

# CHRISTMAS ARTICLE

PDF & DIGITAL FORMATS



  
**2 Peas and a Dog**

Middle School Teaching Resources

## RESOURCE INCLUDES



- ✓ 1 Non-Fiction Article
- ✓ Regular & Modified Versions
- ✓ Teacher Instructions
- ✓ MP3 Audio Files
- ✓ 3 Post-Reading Activities
- ✓ Answer Keys
- ✓ Print & Digital Formats



# WHAT'S INSIDE?



## SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. What two images most symbolize Christmas in people's minds?

- 1. Nativity Scenes
- 2. Decorated Christmas trees

2. What two meanings does this holiday have?

- For some people, Christmas is a religious holiday marking the birth of Jesus.
- For others, Christmas is a time for eating good food and exchanging presents.

3. How much money is spent on Christmas gifts each year?

In 2018, Americans spent over 80 billion dollars during the Christmas season.

Money could be spent on warming, literacy, health care, and a good way to do this is <https://shop.unicef.org/>

## ANSWERS

Instructions: Answer the following questions on this paper.

- In paragraph one, what does commercial mean?
  - Not for profit
  - A TV or radio advertisement
  - Not for sale
  - Intending to make money

# ANSWER KEYS

- Mistake
  - Footnote superscript to tell the reader to look for the citation with additional information
  - Paragraph number
  - None of the above
- Which sentence has the correct spelling and punctuation?
    - This day usually occurs on December 21st or December 22nd.
    - This day usually occurs on december 21 or December 22.
    - This day usually okurs on December 21 or December 22.
    - This day usually occurs on December 21 or December 22?

## REGULAR ARTICLE

## MODIFIED ARTICLE

## CHRISTMAS

When people think of Christmas, two images come to mind: the religious Christmas symbolized by the Nativity scene or the commercial Christmas symbolized by the beautifully decorated Christmas trees in shopping malls.



Some people exchange presents around Christmas time.

This holiday celebrated in North America and many other parts of the world. It has two meanings. For Christians, Christmas is a holiday marking the birth of Jesus. For others, Christmas is a time to spend with friends and family, eating good food and exchanging presents.

This day usually occurs on December 21st or December 22nd.

During winter solstice, families would decorate their homes to celebrate the return of the sun and the gods they worshiped. These ancient cultures decorated their homes for the solstice with greenery found from spruce, fir, and pine trees. These trees provided excellent decorations because they did not lose their needles in the cold weather.

In modern times, historians credit German immigrants, who came to the United States in the 1800's, for bringing the tradition of Christmas trees to North America.

Today, people still use evergreen trees as winter decorations. People purchase real or fake trees to decorate their homes and businesses.

## CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a holiday celebrated in North America and many other parts of the world.



Some people exchange presents around Christmas time.

This holiday has two meanings. For some people (Christians), Christmas is a religious holiday marking the birth of Jesus. For others, Christmas is a time to spend with friends and family, eating good food and exchanging presents.

Many modern Christmas celebrations and traditions can trace their roots to ancient civilizations such as the Egyptians, Romans, Celts, and Vikings.

In modern times, people believe that German immigrants, who came to the United States in the 1800's, bought the tradition of Christmas trees to North America.

Many cultures celebrated the winter solstice which marks the shortest day, and longest night, of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. This day usually occurs on December 21 or December 22.

Today, people still use evergreen trees as winter decorations. People purchase real or fake trees to decorate their homes and businesses.

During winter solstice, families would decorate their homes to celebrate the return of the sun and the gods they worshiped. These ancient cultures decorated their homes for the solstice with greenery found from spruce, fir, and pine trees.

Word Bank

- civilizations - people
- Northern Hemisphere - the earth is divided into two parts (hemispheres) at the equator

These trees provided excellent decorations because they did not lose their needles in the cold weather.

# REGULAR & MODIFIED ARTICLES

# WHAT'S INSIDE?



## LESSON PLAN



### Christmas

#### Lesson Overview:

Students will work on their non-fiction reading skills while reading this article.

#### Materials Needed:

Photocopy a class set of the following or use the provided Google Slides version for 1:1 technology schools:

- K-W-L Chart

**LESSON PLAN**

#### Video

- Video #1: [Evolution of Christmas](#)
- Video #2: [Last weekend before Christmas sparks holiday rush](#)

## ARTICLE QUESTIONS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of lined paper.

#### Comprehension Questions:

1. What two images most symbolize Christmas in your mind?
2. What two meanings does Christmas have for you?
3. How much money in total did Americans spend on Christmas season in 2018? What could be spent on? (2 marks)
4. From what country did the tradition of Christmas come?
5. Explain how Christmas is celebrated in your country.
6. How do you think Christmas is celebrated in other parts of the world?
7. How do you think Christmas is celebrated in America?
8. How do people today use evergreen trees?

## THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

Should public spaces and businesses decorate for the Christmas season or should all decorations represent winter only?

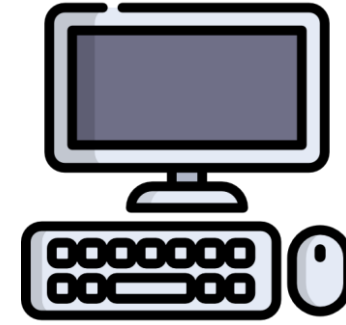
**POST-READING ACTIVITIES**

# LESSON FORMATS



**PDF**

✓ Individual & Whole Unit



**DIGITAL**

✓ Google Slides

**RESOURCE CAN BE USED IN-PERSON OR ONLINE**