

Teacher's Notes and Answer Key



INTRODUCTION

Introduce Christmas vocabulary with help of Longman Advent Calendar.
Ask your pupils:

1. What do you like about Christmas?
2. Do you know any Christmas customs?
3. How did some of our Christmas customs begin?
4. What is Christmas like in other countries?

Photocopiable materials will help your pupils remember the new vocabulary and learn more about Christmas customs around the world.

LESSON 1

I. Ask your pupils to read the text and find out more about Christmas.

II. True or False?

- 1(T) 2(F) 3(F) 4(T) 5(F) 6(T) 7(F) 8(F) 9(F) 10(T)

III. Put students into teams to play noughts and crosses. Copy the following grid onto the board:

Santa Claus	Presents	Custom
Carol	Chimney	Money box
Boxing Day	Christmas Day	Twelfth Night

One team starts and chooses a square – they must say something true about the word in their square. Either you or the members of other team decide if the sentence is acceptable. If it is, they put their symbol, a nought (O) or a cross (X) in that square. The first team to get three of their symbols in a row, up, down or diagonally, wins.

LESSON 2

- I. 1 (e) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (a) 5 (b)

II. Country

Country	Food
Germany	goose
Sweden	dried cod followed by rice pudding
USA	turkey
Norway	pork
Czech Republic	fish followed by rice
Greece	lamb cooked over an open fire
Italy	eels

Traditional Polish dishes: borsch (beet root soup), carp, herrings, noodles with poppy, dumplings with mushrooms and cabbage, kutia (boiled wheat with honey, poppy, nuts and raisins), makowiec (the poppy seed cake).

III. Students should identify the country, the date, and the place where children find their Christmas presents.

Britain	25 December	in the stocking
Netherlands	5 December	in the shoe
Greece	1 January	next to the bed
Poland	24 December	under the Christmas tree

You can find more interesting information concerning Christmas food and other customs in *Penguin Reader Happy Christmas* by John Escott.



LESSON 3

I.



II. Christmas is a time of *celebration*. There have been festivals for about 4000 years in about *December*. Christmas *trees* are a sign of Christmas. The trees look pretty with small *presents* on them. Children wait for *Santa Claus* to come. On Christmas day we eat turkey and other good things. We pull *crackers* with *paper* hats and small presents inside.

When children finish the gap-filling exercise, let them relax and invent some jokes in English.

LESSON 4 - THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Before reading

Before your pupils read the play, write down the following questions on the blackboard. Ask them to find the words in *italics* in their dictionaries.

- What does an *emperor* do?
- In which religions is Jesus the Son of *God*?
- What does a *narrator* do?
- Do books or plays have *scenes*?

After reading

After pupils read the play, ask them the following questions.

1. Where did Mary and Joseph live?
2. Where was Joseph born?
3. Why did Mary and Joseph sleep in a stable?
4. How did the shepherds find the child in Bethlehem?
5. Why did Joseph take Mary and Jesus to Egypt?

True or False?

Read aloud the following sentences. Ask your pupils if they are true or false.

1. Mary and Joseph lived in Galilee. (T)
2. Mary was married to Joseph. (T)
3. Joseph was born in Nazareth. (F)
4. The Emperor of Rome gave orders to people in Galilee and Judea. (T)
5. Mary met an angel called Gabriel. (T)
6. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem on donkeys. (F)
7. They found somewhere to sleep but it was cold and wet. (F)
8. The shepherds saw an angel, then a great light, then a bright star in the sky. (F)
9. Only the shepherds saw the bright star. (F)
10. The shepherds did not tell anyone about the baby. (F)
11. Herod was the king of Judea at that time. (T)
12. Jesus spent the first years of his life in Egypt. (T)

Act out the play!

Involve whole class in acting out the play. Some pupils can take care of costumes and decorations, other can be responsible for the technical side of the play (curtains, places for the audience, etc.). You can also involve the choir into the play. Remaining pupils can sing Christmas carols between the scenes. You can take the part of narrator yourself.

The play comes from *Penguin Reader Happy Christmas* by John Escott.

I. Read three interesting facts about Santa Claus. Check the meaning of the underlined words in the dictionary.

1. The origin of Father Christmas was Bishop Nicholas. He lived in the fourth century in a country which is now Turkey. He came from a rich family but secretly gave money to the poor. He became Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children.
2. Some legends say that St Nicholas dropped bags of gold down the chimney. This is the origin of the legend that Father Christmas comes down the chimney with presents.
3. The name Santa Claus comes from the Dutch name for St Nicholas: Sinterklaas. Dutch settlers in America brought the tradition of St Nicholas with them.

Did you know?

Read more facts about Christmas and answer the questions.



In Greece and Japan there is no Santa Claus! Generous Agios Vasilis is the saint of letters and learning. He is celebrated by the Greek Church on the 1st January. He sneaks into the houses during the night and brings presents.

In Japan there is a priest, Hoteisho, an old man who carries a bag full of presents for children.

- What is the name of Santa in Poland?
- When does he bring presents?

The word 'carol' means 'a singing dance'. Many Christmas carols are hundreds of years old and tell stories about Christmas.

- Do you know any carols in English?



The most important days of the Christmas Festival are 24th-26th December. December 24th is called Christmas Eve. December 25th is called Christmas Day and December 26th is called Boxing Day. The Christmas season ends after 12 days, on 6 January – Twelfth Night. This is the day when people take down decorations.

- When do you decorate a Christmas tree?
- When does your family take decorations down?

Boxing Day in Britain is the day after Christmas Day. Its name probably comes from the custom of opening church money boxes on that day. The money was for poor people. The name was first used in 1849.

- What do you do on the first day of Christmas?
- What happens on the second day?



II. Are these sentences true or false? Correct the ones that are false.

1. Bishop Nicholas was the first Santa Claus.
2. Bishop Nicholas left bags of silver on the doorsteps.
3. Santa Claus brings presents all over the world.
4. In Japan children don't know Santa Claus.
5. The word 'carol' means 'a merry song'.
6. Singing Christmas carols is a very old tradition.
7. Christmas Eve is on 25 December.
8. Christmas season lasts 3 weeks.
9. People take down decorations on Boxing Day.
10. Boxing Day is two days after Christmas Eve.





I. Work in pairs. Try to match customs with the countries. Check your answers with the teacher.

- (a) Mexico (b) Spain (c) Egypt (d) China (e) Denmark

- The tradition is for the father to decorate the Christmas tree. Family cannot see it before the meal when it's also time to open the presents.
- Christmas is on 7 December. For forty days before this, people should not eat meat. After visit to church, people eat a special Christmas meal called *fatta* (meat and rice).
- People light up their houses and put decorations on Christmas trees. These are called *Trees of Light*.
- People perform story about the birth of Christ for nine nights before Christmas (*Las Posadas*). Children play with piñatas. Piñatas are made of old newspapers and glue, they can be star- or bell-shaped and have candy and prizes inside. Children are blindfolded and have to break a piñata with the stick. When they break it, the sweets fall out.
- Hogueras* (bonfires) is the festival which celebrates the shortest day of the year and the beginning of winter. People jump over fires as a symbolic protection against illness.

II. Find out about Christmas food in different countries. Match the columns and check your answers with your teacher.

Country	Food
Germany	fish followed by rice
Sweden	dried cod followed by rice pudding
USA	eels
Norway	lamb cooked over an open fire
Czech Republic	turkey
Greece	goose
Italy	pork



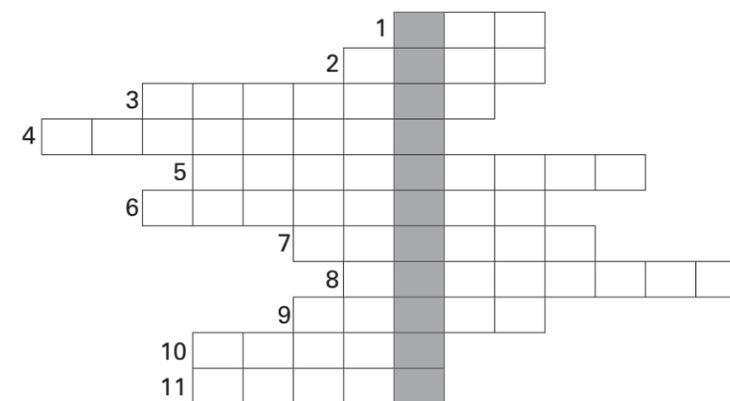
What do people in Poland eat at Christmas Eve?

What's the most popular main meal on the first day of Christmas?

III. Make presents calendar for the countries below. Match the columns.

Britain	1 January	in the shoe
Netherlands	24 December	in the stocking
Greece	25 December	under the Christmas tree
Poland	5 December	next to the bed

I. Solve the crossword puzzle to find out the title of one of the most popular Christmas songs.



What is one of the most popular Christmas songs? _____

- the feeling of happiness, typical for Christmas
- a present
- a special sweet food that contains a lot of dried fruit. Families in Britain have it on Christmas Day for the dessert.
- a long sock which children leave in their house on Christmas Eve and find presents in it
- a dark green plant with white berries. If you are caught under it at Christmas, you will probably get a kiss.
- decoration for Christmas tree
- girls tie their hair with it, you can also use it to wrap presents
- one of 8 animals which pull Santa Claus' sleigh
- a plant with sharp dark green leaves and red berries, a decoration at Christmas
- a traditional Christmas song
- people send millions of them before Christmas



II. Complete this paragraph using the words below. Write the words in the spaces.

turkey paper celebration presents December trees Santa Claus crackers

Christmas is a time of _____. There have been festivals for about 4000 years in about _____. Christmas _____ are a sign of Christmas. The trees look pretty with small _____ on them. Children wait for _____ to come. On Christmas day we eat _____ and other good things. We pull _____ with _____ hats and small presents inside.

Christmas crackers have small presents, paper hats and jokes inside. Think of a joke you could put into a cracker.

Question: Can you name seven Indian animals?
Answer: Six elephants and a tiger.

The Christmas Story

People in the Play

- Narrator
- Angel
- Mary
- Joseph
- 1st Innkeeper
- 2nd Innkeeper
- 3rd Innkeeper
- 1st Shepherd
- 2nd Shepherd
- 3rd Shepherd
- 1st King
- 2nd King
- 3rd King



Acting note: The Narrator stands at the side of the stage. When he/she is talking to other people, the Narrator steps into the scene.

Narrator: More than 2,000 years ago, a woman lived in the town of Nazareth, in Galilee. Her name was Mary. She was planning to marry a man called Joseph. One day, when she was out walking, she saw an angel. The angel's name was Gabriel.

SCENE 1



A quiet street in Nazareth. Mary is walking along the street. She looks up suddenly and sees the Angel.

Mary [afraid]: Oh! Who are you?
Angel: Do not be afraid, Mary. God has sent me to speak to you. You are going to have his son. You will call the boy Jesus.

Narrator: At that time, Caesar Augustus was the Emperor of Rome. One day, he gave an order. Each man must return to the place where he was born. There he must pay money to the Emperor.

SCENE 2



Inside Mary's house. Mary is sitting on a chair, thinking. Joseph comes into the room.

Joseph: Mary, we must go to my birthplace – to Bethlehem, in Judea.
Mary: It is a long way to travel, Joseph.
Narrator: It was a long journey. The sky was beginning to get dark when at last they reached Bethlehem.

SCENE 3



On the road to Bethlehem. Mary is riding on a donkey, and Joseph is walking next to her. It is beginning to get dark.

Mary: My baby is going to come soon, Joseph. I am very tired.
Joseph: Then we must find a place to stay for the night.
Narrator: The little town was full of people.



SCENE 4



At an inn in Bethlehem. Joseph is standing outside the door. The innkeeper is shaking his head.

1st Innkeeper: I'm sorry. We have no room for you.

SCENE 5



At another inn. Joseph and Mary are outside. This innkeeper looks tired and angry and only half opens his door.

2nd Innkeeper: We're full. There are no rooms here. Go away!

SCENE 6



Outside a third inn. This innkeeper looks sorry that he has to give Joseph and Mary bad news.

3rd Innkeeper: I'm sorry. I'd like to help, but all my rooms are full.
Joseph: What can we do? The baby is coming soon.
3rd Innkeeper: There is a stable at the back of the inn. It's not as comfortable as one of my rooms. But it's warm and dry. You can sleep there with the animals, if you want to.



Mary: Oh, thank you, sir!
Joseph: Yes, thank you.
Narrator: So Mary's baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem. She remembered the angel's words, and called her son Jesus.

SCENE 7



On the hills outside Bethlehem. Three shepherds are sitting around a fire. Their sheep are near them, and there are stars in the sky.

Narrator: In the fields near Bethlehem, three shepherds were sitting around a fire. Suddenly, there was a great light – and an angel stood in front of them!
Angel: Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news. Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a child was born. He is God's son. You will find him in a stable. You can follow my star, in the sky. It will show you the way.

The angel moves away and the shepherds look up into the sky.

1st Shepherd: Look, that star is brighter than all the others!
2nd Shepherd: That is the star that we must follow.
3rd Shepherd: We will leave now. We must see this Son of God.

SCENE 8



Inside the stable. Mary is sitting with the baby Jesus; the baby is in the crib. Joseph is standing next to them. The animals are standing near them. The three shepherds are down on their knees, thanking God.

Narrator: So the shepherds followed the star to Bethlehem. There they saw the baby Jesus, and thanked God. Then they told the news to everyone they saw.



SCENE 9



Inside the stable. Mary, Joseph and the baby are in the same places as they were in scene 8. The three kings are standing in front of them. Each king has a gift for the baby.

Narrator: Some time later, three kings came from the East.
1st King: We have heard about this special baby. We have travelled a long way to see him.
2nd King: We followed a bright star in the sky.
3rd King: And we bring gifts for the Son of God.

SCENE 10



Inside the stable. Joseph is sleeping and dreaming about the angel. The angel is standing next to him.

Narrator: After the kings went away, Joseph saw the angel in a dream.
Angel: King Herod will look for the boy and will try to kill him. So take your family to Egypt, and wait there.
Narrator: So Joseph and Mary took Jesus into Egypt, and they were safe there. And that was the first Christmas.