worst song ever.

A large part of Sweden's population has been watching Donald Duck cartoons every Christmas Eve \_\_\_\_\_ 1960

\_\_\_\_\_ the Christmas of 2010, the Colombian government covered jungle trees with lights. When FARC guerrillas (terrorists) walked by, the trees lit up and banners asking them to lay \_\_\_\_\_ their arms became visible. 331 guerrillas re-entered society and the campaign won an award \_\_\_\_\_ strategic marketing excellence.

In 1867, a Boston industrialist heard Charles Dickens read A Christmas Carol and was so moved he closed his factory \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Day and gave every one \_\_\_\_\_ his employees a turkey

Between the 16th and 19th centuries was what is known as a "little ice age" where global temperatures were several degrees lower \_\_\_\_\_ normal. It is for this reason that many Christmas carols and songs stress a "White Christmas".

The Nazi party tried to turn Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ a nonreligious holiday celebrating the coming of Hitler, with Saint Nicholas replaced by Odin the "Solstice Man" and swastikas on top of Christmas trees.

An artificial Christmas tree would have to be reused \_\_\_\_\_ more than 20 years to be "greener" than buying a fresh-cut tree annually

The people of Oslo, Norway donate the Trafalgar Square Christmas tree every year in gratitude to the people of London for their assistance during WWII.

Christmas purchases account \_\_\_\_\_ 1/6 of all retail sales in the U.S annually