



BRAIN

NUMBER 8 (DECEMBER 2012)

WAVE

CHRISTMAS TIME!

- An artificial spider and web are often included in the decorations on Ukrainian Christmas trees. A spider web found on Christmas morning is believed to bring good luck.

- The tradition of gifts seems to have started with the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus. The exchanging of gifts between people started about the 1800's.

- The popular Christmas song «Jingle Bells» was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called «One-Horse Open Sleigh». It was actually written for Thanksgiving, not Xmas.

- The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.

- An old wives' tale says that bread baked on Christmas

Cool Christmas Facts

Eve will never go mouldy. If this was true, then bakeries would just have to make all their bread on Christmas Eve and they will never have to put best before dates ever again!

- Christmas pudding was first made as a kind of soup with raisins and wine in it. Christmas Pudding originates from an old, Celtic dish known as 'frumenty'.

- Each year between 34-36 million Christmas trees are produced to cope with the holiday demand.



- Early Christmas trees were decorated with fruits, flowers and candles, which were heavy on the tree branches. In the 1800's German glass blowers began producing glass balls to replace the heavy decorations and called them bulbs.

Christmas in literature

Charles Dickens has probably had more influence on the way that the British celebrate Christmas today than any single individual in human history except one.

At the beginning of the Victorian period the celebration of Christmas was decline. The industrial Revolution, in full swing in Dickens' time, allowed workers little time for the celebration of Christmas.

The romantic revival of Christmas traditions that occurred in Victorian times had other contributors: Prince Albert brought the German custom of decorating the Christmas tree of England. The singing of Christmas carols began to thrive again, and the first Christmas card appeared in the 1840s, but it was the Christmas stories of Dickens, particularly his 1843 masterpiece *A Christmas Carol*, that rekindled the joy of Christmas in Britain and America. Today, after 169 years, *A Christmas Carol* gets to the heart and soul of the holidays.

Dickens describes the holidays as «a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of other people below them as if they



really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on their journeys.» This is what Dickens described for the rest of his life as the «*Carol Philosophy*».

Dickens' name had become so synonymous with Christmas that on hearing of his death in 1870 a little *costermonger's girl in London asked, «Mr Dickens dead? Then will Father Christmas die too?»

*costermonger – a person who sells fruit and vegetables from a cart in the street, especially in London.

Why do people love Christmas?

*Is it the sparkle on the tree,
The green wreath on the door;
The present tied with ribbon red,
Or is it something more?
The cheery greeting when we meet
A friend along our way,
The crunch of snow beneath our feet,
The children in their play?
We ask ourselves,
What is it?
But in the end we know
It's our love for one another
That makes Christmas spirit glow.*

Christmas Questions

1. This word starts with an "H". It is the word for a time to celebrate. Christmas is one of these. What is it?

2. This word starts with a "W". It is the season of the year in which Christmas is celebrated. What is it called?

3. This word starts with an "S". It is a fluffy white form of water that sometimes falls in cold parts of the world during winter. What is it called?

4. This word starts with an "S". It is a tiny object that has six sides and is used as a Christmas decoration. No two of these are alike. What is one of them called?

5. This word starts with an "S". It is a roly-poly character that you can make out of snow. What is it called?

6. This word starts with a "T". This is a symbol of Christmas. Some people put one of these in their house and decorate it with ornaments, lights, angels and candy canes. What is it?

7. This word starts with an "N". This cold, far-away area is where Santa lives. What is it called?

8. This word starts with a "T". Most children hope to get some of these for Christmas. What are they?

9. This word starts with a "P". Christmas is a time for giving. This is another word for a gift. What is this other word?

10. This word starts with an "R". Gifts are often decorated



with one of these. What it is called?

11. This word starts with a "C". Many people send this paper items to their friends and family at Christmas time, with a note of friendship and good wishes. What is one of these called?

12. This word starts with an "R". These animals pull Santa's sleigh. What are they called?

13. This word starts with an "H". This plant is another symbol of the season. It has red berries and shiny leaves with sharp points. What is it called?

14. This word starts with a "G". These decorated cookies are made in the shape of little people. What are they called?

15. This word starts with a "W". It is a circular decoration. Many people put one of these on their door at Christmas time. What is it called?

Santa Claus All Over The World

The present-day Christmas traditions are said to have their origin the Victorian period during 1860s. Santa Claus or Father Christmas has many forms around the world that have different personalities, different duties and dresses.

Here are few translations of the most famous man on the planet:

Brazil - Papa Noel

Chile - Viejo Pascuero (Old Man Christmas)

China - Dun Che Lao Ren (Christmas Old Man)

Denmark - Julemandy

Finland - Joulupukki

Germany - Weihnachtsmann (Christmas Man)

Hungary - Mikulas (St. Nicholas)

Italy - Babbo Natale

Japan - Hoteiosho (A god or priest bearing gifts)

Norway - Julenissen (Christmas gnome)

Portugal - Pai Natal

Spain - Papa Noel

Romania - Mos Craciun

Russia - Ded Moroz (Grandfather Frost)

Turkey - Noel Baba

Congratulations to Kozell Nastya and Krylova Dasha from 5B who gave the right answer to the question: «Who was that person?»

The answer is:

Abraham Lincoln.



*The world is so full
of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be
as happy as kings.
R.L. Stevenson*

English Humour

The Birth of Jesus

The main part of the Christmas Story is the birth of Jesus. But why was Jesus born in such unusual surroundings?

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in manger.

As many people would have traveled to Bethlehem for the census, all the houses, or certainly upper levels were full. So Joseph and Mary had



to sleep with the animals, either in a very crowded and smelly lower level of a house or out in a stable, cave or even a covered market stall that sold animals.

And as no proper crib was available, the new baby boy was placed in a manger, or feeding trough.

This must have been an amazing scene, but was exactly how the angels had described things to the shepherds up on the hills surrounding Bethlehem!

Christmas Jokes for kids

When does Christmas come before Thanksgiving?

In the dictionary!

Why it's always cold in Christmas?

Because it's Decemberrrr!

What can you call old snowman?

Water!

How many presents can Santa fit in an empty sack?

Only one, after that it's not empty any more!

Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?

Santa Jaws!

What often falls at the Northern Pole but never gets hurt?

Snow!

What the best thing to put into Christmas pie?

Your teeth!

All materials have been taken from the magazine «English», №11