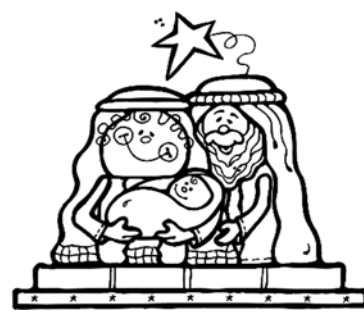


Name _____



Celebrating the Birth of Jesus and Spreading Joy

Christmas is a joyous holiday celebrated around the world to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time of warmth, love, and spreading cheer to family and friends. Let's explore the history and celebrations of Christmas!

The history of Christmas dates back over two thousand years. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was born on December 25th in Bethlehem, a town in what is now modern-day Israel. His birth is considered a sacred event and marks the beginning of Christianity.

The story of Christmas begins with Mary and Joseph, who were visited by an angel who announced that Mary would give birth to the Son of God. They traveled to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a humble stable because there was no room at the inn. Shepherds in the nearby fields were visited by angels who told them about the birth of Jesus, and they went to see him, bringing gifts and spreading the news.

One of the most beloved symbols of Christmas is the Christmas tree. It is believed that the tradition of decorating trees started in Germany in the 16th century. Evergreen trees were adorned with candles to symbolize light during the dark winter months. Today, people decorate Christmas trees with lights, ornaments, and a star or angel at the top, representing the star of Bethlehem.

Another cherished symbol is Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas or Kris Kringle. He is a jolly, bearded man who brings gifts to children on Christmas Eve. The story of Santa Claus originates from Saint Nicholas, a bishop known for his generosity and love for children. The tradition of exchanging gifts on Christmas morning is a way of celebrating the kindness and joy of giving.

Christmas is a time for family and friends to come together. Many people decorate their homes with lights and festive decorations. They gather around a special meal, which often includes roasted turkey, ham, or other traditional dishes. Christmas carols are sung, and gifts are exchanged, bringing joy and excitement.

In many countries, there are also religious ceremonies and services held in churches to honor the birth of Jesus. Nativity scenes, depicting the scene of Jesus' birth, are displayed, reminding people of the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is not just about receiving gifts but also about giving and spreading kindness. Many people participate in acts of charity during the holiday season, donating food, toys, and clothing to those in need. It is a time to express gratitude, help others, and share the spirit of love and compassion.

Name _____

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Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What is Christmas?
2. Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25th?
3. What are some symbols of Christmas?
4. Who is Santa Claus, and why is he associated with Christmas?
5. What is the significance of giving and charity during Christmas?