

Christmas in Australia worksheet 1

Read and **circle** the correct answers.

Aussie Christmas Quiz

How much do you know about Christmas in Australia? Take the quiz, and find out if you're a Tasmanian tiger, a kangaroo, or a koala!

- In Australia, people celebrate Christmas in the ...
a winter b summer
- During the Christmas season, people like doing things ..., like swimming, surfing, and riding bikes.
a outside b inside
- Christmas decorations have pictures of Australian animals and plants. Some decorations show bilbies. A bilby is a small animal that looks like ...
a a tortoise b an eagle c a rat
- People also decorate their houses with Australian flowers, like the Christmas bush and waratah flower. Waratah flowers can be ... meters high!
a three b four c five
- If you are in Australia for Christmas, you may see koalas or kangaroos with Christmas ... on.
a stockings b hats
- When Santa is in Australia, he wears a shirt and ... And he loves going for a swim!
a pants b shorts
- In Australia, six white ... pull Santa's sleigh.
a koalas b kangaroos c camels
- Families like having a "barbie" for Christmas lunch on December 25th. A "barbie" is ...
a a bowl of soup b a bar of chocolate c a barbecue
- Some children's favorite dessert is pavlova. It's a cake with ... on top.
a cereal b yogurt c fruit



SCORE

7-9: You're a Tasmanian tiger! You know a lot about the Australian Christmas.

6-4: You're a kangaroo. You know some facts about the Australian Christmas. Get ready for more!

3-0: You're a koala. You've started to learn about the Australian Christmas. Don't stop!



Christmas in Australia worksheet 2



Imagine you are Santa. How are you getting ready for your trip to Australia? Draw and say.

I have to take
my sunglasses.

I'm going to take food
for my kangaroos.



Level 4

Teaching notes

Christmas in Australia

- These cultural notes describe both the origins of this festival, as well as its current traditions. You can explain as much as you think is relevant to your class and encourage students to recognize and point to the relevant items on the worksheet.
- Christmas Day is celebrated worldwide on December 25th. On this day, the birth of Jesus is commemorated. Many Christmas traditions in Australia originate from the celebrations in Europe, as most of the country's immigrants came from England and Ireland, bringing their customs with them. However, these customs are greatly influenced by Australia's climate, wildlife, and the fact that it's the summer season.
- In Australia, people often spend Christmas Day with family or close friends. Christmas falls in the middle of the summer vacation and both December 25th and 26th are public holidays. Families often love doing outdoor activities, such as swimming, surfing, sailing, and riding bikes. Many of them are away from home, and celebrate Christmas in vacation resorts, at relatives' homes, or at campgrounds. In the weeks before the event, people often decorate their homes with traditional Christmas decorations. Some examples are a Christmas tree, snowmen, fake snow, and statues of Santa. People also like typically Australian decorations. These include glass balls or wooden ornaments decorated with images of the country's wildlife, such as koalas, bilbies (small marsupials that look like rats), king parrots, or well-known landmarks. People also display colorful summer flowers, such as different types of Christmas bush and waratah flowers, which can be up to 3m tall. Some also like dressing small statues of native animals in "Santa" hats, showing sleighs pulled by kangaroos, and statues of Santa wearing beach clothes.
- On Christmas Day, children hope to receive presents placed by Santa under the Christmas tree or in their Christmas stocking. Before Christmas, they write letters to Santa asking for what they want. In some stories, Santa travels in a sleigh pulled by reindeer and wears the usual thick red outfit. In others, his sleigh is pulled by six white kangaroos and he wears a brightly colored shirt and shorts. Santa has been known to show up in shorts to greet children at the beach!

- After opening the presents on Christmas morning, people often have a breakfast of ham and eggs. The highlight of the day is the Christmas meal. Traditionally, this meal was similar to those from Europe. It consisted of roast meat and vegetables and heavy fruitcakes. Nowadays, many people prefer to have a picnic in a park, hold a barbecue (which they call "barbie") at the beach or in their back yards, or prepare a meal of seafood and cold meat. A typical dessert now is pavlova, which is a soft meringue cake with a layer of fresh fruit and whipped cream on top.

Christmas in Australia worksheet 1

- **Pre-activity:** Establish students' prior knowledge about Australia. Write *Australia* on the board, and encourage students to say as many words and facts as they can that are related to this country. For example, they can mention animals, places, cities, or anything they remember about the Australian environment. Write the ideas on the board.
- Point to the quiz. Say *Now, let's see how much we know about how people celebrate Christmas ... in Australia!* Depending on the level of your class, you may want to ask students to talk about what they can see in the pictures before they take the quiz. If your class's level is high, you can get students to take the quiz without having to discuss the pictures first. Students take the quiz individually or in pairs. They circle the correct answers (a, b, or c) by using the pictures as clues and making some guesses. When they finish, students check the correct answers with you. As you check each answer, ask students to identify the picture that illustrates it (when there is one). Finally, students read the score to find out whether they're a Tasmanian tiger, kangaroo, or koala.

Key: 1 b, 2 a, 3 c (photo of bilby), 4 a (photo of waratah flower), 5 b (photo of koala toy with hat on), 6 b (photo of Santa in beach clothes), 7 b, 8 c (photo of family barbecue), 9 c (photo of pavlova)

- **Optional follow-up activities:** Students test each other in pairs. Student A asks questions about the quiz and Student B answers, with their worksheet face down. The questions don't have to follow the order in which they are in the quiz. Some example questions are: *What's a bilby?*, *How high is the waratah flower?*, *What's the weather like at Christmas in Australia?*, *What do people do?*
- Divide the class into two teams, e.g. the koalas and the kangaroos. Ask the teams to come up with

answers to your questions, setting a time limit for each answer. The team that answers the most questions in the shortest time is the winner. Some ideas for questions are: 1 Say two other countries that celebrate Christmas when it's hot (Indonesia, Brazil), 2 Say two other activities that people do outside (running, playing volleyball), 3 Say the names of two other marsupials (kangaroos, koalas), 4 "Waratah" starts with "w." Say two environment words that start with "w" (waterfall, wood), 5 / 6 Say the names of two things people wear for Christmas in winter (coat, scarf), 7 Which animals pull Santa's winter sleigh? (reindeer), 8 Say two things that you can cook on a barbecue (meat, chicken), 9 Say the name of a Christmas dessert / sweet food in the U.S. (pie / Christmas cookies)

- In pairs or as a whole class, students play a "drawing and guessing" game. Student A starts drawing (on the board or a piece of paper) an "Australian" item (e.g., a bilby). Before they finish the drawing, Student B (or the rest of the class) has to guess what it is.

Christmas in Australia worksheet 2

- **Pre-activity:** Draw your own cartoon picture of Santa, but getting ready to come to your country (not to Australia), and therefore probably planning to take his usual winter items. You may draw Santa and his suitcase showing some winter clothes and accessories, some food for his reindeer, etc. Say *Look, I'm Santa. This is a picture of me. I'm getting ready for my trip to (name of your country). What am I going to take?* Encourage

students to say what you're going to take / do, e.g., *You're going to take some gloves / carrots for your reindeer, etc. Say Now, it's your turn! You're Santa, but you're going to Australia!*

- Students think about how they're going to get ready for their trip to Australia. They may first write a list of items to take / things to do. Then they draw their picture of Santa. As students work, circulate, helping them with new vocabulary as necessary and asking them questions, e.g., *What are you going to take?, How many ... do you have to take?, What's the first thing that you're putting in your suitcase?*
- In pairs, students take turns to show each other their pictures, and say how they're getting ready for their trip to Australia. They check if they have any items in common.

Key: Students' own answers

- **Optional follow-up activity:** In pairs, students write one problem they might have during their visit to Australia. Then they get together with another pair and share their problem. Finally, the groups report their problems to the whole class and you write them on the board. Can the class rank the problems 1–5 (i.e. from the most to the least important)? Some possible problems are: *It may be too hot and I may not have enough summer clothes!; I may find some dangerous animals, like spiders or jellyfish!; I may get thirsty in the desert!*