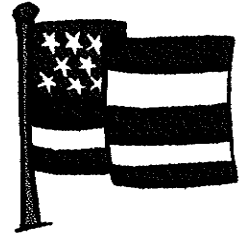




# AN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

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## **An American Christmas**

Christmas is celebrated differently in every country. Each country has their own traditions and religious ceremonies that make Christmas special in any country that you could travel to. The one thing that they all have in common is that they celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus in one form or another.

In Italy most homes have a nativity scene. Most Italians bake Christmas bread that contains raisins and candied fruit.

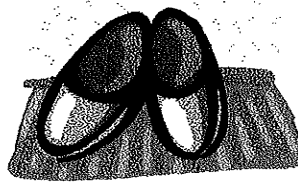


**Each loaf of bread needs 2 cups of raisins. We have 10 cups of raisins to make the bread. How many loaves of bread can we bake?**

In Poland people go to midnight mass on Christmas Eve. Many Polish families follow the tradition of breaking bread made of wheat flour and water. The Christmas Eve meal features fish, potato pancakes, and beet soup.

**To make potato pancakes you need to have 2 potatoes for each person eating. The traditional family feeds 15 people on Christmas Eve. How many potatoes will they need?**





In France the children put their shoes in front of the fireplace so "Father Christmas" can fill them with gifts. They also decorate their homes with nativity scenes. They buy nativity figurines at special holiday fairs that are held before Christmas.

**There are 5 children in the family. They all put a pair of shoes in front of the fireplace to be filled with toys. How many shoes will "Father Christmas" have to fill?**

The Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah or the Feast of Lights. Hanukkah lasts for eight days. On the first evening one candle is lit on the menorah. Beginning on the second evening one candle is added every night until a total of eight candles are reached.

**After the second night how many more candles have to be lit?**



In Mexico the celebration starts nine days before the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. Children enjoy breaking the piñata that contains candy or small gifts. When someone breaks the piñata with a stick the candy falls to the floor and the children all scramble for it.



**What day do the Mexicans start celebrating Christmas?**

**There are 500 pieces of candy in the piñata and 10 children trying to break it. When the piñata breaks if each child got an even amount of candy how many pieces of candy would each one get?**

In Africa they celebrate Kwanzaa which is to celebrate the harvest of the first crops. It begins on December 26<sup>th</sup> and lasts for seven days. In the evenings a candle is lit and one of seven principles is discussed. Family member exchange gifts and food. They also have ceremonies to honor past loved ones.

**If Kwanzaa begins on December 26<sup>th</sup> and lasts for 7 days, when does the Kwanzaa holiday end?**



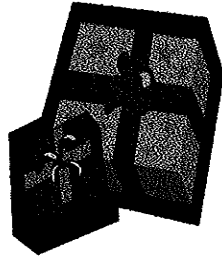
In America we decorate our homes with Christmas trees, wreaths, and colored lights. Children write letters to Santa to ask for what gifts they want for Christmas.

**Our class wrote 12 letters to Santa. There is a limit of 50 letters that can be sent from our school. How many more letters can be written?**



A Christmas tree is the main attraction in most homes. Many young children believe that presents are brought by Santa and placed under the tree.

There were 6 presents for me under the tree, 3 for mom, 4 for dad, and 6 for brother. How many presents were there under the tree?



In America groups of carolers walk from house to house to sing Christmas songs. Some people give the carolers money or gifts or invite them in for a warm drink.



Mr. Carlson gave me \$2.00, Mrs. Gregory gave me \$1.00, and Mr. Ellis gave me \$3.00. How much money did I get for singing?

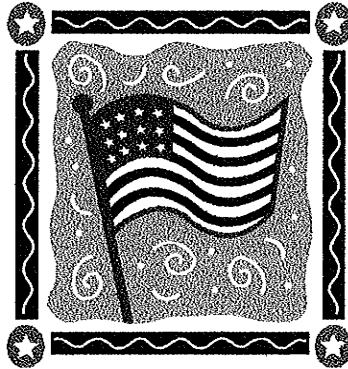
Churches decorate with poinsettias and nativity scenes usually given to the church by its members.

In church 10 families gave 2 poinsettias to help decorate the church. How many poinsettias did the church have to decorate with?

A traditional Christmas dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, fruitcake, and eggnog.



Although everyone may celebrate Christmas on a different day in a different way, we all share traditions and spending time with families and friends. This year Christmas in America will be special for some and sad for others, but one thing is for sure...Americans are united together closer than we have ever been. I am proud to be an American.



## Answer Sheet

1.  $10/2 = 5$  loaves
2.  $2 \times 15 = 30$  potatoes
3.  $5 \times 2 = 10$  shoes
4.  $8 - 2 = 6$  candles
5.  $25 - 9 =$  December 16<sup>th</sup>
6.  $500/10 = 50$  pieces of candy each
7.  $26 + 7 = 33$  days There are 31 days in December + 2 days in January. Kwanzaa ends on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
8.  $50 - 12 = 38$  letters
9.  $6 + 3 + 4 + 6 = 19$  presents
10.  $\$2.00 + \$1.00 + \$3.00 = \$6.00$
11.  $10 \times 2 = 20$  poinsettias