



# Christmas Around the World



## Advent

Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning on November 30 or the nearest Sunday to it. This is the Church's New Year's Day. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus', which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This is the time for Christians to prepare for celebration of the birth of Jesus and look forward to the time that Jesus will come again

## Advent Wreath

These are made from a circle of evergreen plants like holly and ivy which symbolises God with no beginning or end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change. The holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Four candles are fixed round the circle with another in the middle.

The candle of *Hope* so prayers on this day focus on hope.

This candle is a symbol of God's *Peace*, reminding Christians of the Prophets who said that the Messiah would be born.

The candle of *Love*, represents John the Baptist who baptised Jesus.

The candle of *Joy* reminds Christians of Jesus' mother, Mary.

The fifth candle reminds Christians of the birth of Jesus



## Key Vocabulary

Church	Messiah
Christian	Symbolism
Advent	Saviour
Wreath	Peace
Traditional	Culture
Garland	Wreath

## Christmas all over the world

Christmas is generally celebrated on Christmas Day, the 25th of December. Some countries however have slightly different Christmas traditions and as such festive season celebrations take place over a longer period, from the beginning of December to the beginning of January. Countries, however, have slight differences in how they celebrate! Below are just a few:

Country	Tradition
Serbia	Tying up parents
Germany	Santa's spooky helper
Italy	Presents on a broomstick
Netherlands	Sinterklaas and Black Peter
Scandinavia	Porridge instead of cookies and carrots
Ukraine	Spider webs on the tree
Brazil	Presents in shoes
Spain	A different sort of Christmas log