1 Christmas pictures

Match the words to the pictures.

Christmas cards
Christmas pudding
Santa Claus
a Christmas cracker

a Christmas tree
a candle
a present
a reindeer

a sleigh
a stocking
bells
mistletoe

1. __________ 2. __________ 3. __________ 4. __________
5. __________ 6. __________ 7. __________ 8. __________
9. __________ 10. __________ 11. __________ 12. __________
Can you think of anything else that is associated with Christmas?

2 Christmas collocations

Match the verbs on the left to the words on the right.

1. decorate  
2. fill  
3. write  
4. ride  
5. light  
6. kiss under  
7. pull  
8. ring  
9. eat  
10. wrap  

a. a candle  
b. a Christmas card  
c. a Christmas tree  
d. a sleigh  
e. a stocking  
f. bells  
g. Christmas crackers  
h. Christmas pudding  
i. presents  
j. the mistletoe

Talk about how you, your family or your friends spend Christmas. Make use of the phrases above, for example:

"We usually write Christmas cards to each other."

3 Christmas traditions

Work in pairs. Which countries do you think the following traditions belong to? Your teacher will provide the correct answers. Total your score and compare with other pairs.

Argentina   Brazil   Egypt   Iceland  
Ireland   Pakistan   Poland   Spain

1. The main Christmas meal is eaten during the evening of Christmas Eve. It is often a barbecue served in the garden.  
2. Sometimes children leave a sock near a window. If Papai Noel (Santa Claus) finds the sock, he'll exchange it for a present!  
3. Christmas Day is celebrated on January 7th.  
4. On January 6th, women traditionally have a free day and men do the housework and cooking.  
5. December 25th is a public holiday, but it is only in memory of the founder of the country.  
6. The main Christmas meal consists of 12 dishes. Carp (a river fish) is the main dish.  
7. Sometimes a sea bird is eaten on Christmas Day.  
8. On December 28th, people play tricks on each other (like on April 1st in the UK and USA).
Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below.

1. Are there any unusual Christmas traditions in your country?
2. How has Christmas changed for you since you were younger?
3. What do you enjoy about this time of year?
4. What do you dislike about this time of year?
Key

1. Christmas pictures

Students can work individually and check in pairs.

1. bells
2. Christmas cards
3. a Christmas cracker
4. a present
5. a reindeer
6. Santa Claus
7. a sleigh
8. a stocking
9. Christmas pudding
10. mistletoe
11. a Christmas tree
12. a candle

Possible answers: turkey, Christmas carols, Boxing Day, nativity scene, etc.

2. Christmas collocations

1. c
2. e
3. b
4. d
5. a
6. j
7. g
8. f
9. h
10. i

3. Christmas traditions

Students can work in pairs or in groups. Set a time limit. Provide the correct answers and award a present to the pair or group with the highest score.

1. Argentina
2. Brazil
3. Egypt
4. Ireland
5. Pakistan
6. Poland
7. Iceland
8. Spain