

Name _____

Passport to Christmas: Global Holiday Traditions

You've been given a **magical Christmas passport** that lets you travel the globe in one night! Your mission is to visit **five different countries** and learn about their **unique holiday traditions**. After reading each **"Travel Note"**, complete the matching activity and answer the questions at the end.



Travel Note #1 – Mexico

In Mexico, the holiday season includes **Las Posadas**, a nine-day celebration from December 16th to 24th. Families reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter by visiting homes and singing songs. There are often piñatas, music, and fireworks. On Christmas Eve, families gather for a large feast and attend Midnight Mass.

Travel Note #2 – Japan

In Japan, Christmas is celebrated in a more secular way, and one surprising tradition is eating **fried chicken from KFC**! This started as a marketing campaign in the 1970s and became a beloved custom. People also enjoy strawberry shortcake and light displays, and it's considered a romantic holiday for couples.

Travel Note #3 – Germany

Germany is famous for its **Christmas markets**, or *Weihnachtsmärkte*. These markets are filled with handmade crafts, wooden toys, hot drinks, and festive foods like roasted nuts and sausages. A well-known figure is **St. Nicholas**, who leaves small gifts in children's shoes on the night of December 5th.

Travel Note #4 – Australia

Because it's summer during December in Australia, many families celebrate Christmas with a **barbecue on the beach**! Traditional foods may include seafood, cold salads, and pavlova for dessert. Carol singing still happens, but often outdoors in parks with candlelight.

Travel Note #5 – Italy

In Italy, many families celebrate with a big Christmas Eve dinner and attend **Midnight Mass**. On January 6th, children receive gifts from **La Befana**, a kind old woman who flies on a broomstick. She's said to visit homes, much like Santa Claus, and leaves candy for well-behaved children.

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Part 1: Match the Country to Its Tradition - Match the countries (A–E) to the traditions listed below (1–5). Write the correct letter next to each number.

Countries	Traditions
A. Mexico	1. Eating KFC and strawberry shortcake on Christmas _____
B. Japan	2. La Befana brings gifts on January 6th _____
C. Germany	3. Las Posadas parades and piñatas _____
D. Australia	4. St. Nicholas fills shoes on December 5th _____
E. Italy	5. Celebrating Christmas with a beach barbecue _____

Part 2: Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What do families in Mexico do during Las Posadas?

2. Why is Christmas celebrated with different customs in Australia?

3. What is La Befana known for in Italian tradition?

4. How did Japan's KFC Christmas tradition begin?

5. What is something unique about Germany's Christmas markets?