



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

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Level: Advanced B1–C1 Topic: Keeping the Meaning of Christmas

Activity 1: Reading – More Than a Celebration

For Christians, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Church services, Nativity scenes, carols and family traditions help many people remember the religious meaning of the day. However, Christmas is also a major commercial season. Advertising encourages people to buy gifts, decorations and food. Shopping can be enjoyable, but it may create pressure to spend money or make celebrations look perfect. Some families protect the meaning of Christmas by attending church, reading the Nativity story, helping people in need or spending time together without expensive gifts. Others place more emphasis on meals, decorations and family gatherings. There is no single way that every family celebrates Christmas. The important question is how people can enjoy traditions while remembering what matters most to them.

Activity 2: Reading Comprehension

Answer in complete sentences.

1. What does Christmas celebrate for Christians?
2. How can church services and Nativity scenes help people?
3. What pressure can commercial advertising create?
4. Give two examples of ways families can focus on the meaning of Christmas.
5. What question does the final paragraph ask readers to consider?

Activity 3: Analyse the Writer's Message

1. What is the main idea of the reading?
2. Does the writer argue that presents and decorations are always bad? Explain.
3. What contrast does the writer make between religious meaning and commercial activity?
4. Which sentence best expresses the writer's central message?
5. What additional example would strengthen the reading?

Activity 4: Vocabulary in Context

Explain the meaning of each word as it is used in the passage.

1. Commercial
2. Advertising
3. Pressure
4. Emphasis
5. Traditions

Activity 5: Personal Response

Write a short paragraph answering this question:

How can Christians enjoy Christmas celebrations while keeping the birth of Jesus at the centre of the occasion?

Write 100–130 words. Give at least two examples.

Suggested Answer Key

Activity 2:

1. The birth of Jesus Christ.
2. They help people remember the religious meaning of Christmas.
3. It may pressure people to spend money or create a perfect celebration.
4. Attending church, reading the Nativity story, helping people in need or spending time together.
5. How people can enjoy traditions while remembering what matters most.

Activity 3: Answers may vary. The main idea is that Christmas can include enjoyable traditions and commercial activities without losing its religious meaning.

Activity 4:

1. Related to buying and selling goods.
2. Messages designed to persuade people to buy or notice something.
3. A feeling that you must do or achieve something.
4. Special attention given to something.
5. Customs passed down over time.

Activity 5: Answers will vary. Look for clear reasoning and relevant examples.