HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN
(ПРАЗДНИКИ В ВЕЛИКОБРITАНИИ)

There are many holidays in Great Britain like in any other country in the world. Easter and Christmas, New Year, Boxing Day and other ones are known as public holidays in Great Britain. The main holidays are still Christmas and New Year. On 25th of December Christmas is celebrated, and it symbolizes the birthday of Jesus Christ. On this day many people set up the Christmas tree and decorate it with toys. Santa Claus is the most desirable guest in every home, because he brings presents. Also children like to sing Christmas carols. When they go to bed, they put their Christmas stockings on the bed or on the fireplace to receive presents the next morning. The British like to organize parties and invite a lot of friends to their places. Young people like spending Christmas together. There is a tradition to spend New Year’s Eve in a family circle at home. This holiday unites all people. There is also a tradition in Scotland to go outside and meet New Year by singing songs and dancing. The first man who enters your house after the New Year brings you luck, especially if he will have a piece of bread and a piece of coal with him. Bread stands for wealth and coal-warmth. Children like holidays a lot. They go outside, sing Christmas carols and greet all people. The children are treated with candies or are given little money. The British like to spend all holidays with joy and happiness. They are also know to be kind and open-hearted nation.

Do you decorate the Christmas tree with hand-made decorations? Can you recite or sing any Christmas carol?
Many holidays in the USA are connected with the history of the American nation. The main holidays traditionally are Christmas, New Year’s Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Halloween. The New Year is a time for making wishes and being happy. A lot of Americans try to spend this time with their families at home or with their friends in cafes and restaurants. Times Square in New York is visited by great number of people every New Year. There is a tradition to invite a lot of friends and spend time with relatives on Christmas. Americans prepare Christmas stockings for Santa Claus, who brings presents and usually put them in stockings.

One of religious holidays in the USA is Easter and its symbol is Easter bunny. People celebrate this holiday going to church. After visiting churches many people like to walk along the streets of their cities. Memorial Day is on 30th of May. This holiday is a devotion to the memory of those people who died for the USA during different wars. The national flag “Stars and Stripes” is put on the graves of soldiers.

The biggest national holiday of the United States is the Independence Day that takes place on 4th of July. In 1776 the document, known as the Declaration of Independence, was adopted. On this holiday a lot of cities have military parades and most of people like to watch fireworks in parks. Thanksgiving Day is traditionally celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November. When the first settlers came to America, the first year of their life there was very hard and almost a half of people died. But the Indians taught people how to grow corn and vegetables. It is a holiday when all Americans gather their families at home.
There are a lot of holidays that are very dear and important to Russians. The most important and memorable date in Russia is Victory Day. On 9th of May all people commemorate the Victory of the Russian troops over the Nazi invaders. On this day young people meet to thank the veterans. They thank them for the victory, recall the days of war together and exchange greetings. You can hear wartime music everywhere in the streets. Great fire shows and fireworks are watched by millions of people.

The dates that are dear to every citizen of the Russian Federation are Women’s Day, May Day, Constitution Day, and the Day of Sovereignty. These holidays are national ones; people do not work on these days.

Of course one of the most important and the happiest holidays is New Year. Peter I decreed that New Year should be celebrated in Russia on 1st of January. New Year tree is always set up at home. New Year is associated with presents and Grandpa Frost. Celebration of New Year is widely covered by television and mass media.

Christmas and Easter are main religious holidays in Russia. Now they are officially celebrated all over the country. In Russia 7th of January is a Christmas Day. Easter has always been the most important holiday for the Christians. Besides the religious significance, these holidays have become the days when all families unite and spend time together.

Does your family have any interesting traditions of celebrating?