

Christmas abroad – lesson plan

4th grade (9-10 years), group of 12 pupils

English level – A2

Used method: RWCT – expert teams

Time: 85 min (double lesson)

Objectives: By the end of the lesson the pupils will find out information about Christmas traditions in USA, UK and India. They compare and contrast the basic information. They practise their reading skills.

time	activity	aids
10 min Pre-reading	Listen to these songs and discuss with your partner – what are they? When, why do people sing them. Do you know other songs similar?	Audio tracks – carols from different countries (US, GB, CZ, India) Device to play it on
10 min	Building up 3 teams, explaining the method Within the team each person picks one country to become and expert on. Each expert reads only text assigned to his/her country. He/she takes notes on: name of the country, what dates + what are the names of the main Christmas days, what meal is served and at least three traditions.	Sheets with the text hung up in the class and/or corridor.
20 min	Reading Pupils are reading in their own pace. They may use dictionary. Teacher assists, takes notes etc.	Sheets for each child to take notes on Dictionaries, translators
20 min	Sharing Experts come back to their original groups and share their findings. Everyone is taking notes on their group members' presentations.	Graphic organiser for each child.
10 min	Discussion In the groups pupils compare and contrast their information and prepare one thing similar and one thing different for each category in each country: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Festive days- Traditions- Food	
15 min Post-reading	Reflection On the board each group writes down their similar/different information. Each group briefly reflects on the task – in what part did they perform well, in what ways not so well and why.	Board with chart: USA, UK, CZ, IND Days Traditions food

Materials

Audio songs for evocation:

[Frank Sinatra - Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas](#)

[Saare Jahaan ka Ujaala | New Hindi Christmas Song | ONE TRIBE](#)

[King's College Cambridge 2010 #15 The First Nowell](#)

[Česká mše vánoční - Graduale](#)

Texts to read

CHRISTMAS IN UK

Most families have a Christmas Tree (or maybe even two!) in their house for Christmas. Everyone helps with the decorating.



Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with Christmas lights over Christmas. Often a famous person switches them on.

On **Christmas Eve** (24th December) children hang the Christmas stocking on the mantelpiece or their bed. In the night Santa gives the presents into them. Children prepare the little snack for Santa and carrots for his reindeers.



Christmas Day (25th December) is the most important day. Children open their presents. Later afternoon the family eats the special christmas dinner - roast turkey, roast vegetables and vegetables like carrots & peas or brussels sprouts, stuffing and sometimes bacon and sausages. There is also cranberry sauce. On Christmas people eat a special dessert - Christmas Pudding that looks like a cake.

26th December is called the **Boxing Day**. People get presents from their bosses as a thank you for the whole year's work. People go shopping, visit their friends or do sports.



Christmas traditions in UK

- People send Christmas cards to all their friends, school mates etc.
- On the dinner table there is a Christmas Cracker. It looks like a big candy with paper crown and joke in it.
- English King has a special festive speech that everyone wants to watch on TV at 3.00 pm on Christmas Day.
- People sing carols door to door or in the churches.
- Christmas Pudding is prepared five weeks before Christmas.



Christmas in USA

Christmas is a time for family and friends to come together and celebrate.

In the weeks before Christmas, people like to decorate the streets and outsides of their houses with lights and statues of Santa Claus, Snowmen and Reindeer. They also buy presents for each other.



On **Christmas Eve** (24th December) people eat a festive dinner: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce and christmas ham. After the dinner children go to beds and wait for Santa who comes at night through the chimney and puts presents under the Christmas tree. Children prepare a snack for him – milk and cookies.



The **Christmas Day** (25th December) is the most important day. People open their presents and enjoy them. They visit their friends too.

US Christmas traditions

- people make pop-corn strings to help decorate their Christmas Tree and gingerbread houses.
- Eggnog is a 'traditional' Christmas drink in the USA.
- People go to Church. Many churches have special Christmas Carol services.
- In some parts of America, there are shops called 'Christmas Shops' that only sell Christmas decorations and toys all the year round!
- Americans also send out Christmas Cards.
- In Hawaii, Santa is called Kanakaloka.



Christmas in India

There are many religions in India – Hindu, muslims, Christians, Sikhs. Christmas is an important holiday for Christians in India.

People fast from 1st to 24th of December - until the midnight service. They decorate every house with a colourful Christmas star.



On Christmas Eve (24th Dec), people eat the main Christmas meal - roast turkey or chicken. People like lots of sweets, especially the traditional fruit Christmas Cake! Favourite sweets are *neureos* (small fried cakes with dry fruit and coconut) and *dodol* (like toffee that has coconut and cashew in it).



After the meal, Christians go to church to pray. After the service the church bells ring to say that Jesus Christ is born.

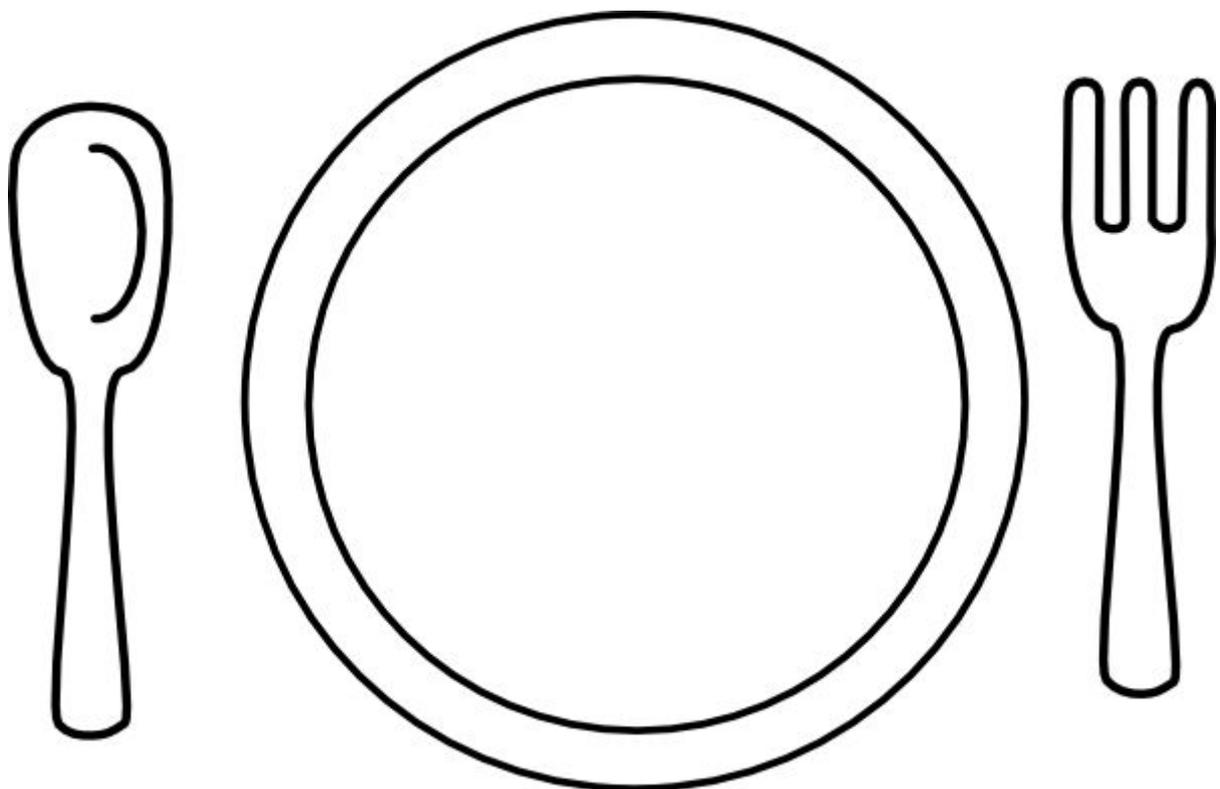
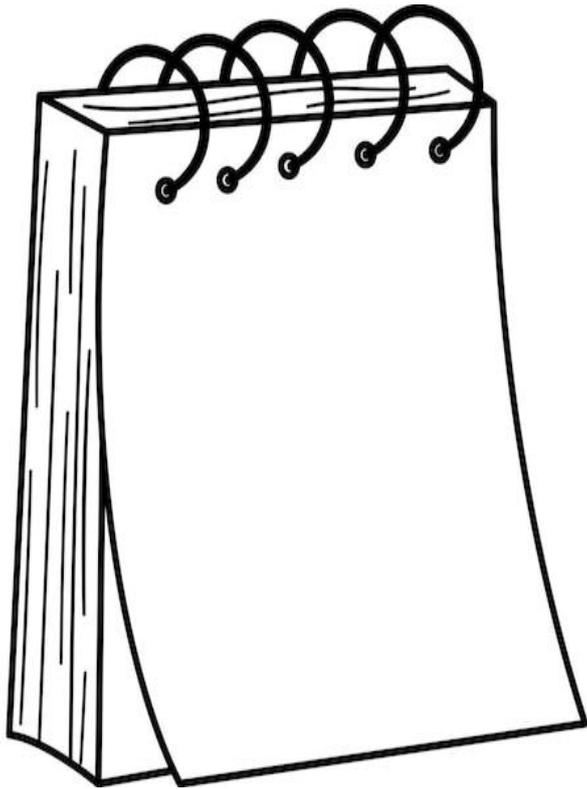
On Christmas Day (25th Dec) Father Christmas or Santa Claus gives presents to children. He has got a horse and a cart. In India his name is 'Baba Christmas'.

Here are some of Indian Christmas traditions

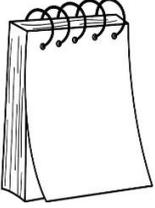
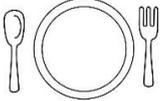
- 'Happy Merry Christmas' is 'Śubh krisamas' (शुभ क्रिसमस) in Hindi language
- People haven't got a traditional Christmas Tree as in Europe, but they decorate a banana or mango tree. Sometimes people use mango leaves to decorate their homes.
- In Southern India, Christians often put small oil lamps on the roofs.
- People like to sing carols for about a week before Christmas.
- People make sweets before Christmas and give them to their friends and neighbors.



Graphic organizer for kids to take notes in



Reflection – chart written on the board

	UK	USA	India	CZ
	Similar X different	Similar X different	Similar X different	Similar X different
Days 				
Meals 				
Traditions 				