



# HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

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**HOLIDAYS AROUND  
THE WORLD**

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## INTRODUCTION

Every month and every week there are holidays and festivals celebrated around the world. Some of them are celebrated across the globe, while others are more local.

Throughout this course we will look at some of the biggest holidays around the planet. We will also look at some holidays and festivals that are world famous.





## NEW YEARS EVE AND DAY

The New Year festival is celebrated around the world. It originates from the Roman Empire, when the Romans decided to standardize the calendar so it followed the solar (sun) cycle instead of the lunar (moon) cycle. We celebrate it on the 31st of December when we ring in the New Year. To ring in the new year means to celebrate it. The 31st of December is New Years Eve. Eve means the day before and is often used before religious festivals.

On New Years Eve many people like to celebrate with family and friends. People often get dressed up in fancy clothes and champagne is the drink of choice. 10 seconds before the end of the year it is normal to have a countdown from 10 to 0. At the stroke of midnight to toast the New Year. The toast at New Years is an expression of good wishes for the year ahead. Resolutions are promises people make for the New Year. They are usually to help them break a bad habit or to start something healthier.

How do people celebrate New Years in your country?  
Do you make resolutions? What resolutions would you make?



## ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated in the 14th of February in many parts of the world. Saint Valentine is the saint associated with love and so we celebrate love on this day. Many people gives gifts of flowers. The traditional flowers to give are roses, and you could give or receive a single rose or many roses in a bouquet. Chocolates, cards, poems and teddy bears are also traditional gifts. People often give secret cards to someone they have a crush on or they might ask them out for a date. After a few dates then people might start going out with each other and they might be lucky and find their true love or soulmate. However some people might love a person who doesn't love them back, this is unrequited love.

Do you celebrate St Valentine's Day?  
Can you remember your first crush?



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick is the patron or main saint for Ireland. It is said that he got rid of the snakes from Ireland. It is celebrated on the 17th of March and has now become a festival around the world. Green is the colour associated with Ireland so for St. Patrick's Day many people wear green clothes. The tradition is to hold a parade through your town or city, which is mainly aimed at children and many children take part in the parades. For the adults, it is normal to have some drinks, often Guinness. People wear shamrocks on their clothes for the day as they are one of the symbols of Ireland.

Have you ever taken part in a parade?

Do people celebrate Saint Patrick's Day in your country?

What are some of the symbols of your country?



## GLASTONBURY

Music festivals have become more and more popular around the world. One of the oldest and most famous is Glastonbury. It was set up in 1971 and has become an almost annual event since. In 2016, 135,000 people attended the music festival. There are no hotels so the majority of the people go camping, however you can go glamping (glamorous camping). People camp in tents in campsites. Music festivals have lots of bands and musicians playing and the most popular acts are called headliners. It is very fashionable to go to music festivals nowadays and often the tickets sell out very quickly. Music festivals in Ireland and the UK can get rain sometimes so it is important to bring wellies so your feet stay dry and clean.

Do you enjoy camping?

Have you been to a music festival?

What's the best music festival in your country?



## LA TOMATINA/OKTOBERFEST

The worlds biggest food fight takes place in Spain every year. Thousands of people flock to the small town of Buñol to take part in this festival. However, you cannot use any food you want you must use the tomatoes provided. The tomatoes are all extra ripe, meaning they are very soft. Participants must follow soe rules, they must squash the tomatoes, they cannot rip clothes and they should wear goggles. Oktoberfest is a famous German beer festival that takes place in Bavaria in the south of Germany each year. The festival began as part of a royal wedding and has since become a huge event. The beer is served cold in frosty mugs and during the festival over 6,000,000 litres of beer are consumed. The drinking takes place in huge beer tents that usually have live music also.

Have you ever taken part in a food fight?  
What would you like or hate about it?  
Would you like to go to Oktoberfest?



## HALLOWEEN

Halloween originated as a Celtic festival to celebrate the harvest. It was originally a pagan holiday. It was brought to the United States by Irish emigrants during the Great Irish Famine.

Since then it has become a huge, commercial holiday. It is traditional for children to dress up in scary costumes and to go from house to house to trick or treat. During halloween we often light bonfires to protect us from evil spirits as this is the time when the veil between the living and the dead is thinnest. Halloween is also a time to remember family and friends who have passed away.

Have you ever dressed up for Halloween?  
What symbols do we normally associate with halloween?



# CHRISTMAS

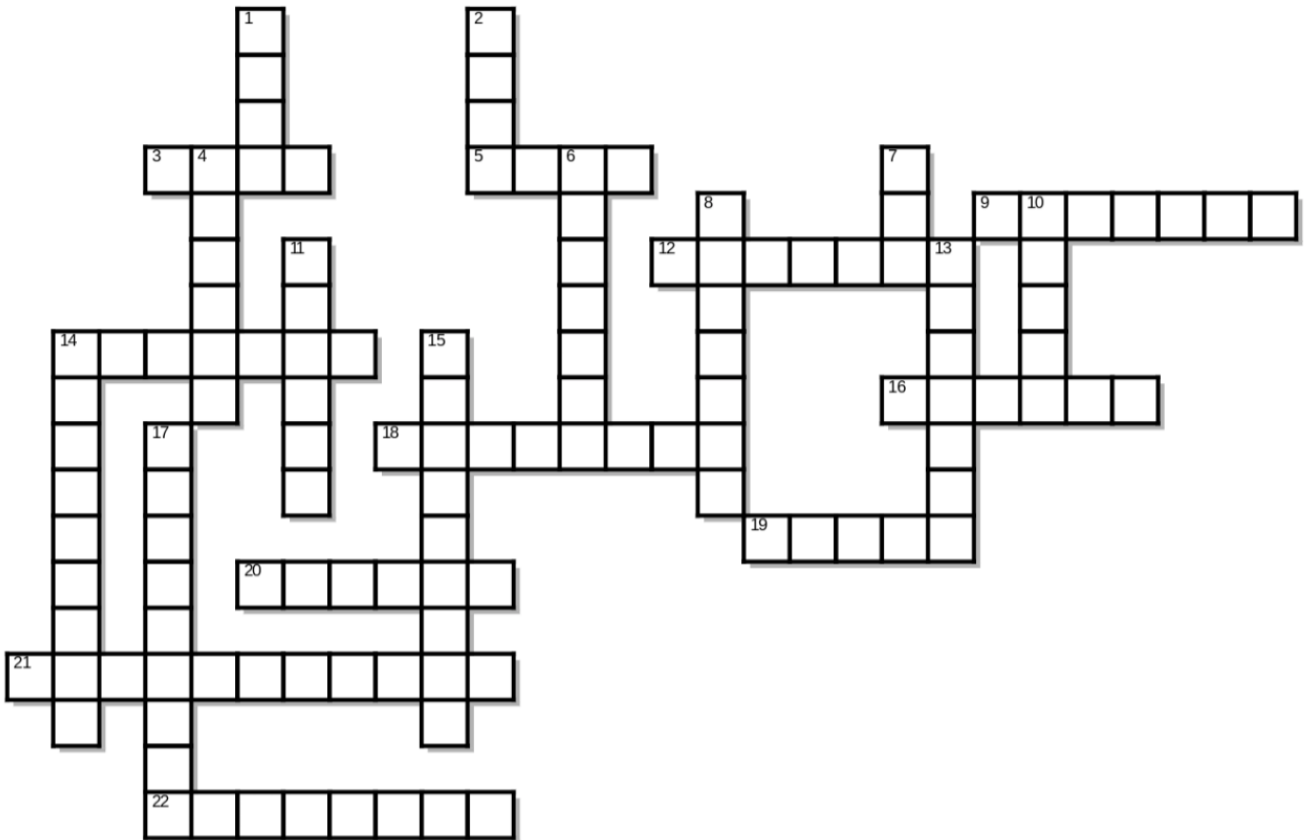
Christmas Day is celebrated in December 25th, and Christmas Eve is December 24th. Christmas is the time when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, and it is also the time when Santa Claus comes to visit. Santa Claus lives in Lapland, in the North Pole with Mrs. Claus and his busy elves. He delivers gifts or presents to children around the world. He travels on a sleigh which is pulled by reindeers, the most important one being Rudolph with his red nose. On Christmas Day, or in some countries Christmas Eve, it is traditional to have a big meal with your family and often exchange gifts.

Red, gold, holly and mistletoe are all symbols we associate with Christmas. Many people put a Christmas tree up in their home which is decorated with ornaments. Over the Christmas holiday you would normally wish someone Happy Christmas or Merry Christmas.

How do you celebrate Christmas in your country?  
What things do we associate with Christmas?



# EXERCISES



## ACROSS

- 3 To go for food or drinks with someone you like
- 5 When fruit is ready to eat
- 9 Shoes to keep you feet dry
- 12 Protective eye wear
- 14 A place with ghosts
- 16 A synonym for icy
- 18 An area dedicated to camping
- 19 Red flowers
- 20 Takes place even year
- 21 Promises in the New Year
- 22 A symbol of Ireland

## DOWN

- 1 What you camp in
- 2 The drink at Oktoberfest
- 4 The time before Christmas
- 6 Popular events for St. Patrick's Day
- 7 The day or night before a religious holiday
- 8 A large bunch of flowers
- 10 Santa's helpers
- 11 What Santa travels on
- 13 Another word for ghosts
- 14 The most important acts at a festival
- 15 You drink it to make a toast
- 17 Lights and explosions to celebrate





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