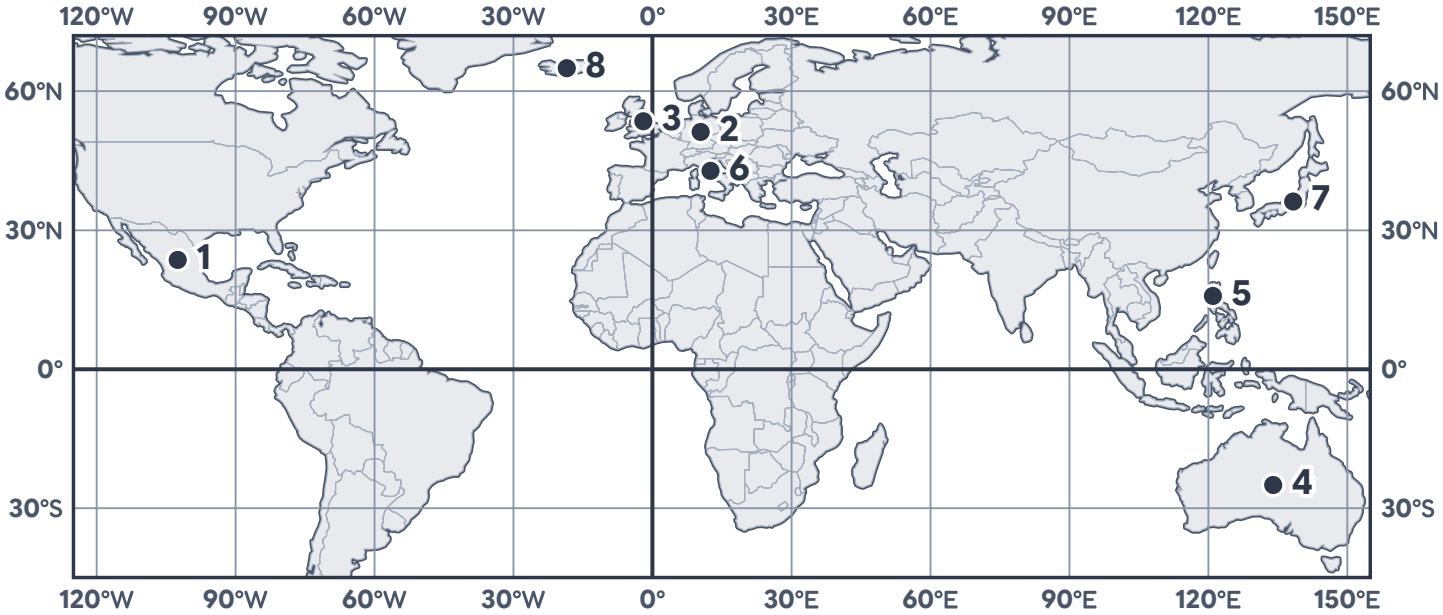
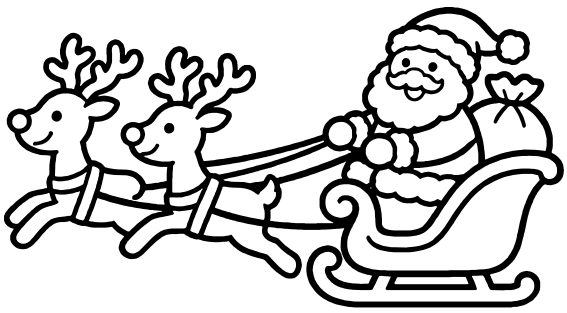
Name _____ Date _____

Christmas Around the World

Find the eight places on the map. Each has a number.



1. **Mexico** poinsettias and piñatas
2. **Germany** Christmas markets
3. **United Kingdom** the first Christmas card
4. **Australia** Christmas in summer
5. **Philippines** star lanterns called parols
6. **Italy** La Befana
7. **Japan** strawberry Christmas cake
8. **Iceland** the 13 Yule Lads



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Name _____ Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

1. Mexico

In Mexico, the **poinsettia** grows wild as a tall bush. Its top leaves turn bright red in winter. People in Mexico call it the flor de Nochebuena, the Christmas Eve flower. About 200 years ago, an American named Joel Poinsett saw it there. He sent plants home, and in English it got his name. At December parties, children take turns hitting a **piñata** with a stick. When it breaks, candy and fruit fall out. A star piñata with seven points is a favorite.

1. In English, the poinsettia is named after ____

a kind of star an American who sent plants home a city in Mexico

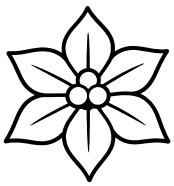
2. A piñata is filled with candy and fruit. **true** **false**

2. Germany

Germany is famous for its **Christmas markets**. From late November, town squares fill with wooden stalls. They sell toys, ornaments, nuts and gingerbread. The market in Dresden began in 1434, and it is still held today. Germans began to trim trees for Christmas more than 400 years ago. In 1848, a picture showed Britain's Queen Victoria and her family by a tree. Her husband, Prince Albert, was from Germany. The picture helped the custom spread.

3. When was the Dresden market first held? **1600** **1848** **1434**

4. Name two things sold at a Christmas market.







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Name _____ Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

3. United Kingdom

In 1843, Henry Cole of London had too many letters to answer before Christmas. So he asked an artist, John Callcott Horsley, to draw a picture with a greeting. About a thousand copies were printed. It was the first **Christmas card** made to be sold. In the 1840s, a London candy maker named Tom Smith wrapped sweets in twists of paper. Later he added a strip that snaps when the ends are pulled. That was the first Christmas **cracker**.

1. Who drew the first Christmas card?

John Callcott Horsley Henry Cole Tom Smith

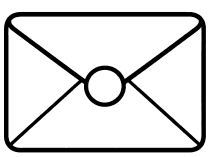
2. A cracker snaps when its ends are pulled. **true** **false**

4. Australia

In Australia, Christmas comes in summer, when days are long and hot. Many families eat lunch outside. They may have cold prawns, salads or a barbecue. Some go to the beach for a swim or a game of cricket on the sand. Dessert is often a **pavlova**, a meringue cake topped with cream and fresh fruit. Still, many cards and shops show snow and holly. Many of these customs came from cold places far away.

3. In Australia, Christmas comes in winter. **true** **false**

4. What is a pavlova?







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Name _____ Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

5. Philippines

The Philippines has one of the longest Christmas seasons in the world. Some people start to play Christmas songs in September! Homes and streets glow with **parols**. A parol is a lantern shaped like a star. The first ones were made of bamboo and paper, with a candle inside. Now many shine with electric lights. Each December, the city of San Fernando, in Pampanga, holds a Giant Lantern Festival. Its huge lanterns flash with colored lights.

1. A parol is shaped like a ____ **tree** **bell** **star**

2. When do some people start playing Christmas songs? **December** **June** **September**

6. Italy

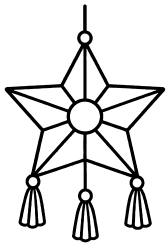
In Italy, children wait for a visitor after Christmas: **La Befana**. In the old story, she is a kind old woman who flies on a broom. On the night of January 5, she comes down the chimney. She fills children's stockings with sweets. Some say she leaves coal for naughty children. Today the coal is often black sugar candy! Some families leave out a snack for her.

3. La Befana comes on the night of January 5. **true** **false**

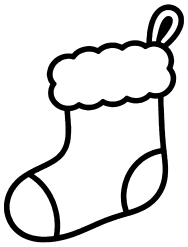
4. What is the coal made of today?

_____

_____







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Name _____ Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

7. Japan

Christmas is not a national holiday in Japan, but many people enjoy it. A favorite treat is a **Christmas cake**. It is a soft cake with whipped cream and red strawberries on top. Many families also eat fried chicken on Christmas Eve. This custom began with an ad in 1974. In December, streets and shops glow with bright light shows.

1. Christmas is a national holiday in Japan. **true** **false**

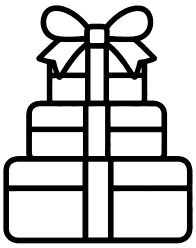
2. What is on top of a Christmas cake in Japan? **strawberries** **oranges** **cherries**

8. Iceland

In Iceland, 13 **Yule Lads** visit at Christmas, one after another. In the old stories, they are playful brothers who live in the mountains. They come to town one at a time, a new one each night, for the 13 nights before Christmas. Children leave a shoe on the windowsill. A Yule Lad leaves a small gift in it, or a potato if the child has been naughty. Books are a favorite gift, too. So many new books come out that the season is called the Christmas Book Flood.

3. How many Yule Lads are there? **13** **1** **12**

4. Where do children leave a shoe for the Yule Lads?







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Name _____ Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Draw a line from each place to its custom.

Mexico	●	● star lanterns called parols
Germany	●	● strawberry Christmas cake
United Kingdom	●	● the 13 Yule Lads
Australia	●	● La Befana
Philippines	●	● the first Christmas card
Italy	●	● poinsettias and piñatas
Japan	●	● Christmas in summer
Iceland	●	● Christmas markets

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Name _____ Date _____



My Passport

Draw a stamp for each place after you read about it.

1. Mexico

I learned about:

stamp

2. Germany

I learned about:

stamp

3. United Kingdom

I learned about:

stamp

4. Australia

I learned about:

stamp

5. Philippines

I learned about:

stamp

6. Italy

I learned about:

stamp

7. Japan

I learned about:

stamp

8. Iceland

I learned about:

stamp

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Name _____ Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Draw and write about a tradition your family loves.

My family loves to

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Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

1. Mexico

In Mexico, the **poinsettia** grows wild as a tall bush. Its top leaves turn bright red in winter. People in Mexico call it the flor de Nochebuena, the Christmas Eve flower. About 200 years ago, an American named Joel Poinsett saw it there. He sent plants home, and in English it got his name. At December parties, children take turns hitting a **piñata** with a stick. When it breaks, candy and fruit fall out. A star piñata with seven points is a favorite.

1. In English, the poinsettia is named after ____

a kind of star an American who sent plants home a city in Mexico

2. A piñata is filled with candy and fruit. **true** **false**

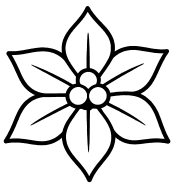
2. Germany

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3. When was the Dresden market first held? **1600** **1848** **1434**

4. Name two things sold at a Christmas market.

toys and gingerbread (or ornaments, nuts)







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Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

3. United Kingdom

In 1843, Henry Cole of London had too many letters to answer before Christmas. So he asked an artist, John Callcott Horsley, to draw a picture with a greeting. About a thousand copies were printed. It was the first **Christmas card** made to be sold. In the 1840s, a London candy maker named Tom Smith wrapped sweets in twists of paper. Later he added a strip that snaps when the ends are pulled. That was the first Christmas **cracker**.

1. Who drew the first Christmas card?

John Callcott Horsley Henry Cole Tom Smith

2. A cracker snaps when its ends are pulled. **true** **false**

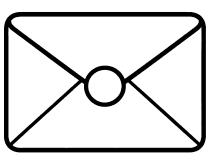
4. Australia

In Australia, Christmas comes in summer, when days are long and hot. Many families eat lunch outside. They may have cold prawns, salads or a barbecue. Some go to the beach for a swim or a game of cricket on the sand. Dessert is often a **pavlova**, a meringue cake topped with cream and fresh fruit. Still, many cards and shops show snow and holly. Many of these customs came from cold places far away.

3. In Australia, Christmas comes in winter. **true** **false**

4. What is a pavlova?

A meringue cake topped with cream and fresh fruit.







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Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

5. Philippines

The Philippines has one of the longest Christmas seasons in the world. Some people start to play Christmas songs in September! Homes and streets glow with **parols**. A parol is a lantern shaped like a star. The first ones were made of bamboo and paper, with a candle inside. Now many shine with electric lights. Each December, the city of San Fernando, in Pampanga, holds a Giant Lantern Festival. Its huge lanterns flash with colored lights.

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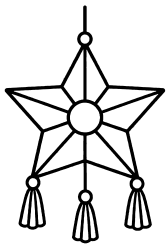
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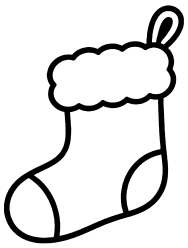
3. La Befana comes on the night of January 5. **true** **false**

4. What is the coal made of today?

Black sugar candy.







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Christmas Around the World

Read about each place. Then answer the questions.

7. Japan

Christmas is not a national holiday in Japan, but many people enjoy it. A favorite treat is a **Christmas cake**. It is a soft cake with whipped cream and red strawberries on top. Many families also eat fried chicken on Christmas Eve. This custom began with an ad in 1974. In December, streets and shops glow with bright light shows.

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2. What is on top of a Christmas cake in Japan? **strawberries** **oranges** **cherries**

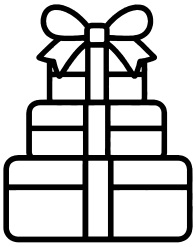
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3. How many Yule Lads are there? **13** **1** **12**

4. Where do children leave a shoe for the Yule Lads?

On the windowsill.





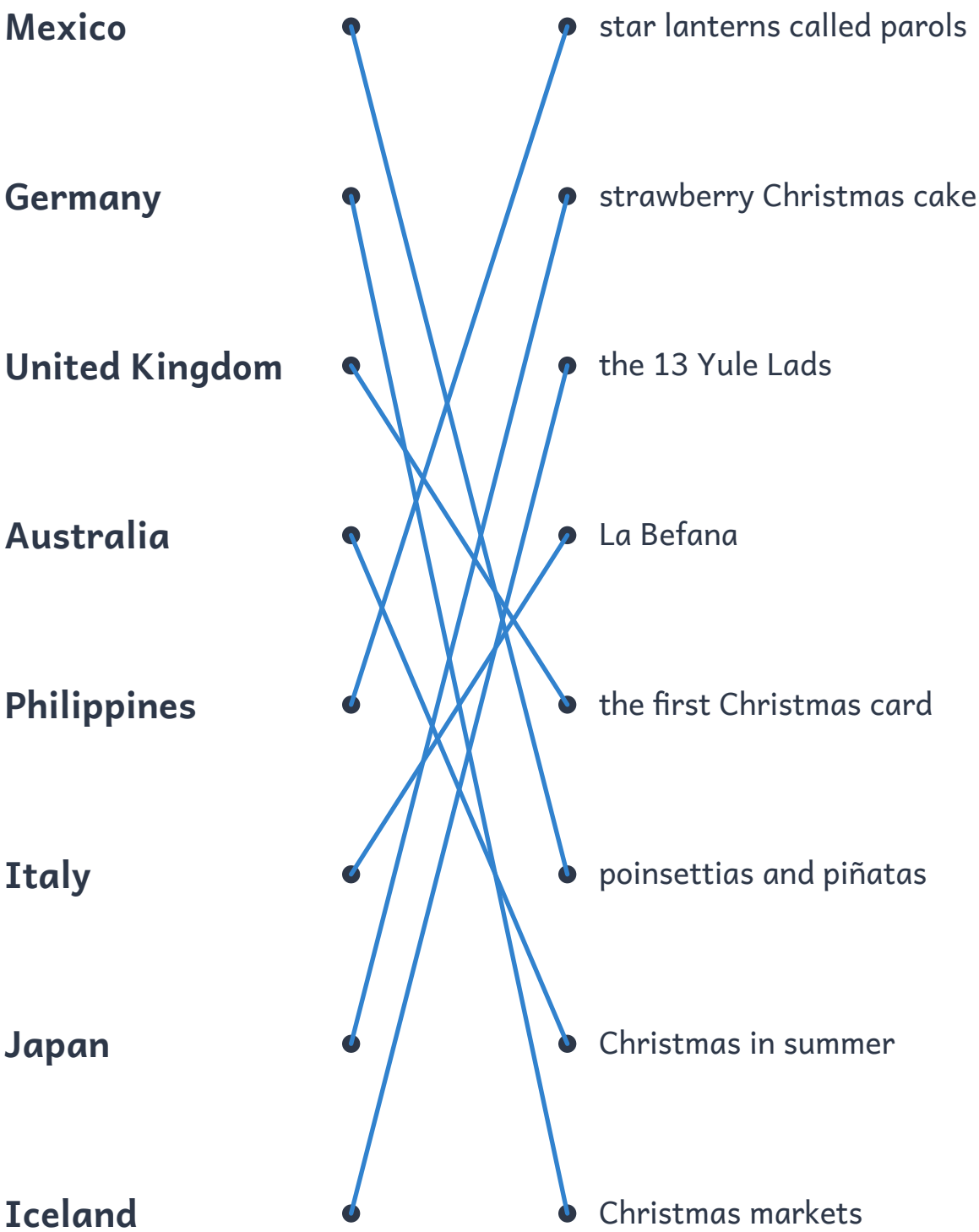


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Christmas Around the World

Draw a line from each place to its custom.



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