

# Christmas Traditions

By Sarah Gudgeon

## 1. Read

When you start to hear the festive songs on the radio, you know it is almost Christmas. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is a song that children everywhere sing but it is originally from America. In fact, it was a story first and only became a song in 1948.

Carol-singing is very popular in the USA; groups of people, young and old, sing in churches, parks and on the street. They often stand around a big Christmas tree, with its coloured fairy-lights and decorations. The best place for Christmas trees is, of course, Canada and it is the Eastern province of Nova Scotia that produces the biggest and nicest Fir and Pine trees.

Canadian people celebrate in the same way as Americans but they have a few different traditions too. People sometimes have cookie-baking parties and in some small towns and villages there is a tradition called 'mumming'. Neighbours wear costumes and knock on the doors where they live, saying 'Are there any mummers in?'. The neighbours must guess who their visitor is and then they all have a piece of Christmas cake and a drink together.

Both America and Canada are cold in December but what about Australia? How do Australians celebrate Christmas in the sun? Well, very often Australian families and friends go to the beach for a Christmas BBQ. About 40,000 people visit the famous Bondi Beach in Sydney on Christmas day, to celebrate by the sea. And they don't eat roast turkey or Christmas pudding; they are more likely to eat fish and then ice-cream for dessert.

## 2. Write America, Canada or Australia next to each sentence.

- a. Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The best Christmas trees \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Carol-singing \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Beach BBQ \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Mumming \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Fish and ice-cream for lunch \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Describe your perfect Christmas Day.**

Morning

Lunch

Afternoon

## Teacher's Notes

2. Write America, Canada or Australia next to each sentence.

a. America    b. Canada    c. America    d. Australia    e. Canada    f. Australia

3. Describe your perfect Christmas Day.

Pre-task: Discuss which traditions the students like and which country they would like to spend Christmas in.

Sample answer:

Morning: *On Bondi Beach in Sydney*

Lunch: *In America eating roast turkey and Christmas pudding*

Afternoon: *'Mumming' with friends and neighbours in Canada.*