**CHRISTMAS IN CANADA**

Canada is a large country and people of many cultural backgrounds live there. Because of this, there are lots of different Christmas traditions in Canada. Many of the traditions and celebrations come from French, English, Irish, German, Norwegian and even Ukrainian influences.

People in Canada send Christmas cards to their friends and relatives. Many of the Canadians open their gifts on Christmas Eve and do not wait for Christmas Day itself.

Canadians like to decorate their houses with Christmas trees, lights and decorations. There’s often Christmas stockings hung by the fireplace, ready for Santa!

The main Christmas meal is usually a roast turkey with vegetables and mashed potatoes. Traditional favourite Christmas desserts include plum puddings and mincemeat tarts. Christmas crackers are also popular among Canadians.

Going skiing, skating and tobogganing are also popular if there’s snow at Christmas.

Canadian children believe in Santa Claus. They proudly say that Canada is Santa’s homeland though children in Finland may argue that.

The Santa Claus Parade in Toronto is one of the oldest and largest Santa parades in the world! It started in 1913 when Santa was pulled through the streets of Toronto. Children along the route followed him and marched along with him. It’s been taking place for over 100 years and now is a huge event with over 25 animated floats and 2000 people involved! It’s broadcast on TV around the world.

One more Canadian tradition is to send the biggest, best Christmas Tree grown in Nova Scotia (northern Canada) to Boston, the USA to thank for their help during the disaster, known worldwide, as the Halifax Explosion. This tradition has carried on for many years. Bostonians appreciate and love the Nova Scotian Christmas Tree. They place this tree in the city and light it during a ceremony to begin Christmas season.

Many Canadian families have cookie-baking parties. They bring a recipe of Christmas cookies, bake them and then exchange with other members of the family. At the end of the party each family goes home with a variety of different cookies to enjoy over the Christmas season.

**Group 1.**

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People in Canada send Christmas cards to their friends and relatives. Many of the Canadians open their gifts on Christmas Eve and do not wait for Christmas Day itself.

Canadians like to decorate their houses with Christmas trees, lights and decorations. There’s often Christmas stockings hung by the fireplace, ready for Santa!

**Task 1. Insert the missing words into the text**

*Canada is a 1) ….. country and there are many people living there. That’s why Christmas 2) ….. are different here. The celebrations of Christmas come from such countries as France, 3) ……. , Ireland, 4) ……. , Norway and even 5) …….. . Many Canadians 6) ……. Their presents on Christmas 7) …… . They 8) ……. their houses with Christmas trees, 9) ………. and decorations.*

**Task 2. Retell the text and present it to the class.**

**Group 2**

The main Christmas meal is usually a roast turkey with vegetables and mashed potatoes. Traditional favourite Christmas desserts include plum puddings and mincemeat tarts. Christmas crackers are also popular among Canadians.

Going skiing, skating and tobogganing are also popular if there’s snow at Christmas.

Canadian children believe in Santa Claus. They proudly say that Canada is Santa’s homeland though children in Finland may argue that.

**Task 1. Insert the missing words into the text**

*Roast turkey is the main 1) ….. …… . It is usually served with 2) ……. and mashed 3) ……. . Plum puddings and mincemeat tarts are favourite Christmas 4) ……… . Canadian people also 5) ………. Christmas crackers. If there is 6) ….. they can go skiing, 7) …… or tobogganing. Children believe in 8) …….. ………. . They say their country is his 9) ………….. .*

**Task 2. Retell the text and present it to the class.**

**Group 3**

The Santa Claus Parade in Toronto is one of the oldest and largest Santa parades in the world! It started in 1913 when Santa was pulled through the streets of Toronto. Children along the route followed him and marched along with him. It’s been taking place for over 100 years and now is a huge event with over 25 animated floats and 2000 people involved! It’s broadcast on TV around the world.

Many Canadian families have cookie-baking parties. They bring a recipe of Christmas cookies, bake them and then exchange with other members of the family. At the end of the party each family goes home with a variety of different cookies to enjoy over the Christmas season.

**Task 1. Insert the missing words into the text**

*The Santa Claus Parade takes place in 1) ……… . It started in 2) ……. . At that time Santa was pulled through the 3) ………. of Toronto and children along the 4) …… followed him and 5) ……… with him. This festival is more than 6) …… years old. It’s 7) ……… on TV around the world.*

*Cookie-baking parties are really 8) ……. among Canadians. At the end of the part each family goes home with a variety of 9) …….. .*

**Task 2. Retell the text and present it to the class.**

**Group 4**

One more Canadian tradition is to send the biggest, best Christmas Tree grown in Nova Scotia (northern Canada) to Boston, the USA to thank for their help during the disaster, known worldwide, as the Halifax Explosion. This tradition has carried on for many years. Bostonians appreciate and love the Nova Scotian Christmas Tree. They place this tree in the city and light it during a ceremony to begin Christmas season.

Many Canadian families have cookie-baking parties. They bring a recipe of Christmas cookies, bake them and then exchange with other members of the family. At the end of the party each family goes home with a variety of different cookies to enjoy over the Christmas season.

**Task 1. Insert the missing words into the text**

*Every year 1) ………. sent the biggest and the best Christmas 2) ……… to 3) ….. …., the USA. They 4) …… for the help during the 5) …….. , known as the Halifax Explosion. They 6) …… ….. this tradition for many years. Bostonians place this tress in the city and 7) ….. during a ceremony to begin Christmas 8) ……… .*

*They also like to 9) ……… cookies at cookie-baking parties.*

**Task 2. Retell the text and present it to the class.**