

## Christmas Time

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”, sings a well known Christmas song. Maybe the feeling of Christmas is what makes it so wonderful. Or maybe it’s the well known Christmas traditions that make it such a great time of year.

### Secular and religious traditions

- 5 Some are religious Christian Christmas traditions based around the story of the birth of Jesus. For example, a nativity scene, where you see a small manger with beautifully made figures of Joseph, Maria, baby Jesus, shepherds, the Three Kings and
- 10 farm animals. Other traditions are secular, or non-religious, like a Christmas tree.



### Evergreen tree

- Decorating an evergreen tree, or Christmas tree, has always been a tradition in Germany. In the 1800’s the tradition spread to other countries such as the United States of America and
- 15 England. As you may expect, the world’s tallest Christmas tree is in Germany. The 46m tree rises above the crowds at the Dortmund Christmas market. Other well known Christmas trees are found in Trafalgar Square in London and at the White House in Washington D.C..

### Celebrating Christmas

- When we think of Christmas, we automatically think of December 25<sup>th</sup>. But, some countries
- 20 celebrate Christmas on other days in December and January. Sweden starts the Christmas season on December 13<sup>th</sup> with a candlelight parade for St. Lucia. The night before Christmas, also called Christmas Eve, has the tradition of going to church. Many people in Europe prepare a large dinner and share presents late in the evening. But on the 25<sup>th</sup>, people in England and North America, share presents and dinner. The 26<sup>th</sup> is known in England as
- 25 Boxing Day. Many shops have spectacular sales on this day.

### In common

- There are not only different traditions, there are also similar traditions. All across the world, Christmas is a holiday spent with family. There are lights everywhere. Christmas music is playing, either traditional carols or number 1 hits like White Christmas. Many share gifts and
- 30 cards at this time of year, but all spend time eating a wonderful dinner. All in the name of tradition.

Source: [www.citymetric.com](http://www.citymetric.com); [www.history.com](http://www.history.com);

### Words to help you

a figure = a body shape  
religious = connected with religion (the belief in a god or gods)  
to rise above = to be high above