

What Are the Facts About Christmas?

Everybody thinks that space travel is something very new, but an elderly gentleman in a rather unique "space-suit" set the pace years ago. His name: Santa Claus.

Now is the season when he's taking off again, for it's Christmas.

How much do you know about Christmas and Santa Claus? Here are some questions, developed with the help of the editors of the Encyclopedia International, to test your knowledge. The answers are at the bottom.

- The first known Christmas card was designed in 1843 by an Englishman named:
 - Charles Dickens
 - Sir Henry Cole
 - John Calcott Horsley
- The first Christian Nativity feast, celebrating the birth of Christ, occurred in the fourth century on:
 - January 6
 - July 4
 - December 25
- Christmas did not become a legal holiday in the U.S. until:
 - The Puritans arrived in New England
 - 1856
 - Santa's Helpers Union went on strike.

4. The original name of the gentleman we know today as Santa Claus was:

- Kris Kringle
- Clement C. Moore
- St. Nicholas

1. (C) is correct. Artist Horsley designed the first known Christmas greeting card for his friend, Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy London gentleman. Charles Dickens had his share in Christmas 1843, too. His book, "A Christmas Carol," was published that year.

2. (A) is correct. At first, January 6, the Epiphany, was observed as the feast of Jesus' baptism, with a secondary emphasis on His birth. It was not until the 5th century A.D. that Christmas was generally celebrated on December 25.

3. (B) is correct. New England states outlawed the celebration of Christmas until the middle of the 19th century.

4. (C) is correct. Kris Kringle is the German name for Santa, while Clement C. Moore contributed to the image of Santa Claus with his poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," in 1823. St. Nicholas was a real person, a fourth century bishop, and the first Santa Claus.

HENRY says:

Merry Christmas and

ZIP CODE TURNS ON THE MAIL!



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JOHN LINEY

Good Wishes for Christmas

May your Christmas dreams come true, and your hearth and home be filled with happiness. To our patrons, warm thanks.

Hughes - Parker Hardware Co.

Manger Is Theme Of Latin Yule

Though Santa and gaily decked trees often appear nowadays in Central and South America, Christmas is traditionally a time for religious observances.

Mass, at midnight on Christmas Eve or early Christmas Day, forms the heart of the holiday in Latin America, and the creche or manger scene marks the season throughout churches and homes, say the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana.

Bountiful feasts, processions and other special events may provide a festive note, but custom says that gift-giving time is Three Kings' Day - Twelfth Night, January 6th, when the Wise Men brought their gifts to Jesus.

Children put their shoes under the bed or in the window, hoping to have them filled with toys and gifts. Water and hay are set out for the Three Kings' horses or camels.

While many Latin American countries share these traditions and celebrate Christmas in similar ways, each country also has its own special festivities.

Legend, Lore Of Holiday Takes Varied Forms

The belief that Santa has a reindeer-drawn sleigh and enters homes through the chimney may have come from Scandinavia. An old Norse legend about the goddess Hertha said that she rode on a reindeer's back.

Her appearance in the fireplace in mid-winter was thought to bring good luck to the home.

"Silent Night, Holy Night" was written in 1818 by a village priest in Hallein, Austria. Father Joseph Mohr wrote the words, to an accompaniment created by his organist, Franz Gruber.

Legend has it that the church organ was out of order - damaged by mice - and so "Silent Night" was first sung to a guitar accompaniment.

Who invented that popular holiday beverage, eggnog? It has been part of the festivities for so many years that nobody really knows its origin.

One possibility is that eggnog came from the Old English hot drink, sack-posset, which was also made of eggs, milk, nutmeg and sugar.



CHRIST is BORN

May the Star that blazed in the heavens on the night of His birth shine upon you and yours, bringing much Christmas joy.

Edenton Savings & Loan Asso.

LEARY BROS. STORAGE CO.

JOYOUS GREETINGS

Truly, Christmas is a season of rejoicing, as the Miracle of the sacred manger lives anew in heart and spirit. To our good friends, we send joyous greetings, with sincere gratitude.



Christmas Greetings

To the happy tempo of jingling bells, we sing out a cheery "Merry Christmas" to all. Best wishes for a season filled with good health and good fortune. Warm thanks for your loyalty.

Jackson's Radio & TV Service
W. Eden Street Phone 482-3519 Edenton, N. C.

Merry Christmas

Santa rings the bell for a Merry Christmas with all the Yuletide joy that makes this season bright. To our friends and patrons, grateful thanks.

Hobbs Implement Co., Inc.

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