



Celebrating Christmas

Extended Code Unit 27
more spellings of /ae/

Written by Laura Walker



In Iceland, Christmas celebrations go on from the 11th December and last until the 6th January. Icelandic legend says that there are thirteen Yule Lads that live in mountain caves. They come to town on different nights throughout the Christmas holidays to leave presents in the homes of well-behaved children.

Iceland is just outside the Arctic circle, so it's crazy how cold it can get at Christmas. Every year, they have snow. Lakes always freeze over and families can go skating on them. Around Christmas time, you can also see the Northern Lights. These are a natural phenomenon where the sky glows in different colours. It looks amazing!



In Nigeria, people often celebrate Christmas by making their way back to their family homes to spend time with loved ones. Nigeria is mainly a Christian country, so many people spend Christmas morning praying at church and the holidays are a special time for celebrating their faith. After going to church, families throw a big feast, usually including chicken, rice and plantain.





In many places in Europe, Christmas comes with lots of old traditions. In Italy, people set up Nativity scenes in their homes. These are detailed displays portraying the birth of Jesus. You can also see huge Nativities in churches, shopping centres and other public places. Instead of Santa Claus on a sleigh, a witch named La Befana comes on a broomstick to Italians on the night of the 5th January and leaves presents. The 6th January is an important celebration in Italy and other European countries and is called the Epiphany. This was the day, according to the Christian faith, on which Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were visited by the Magi.

In India, Christmas is only celebrated by around 2.5% of the population, as most people are Hindu or Muslim and take part in other festivals throughout the year instead. Those who do celebrate Christmas usually go to Midnight Mass, a Christian service held at church on the night of Christmas Eve. Goa, a state on the southern coast of India, has a higher population of Christians than the rest of the country. Because of this, Christmas is very meaningful in Goa. People celebrate by hanging star-shaped lanterns in trees, singing carols and eating delicious Goan pastries.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or any other holidays, we hope that you have a nice break!



Celebrating Christmas

Extended Code Unit 27 more spellings of /ae/



This book accompanies the comprehensive Sounds-Write reading and spelling programme. For more information, orders and enquiries:
www.sounds-write.co.uk

First published 2020 by
Sounds-Write Ltd.

Text © Sounds-Write Ltd. 2020