

Name _____

Christmas

Answer Key

Correction Marks

The history of Christmas can be traced back to the early Christian church's efforts to establish a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The exact date of Jesus' birth is not mentioned in the Bible, and early Christians initially did not celebrate it as a distinct holiday. It wasn't until the fourth century that December 25th was officially designated as the date to celebrate Christ's birth. This date was chosen to coincide with the Roman festival of Saturnalia, a time of feasting and gift-giving, which made it easier for early Christians to integrate their celebration into the existing cultural festivities.

Over the centuries, Christmas traditions evolved and blended with various customs and practices from different regions and cultures. In the Middle Ages, Christmas became a significant religious holiday in Europe, marked by church services, nativity scenes, and charitable acts. During the Protestant Reformation, some Christian denominations downplayed the celebration of Christmas due to concerns about its association with paganism. However, in the 19th century, Christmas experienced a resurgence in popularity, largely due to the influence of authors like Charles Dickens and the commercialization of the holiday with the rise of Santa Claus and the exchanging of gifts. Today, Christmas is a widely celebrated holiday with both religious and secular elements, observed by billions of people around the world, making it one of the most significant and beloved holidays in history.

Complete Passage

The history of Christmas can be traced back to the early Christian church's efforts to establish a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The exact date of Jesus' birth is not mentioned in the Bible, and early Christians initially did not celebrate it as a distinct holiday. It wasn't until the fourth century that December 25th was officially designated as the date to celebrate Christ's birth. This date was chosen to coincide with the Roman festival of Saturnalia, a time of feasting and gift-giving, which made it easier for early Christians to integrate their celebration into the existing cultural festivities.

Over the centuries, Christmas traditions evolved and blended with various customs and practices from different regions and cultures. In the Middle Ages, Christmas became a significant religious holiday in Europe, marked by church services, nativity scenes, and charitable acts. During the Protestant Reformation, some Christian denominations downplayed the celebration of Christmas due to concerns about its association with paganism. However, in the 19th century, Christmas experienced a resurgence in popularity, largely due to the influence of authors like Charles Dickens and the commercialization of the holiday with the rise of Santa Claus and the exchanging of gifts. Today, Christmas is a widely celebrated holiday with both religious and secular elements, observed by billions of people around the world, making it one of the most significant and beloved holidays in history.