

Christmas Trivia

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History of Christmas

1. What Christian group banned Christmas in Boston from 1659 to 1681?
2. Before becoming tied up with Christmas what was Yule?
3. The French word “Noel” is often used around Christmas, but what was its original meaning in Latin?
4. What Roman holiday held from December 17th to the 23rd had a large influence on how Christmas was celebrated?
5. Among Christians who lived in the East, when was Christmas originally celebrated?
6. In what century was the first written use of Xmas?

Santa Claus

7. The modern Santa Claus is mainly a mix of what two figures?
8. What political cartoonist is largely responsible for defining what the modern Santa Claus looks like?

9. What was the poem “Twas the Night Before Christmas” originally titled?
10. In what decade did Coca-Cola start using Santa Claus in advertisements?
11. What entrepreneur was the first person to dress up as Santa in his department store and started the tradition of department store / mall Santas?
12. Who did the German Nazi Regime replace Santa Claus / St. Nick with?
13. In what decade did NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command, formerly CONAD) start tracking Santa on Christmas Eve?

Christmas Songs

14. In the song *Twelve Days of Christmas*, what is given on the 7th day?
15. In what country did Silent Night originate?
16. What was the original title for The Little Drummer Boy?
17. How were the writer of the story Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the writer of the song Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer related?
18. What popular holiday song was written during the Cuban missile crisis and was a plea for peace?
19. What jaunty Christmas carol written in 1739 was supposed to be accompanied by slow and somber music?

20. What was the original title for the popular Christmas song Silver Bells, written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans?

Christmas decorations

21. In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate?

22. What animal parts were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?

23. What was the first year that the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree was put up?

24. What plant based Christmas tradition did servants in Victorian England popularize?

25. Who created the first electric light Christmas display?

26. What northeastern US state holds the Guinness record for largest snowman?

27. How tall, plus or minus 25 feet, was the tallest cut Christmas tree?

28. What country is the Poinsettia, with its red and green foliage, native to?

29. What old Christmas tradition signals to people passing by that the residents of a house are Christian?

General Christmas Trivia

30. What day is a close second and sometimes surpasses Black Friday for busiest brick and mortar shopping day of the year?
31. What large former retail outlet commissioned and published Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?
32. The man who voiced the Grinch in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* was most famous for playing what popular Hollywood monster?
33. How many wise men / Magi / kings does the bible say visited the baby Jesus?

Christmas around the world

34. What is the most popular meal for Christmas in Japan?
35. In what European country are children given gifts by St. Basil on January 1st instead of Santa on December 25th?
36. What Southeast Asian country boasts the longest holiday season starting with decorations and carols as early as September and celebrations that last sometimes until late January?
37. In what northern European country might you receive gifts from a different Yule Lad each night if you leave your shoes on the window sill the each of the 13 days before Christmas?

38. In what European country might you find money under the table cloth when you sit down to eat the traditional Christmas Eve supper Wigilia?

39. In what Central American country might you find yourself kicking off the holiday season by burning the devil on December 7th while sweeping your house?

40. What cartoon character is a Christmas Eve staple in Sweden and is watched by millions of Swedes every year?

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