



YOU SAY THANK YOU WHEN YOU GET IT	IT HAS LEAVES AND BRANCHES	SOME PEOPLE EAT IT AT CHRISTMAS
YOU BUY IT FOR FRIENDS OR FAMILY	IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS DARK GREEN	IT SHARES ITS NAME WITH A COUNTRY
IT COULD BE A BOOK OR A PLUSHY TEDDY	A LOT OF HOUSES HAVE ONE INSIDE OR OUTSIDE	IN THE USA, IT'S EATEN FOR THANKSGIVING
IT COULD BE A PAIR OF SOCKS OR A PS3 PLAYER	IT COMES FROM THE FOREST	IT'S A LARGE BIRD WHICH CAN'T FLY WELL
YOU MIGHT WRAP IT IN COLOURFUL PAPER	YOU CAN PUT LIGHTS ALL AROUND IT	IT CAN BE AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS HUMANS
IT ALWAYS FEELS COLD IF YOU TOUCH IT	IT MIGHT HAVE A CARROT FOR A NOSE	IT STANDS IN YOUR GARDEN
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT IN SUMMER	YOU MIGHT LET IT BORROW YOUR SCARF	IT SOMETIMES HAS STICKS FOR ARMS

(The group themes: PRESENT, TREE, TURKEY, SNOWMAN)



A: Christmas Traditions

Workplaces often have a party just before Christmas. This is a chance for workers to get to know each other better. Usually they get out of work early and go to a restaurant.

Most British people celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December. This is also the day when children open presents. The norm is to have a small breakfast and a big lunch.

After lunch, it's time for Christmas crackers. These are tubes containing a small surprise gift, a silly hat, a bad joke, and a very tiny bit of explosive so that they make a 'bang' when two people pull hard from each end.

The day after Christmas is called Boxing Day and is also a public holiday. If you go to parks or beaches on Boxing Day, you'll usually find lots of people there having a walk.

B: Christmas Trees

Christmas trees first arrived in Great Britain in the 1800s. Queen Victoria married a German prince called Albert, and he helped to make this tradition popular. About 10 million Christmas trees are sold each year in the UK.

Most families decorate their trees with Christmas lights, baubles, tinsel and a star at the top. Baubles are shiny balls made of metal or plastic and usually red, gold or silver in colour. Tinsel is the name given to strings of sparkling shiny material.

The tree itself can be made of plastic or cut from a real tree.

Trafalgar Square in London gets a large spruce tree every year as a gift from the people of Oslo, Norway. This tree is prepared in November and travels to England by boat.

C: Christmas Dinner

Around half of British people eat turkey for Christmas dinner. The second most popular meat is beef, but this is eaten by just 10%. Usually, the meat is eaten with potatoes, carrots, and brussels sprouts. Sprouts are a type of small green cabbage-like vegetable with a bitter taste. Many people add gravy, which is a brown sauce made from meat juice, cornflour and salt.

Another meaty snack which many people enjoy are sausages wrapped in bacon. These are often called pigs-in-blankets.

For dessert, there is Christmas cake or Christmas pudding. Both of these are made from dough with raisins, cherries and other dried fruit. Christmas cake is heavier, often round, and can be covered in alcohol and burned on the top for an even richer taste.

One more Christmassy food is mince pies: these are small pastries filled with a sweet fruit paste called 'mincemeat'.

D: Christmas on TV and in the movies

Some TV programmes have become a Christmas tradition in the UK. Christmas songs are called carols, and on Christmas Eve, the 24th of December, there is a televised performance of these songs from King's College in Cambridge.

Every year, the King or Queen records a Christmas message, and this is shown on most TV channels on the 25th December. This speech is about five minutes long and usually includes world events and a few stories from his or her official visits during the year.

Popular movies include the short animated film *The Snowman*, a fantasy about a lonely boy taking a night-time trip to the North Pole with the snowman he made the day before.

Another movie which is on TV every year is *The Sound of Music*, about a singing family from Austria.



Group A

Make questions to ask the others in the class so that you can finish the texts below.
Example: *"Where does the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square come from?"*

QUESTION (Ask this to the other groups)	TEXT (Finish this)
<i>"Where does the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square come from?"</i>	1. The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square comes from
	2. Baubles are shiny balls made from
	3. Strings of sparkly material on a Christmas tree are called
	4. _____ married a German prince called Albert.
	5. Pigs-in-blankets are a snack made of
	6. Brussels sprouts are a vegetable which is
	7. To make Christmas pudding taste even better, you can
	8. On British TV, you can watch 'Carols from Kings' - a carol is a
	9. The film <i>The Snowman</i> is about
	10. The King's message on TV is about _____ minutes long.



Group B

Make questions to ask the others in the class so that you can finish the texts below.
Example: "What do half of British people eat for Christmas dinner?"

QUESTION (Ask this to the other groups)	TEXT (Finish this)
"What do around half of British people eat for Christmas dinner?"	1. Around half of British people eat _____ for Christmas dinner.
	2. Mince pies are filled with
	3. Brussels sprouts are a vegetable which is
	4. _____ is the name of a sauce made from meat juice, cornflour and salt.
	5. The popular movie <i>The Sound of Music</i> is about
	6. A TV programme with a performance of Christmas carols is filmed at
	7. Every year, _____ records a short Christmas message.
	8. The day when most British children open presents is
	9. Workers often finish work early so that they can go to a
	10. One thing you can find in a Christmas cracker is a



Group C

Make questions to ask the others in the class so that you can finish the texts below.
Example: "What is the animated film *The Snowman* about?"

QUESTION (Ask this to the other groups)	TEXT (Finish this)
"What is the animated film <i>The Snowman</i> about?"	1. The animated film <i>The Snowman</i> is about
	2. The King's message on TV is about _____ minutes long.
	3. In his message, the king usually talks about world events and also about
	4. A TV programme with a performance of Christmas carols is filmed at
	5. _____ often have a party just before Christmas.
	6. The day when most British children open presents is
	7. Boxing Day is
	8. Strings of sparkly material on a Christmas tree are called
	9. The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is special because
	10. _____ can be red, silver or gold.



Group D

Make questions to ask the others in the class so that you can finish the texts below.
Example: *"What is the day after Christmas called?"*

QUESTION (Ask this to the other groups)	TEXT (Finish this)
<i>"What is the day after Christmas called?"</i>	1. The the day after Christmas is called
	2. Christmas crackers make a 'bang' when you pull them because
	3. The day when most British children open presents is
	4. _____ often have a party just before Christmas.
	5. _____ married a German prince called Albert.
	6. People often hang baubles on a Christmas tree. Baubles are
	7. The Christmas tree in _____ arrives by boat from Norway.
	8. Mince pies are filled with
	9. One vegetable in a British Christmas dinner is
	10. The usual name for sausages wrapped in bacon is