

English

Grade 4

Christmas reading comprehension: traditions around the world

Read how people celebrate Christmas in four countries, then compare and contrast.



I can compare and contrast information from a text.

1



One holiday, many ways



Christmas is celebrated by Christians and many other people around the world. But the way people celebrate is not the same everywhere.

In Mexico, many families take part in Las Posadas from December 16 to 24. For nine nights, people walk through the neighborhood with candles, singing and asking for a place to stay. Afterward, there is food and often a piñata.

In Sweden, the season begins early with St. Lucia Day on December 13. A girl dressed in white wears a crown of candles, and people sing and eat saffron buns in the dark winter morning.

In the Philippines, the holiday season is long. Families hang parols, which are bright star-shaped lanterns, in their windows and streets.

In Australia, Christmas comes in summer. Many families spend the day outdoors, with picnics, barbecues or a trip to the beach.

2 Compare the countries

Use the text to fill in the chart.

Country	One tradition	Season it is in
Mexico		winter
Sweden		winter
Philippines		cool, dry season
Australia		

3 Compare and contrast

Circle the best answer.

1. Which two countries use candles in their traditions?

A Mexico and Sweden

B Australia and Sweden

C the Philippines and Australia

2. How is Christmas in Australia different from Christmas in Sweden?

A It is in summer.

B It has no food.

C It is in March.

3. How many nights does Las Posadas last?

A 3

B 9

C 12

4 True or false

Circle the right answer.

1. A parol is a star-shaped lantern.

True

False

2. St. Lucia Day is on December 25.

True

False

3. Christmas is celebrated the same way everywhere.

True

False

4. Las Posadas ends on December 24.

True

False

5

**Match the tradition**

Draw a line from each tradition to what it is.

☐

Las Posadas

☐

St. Lucia Day

☐

parol

☐

Christmas in Australia



A. A star-shaped lantern from the Philippines



B. Often a picnic or a trip to the beach



C. Nine nights of walking with candles in Mexico



D. A crown of candles and saffron buns in Sweden

6

**Dates and details**

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Las Posadas starts on December _____.

2. St. Lucia Day is on December _____.

3. Las Posadas lasts for _____ nights.

4. In Sweden, people eat _____ buns.

5. In Australia, Christmas comes in _____.

6. From St. Lucia Day to December 25 is _____ days.

7

**Las Posadas in order**

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

☐

People walk through the neighborhood with candles.

☐

There is food and often a piñata.

☐

Las Posadas begins on December 16.



People sing and ask for a place to stay.

8



Think about the text

Circle the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the whole text?

A People celebrate Christmas in different ways around the world.

B Australia has nice beaches.

C Candles are the only Christmas tradition.

2. Which tradition in the text happens earliest in December?

A Las Posadas

B St. Lucia Day

C Christmas Day

3. In paragraph 1, what does 'celebrated' mean?

A forgotten

B sold in stores

C marked with special activities

9



Your comparison

Choose two countries from the text. Write one way their traditions are alike and one way they are different.

How did it go?



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Answer key

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Read how people celebrate Christmas in four countries, then compare and contrast.



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1



One holiday, many ways



Christmas is celebrated by Christians and many other people around the world. But the way people celebrate is not the same everywhere.

In Mexico, many families take part in Las Posadas from December 16 to 24. For nine nights, people walk through the neighborhood with candles, singing and asking for a place to stay. Afterward, there is food and often a piñata.

In Sweden, the season begins early with St. Lucia Day on December 13. A girl dressed in white wears a crown of candles, and people sing and eat saffron buns in the dark winter morning.

In the Philippines, the holiday season is long. Families hang parols, which are bright star-shaped lanterns, in their windows and streets.

In Australia, Christmas comes in summer. Many families spend the day outdoors, with picnics, barbecues or a trip to the beach.

2 Compare the countries

Use the text to fill in the chart.

Country	One tradition	Season it is in
Mexico	Las Posadas walks with candles	winter
Sweden	St. Lucia Day with a crown of candles	winter
Philippines	star-shaped parol lanterns	cool, dry season
Australia	picnics, barbecues or the beach	summer

3 Compare and contrast

Circle the best answer.

1. Which two countries use candles in their traditions?

☒ A Mexico and Sweden

☐ B Australia and Sweden

☐ C the Philippines and Australia

2. How is Christmas in Australia different from Christmas in Sweden?

☒ A It is in summer.

☐ B It has no food.

☐ C It is in March.

3. How many nights does Las Posadas last?

☒ A 3

☐ B 9

☐ C 12

4 True or false

Circle the right answer.

1. A parol is a star-shaped lantern.

☒ True

☐ False

2. St. Lucia Day is on December 25.

☐ True

☐ False

3. Christmas is celebrated the same way everywhere.

☐ True

☐ False

4. Las Posadas ends on December 24.

True

False

5 Match the tradition

Draw a line from each tradition to what it is.

C Las Posadas •

D St. Lucia Day •

A parol •

B Christmas in Australia •

• **A.** A star-shaped lantern from the Philippines

• **B.** Often a picnic or a trip to the beach

• **C.** Nine nights of walking with candles in Mexico

• **D.** A crown of candles and saffron buns in Sweden

6 17 Dates and details

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Las Posadas starts on December 16.

2. St. Lucia Day is on December 13.

3. Las Posadas lasts for nine nights.

4. In Sweden, people eat saffron buns.

5. In Australia, Christmas comes in summer.

6. From St. Lucia Day to December 25 is 12 days.

7



Las Posadas in order

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

2

People walk through the neighborhood with candles.

4

There is food and often a piñata.

1

Las Posadas begins on December 16.

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People sing and ask for a place to stay.

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Think about the text

Circle the best answer.

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C Candles are the only Christmas tradition.

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C Christmas Day

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C marked with special activities

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Your comparison

Choose two countries from the text. Write one way their traditions are alike and one way they are different.

Answers vary. Example: Mexico and Sweden both use candles. They are different because Las Posadas is a nine-night walk, but St. Lucia Day is one morning with a crown of candles.

How did it go?



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