

# Christmas



Match the pairs of words

Santa's

tree

carol

holiday

public

Christmas

christmas

sleigh

Father

singers

Write about your own country

In my country we celebrate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Christmas celebrations in New Zealand

For many people in New Zealand Christmas is a special time of the year. Christmas Day, the 25th of December, is a public holiday and all shops and businesses are shut.

From November many shops put up Christmas decorations and coloured lights. Some shops play Christmas music. Christmas trees are decorated with lights and ornaments. Groups of people sing carols, the traditional Christian Christmas songs.

Shopping centres become very busy in December. Shoppers look for gifts to give family and friends on Christmas Day.

People send Christmas cards to each other.

Children love to see Father Christmas (or Santa Claus). Children visit him at local shopping centres. Santa Claus asks them what gift they want for Christmas.

On the night before Christmas (Christmas Eve) children hang up a stocking. Santa Claus arrives from his home in the North Pole late at night. He comes in a sleigh pulled by twelve reindeer. Children believe that if they are good, Santa Claus will leave a gift in their stocking.

In New Zealand the religious meaning of Christmas is not important for many people. However, some attend church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Everyone enjoys Christmas dinner. Traditionally we eat roast lamb or turkey. Today many families have cold food or a picnic as this is more suitable for New Zealand's Christmas weather.

Match words and pictures

Santa Claus's sleigh



Christmas stocking



Christmas gift



Christmas tree



Christmas decorations

Father Christmas



Carol singers



Christmas card



## Circle the correct answer

Christmas Day is a public holiday.	true / false
Shopping centres put up decorations before Christmas.	true / false
Santa Claus leaves gifts for children at Christmas.	true / false
Santa Claus comes to visit on a magic carpet.	true / false
People give gifts on Christmas Day.	true / false
Santa Claus and Father Christmas are names for the same person.	true / false
Traditional Christian Christmas songs are called carols.	true / false
Most New Zealanders go to church at Christmas.	true / false

# Christmas cake

Here is a recipe for a cake traditionally made and eaten at Christmas time in New Zealand. The cake is often iced and decorated with Christmas bells or holly.



### Ingredients:

1 cup of sugar	125 grams of butter
400 grams of fruit mix	1 teaspoon of baking soda
1 teaspoon of mixed spice	2 eggs
1 cup of plain flour	1 cup of self raising flour
440 gram tin of crushed pineapple with juice	

### Method:

1. Turn the oven on to 180 degrees celsius.
2. Put the sugar, fruit mix, pineapple and juice, butter, baking soda and mixed spice in a pot.
3. Heat the pot on the stove element until the butter melts. Remove from the element to cool.
4. In a bowl beat the eggs and then add them to the pot.
5. Stir the two flours into the pot.
6. Put the cake mixture into a 20cm square tin that has been lined, around the sides and on the base, with baking paper.
7. Cook the cake for 1 - 1 ½ hours in the middle of the oven.
8. Leave to cool completely before cutting.
9. You may put icing and decorations on the cake if you choose.

# A Christmas word hunt



Find a Christmas word for

1. something sent through the post \_\_\_\_\_
2. a traditional song \_\_\_\_\_
3. the night before Christmas \_\_\_\_\_
4. another name for Santa Claus \_\_\_\_\_
5. something eaten at Christmas time \_\_\_\_\_
6. Santa Claus's transport \_\_\_\_\_
7. something for Santa Claus to leave gifts in \_\_\_\_\_
8. something decorated with lights \_\_\_\_\_
9. the animals which pull Santa Claus's sleigh \_\_\_\_\_
10. someone whose birth is celebrated \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas cake      stocking

Christmas tree

sleigh

Christmas card

reindeer

Christmas carol

Jesus

Christmas Eve

Father Christmas