

GEOS News

GEOS English Academy Los Angeles



Holiday Trivia

- The tradition of decorating Christmas trees comes from Germany
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red-and-green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.
- Christmas wasn't a holiday in early America.
- Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone.
- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.



Holiday Celebrations in the U.S

Christmas

Probably the most celebrated holiday in the world, our modern Christmas is the result of hundreds of years of both worldly and religious traditions from around the world. It wasn't until the 19th century that Americans began to really celebrate Christmas. Americans re-invented Christmas, and changed it from a loud carnival holiday into a family-centered day of peace and nostalgia.

As Americans began to celebrate Christmas as a perfect family holiday, old customs were unearthed. People looked toward recent immigrants and Catholic and Episcopalian churches to see how the day should be celebrated. In the next 100 years, Americans built a Christmas tradition all their own that included pieces of many other customs, including decorating trees, sending holiday cards, and gift-giving.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah (also known as Chanukah, Hanukah, Hannuka and the Festival of Lights) is an eight-day Jewish holiday that usually takes place between late November and late December. It commemorates the victory of the Maccabees, a Jewish rebel army, over the Syrians in 165 B.C.E., as well as the subsequent rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Jews around the world celebrate with eight nights of



Santa Claus



Kinara



Menorah & dreidl

merriment. Traditions include lighting the menorah, exchanging gifts and enjoying treats cooked in oil.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture. It is celebrated for seven days: December 26 - January 1. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed. The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili) are values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.

What's the deal with Santa, Rudolph & Christmas Trees?



Thomas Nast's Old Saint Nick

In 1881, political cartoonist Thomas Nast used Moore's poem, *'Twas the Night before Christmas*, to create the first image that matches our modern likeness of Santa Claus. His cartoon, which appeared in a popular magazine showing Santa as a plump, cheerful, man with a full, white beard, holding a sack filled with toys for lucky children. It is Nast who gave Santa his bright red suit trimmed with white fur, North Pole workshop, elves, and his wife, Mrs. Claus.

Visit this site to see a copy of the poem <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/17382/17382-h/17382-h.htm>



Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when people brought decorated trees into their homes.

In 1846, people saw a picture of Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert standing their children around a Christmas tree. Queen Victoria was very popular with the British people, and what was done at court immediately became fashionable—not only in Britain, but with fashion-conscious East Coast American Society. The Christmas tree had arrived.

For more details about Christmas trees— Visit <http://www.history.com/content/christmas/christmas-trees>



Rudolph, "the most famous reindeer of all," was born over a hundred years after his eight flying counterparts. Rudolph was the creation of Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward department store. In 1939, May wrote a Christmas-themed story-poem to help bring holiday shoppers into his store.

Visit this link to get the lyrics:

<http://www.the-north-pole.com/carols/rudolph.html>

Watch the classic video Saturday, December 12 at 8P on CBS Ch 2



Scene from the video - Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



The following students are celebrating birthdays in December:

- I samu Murai
- Onur Muslu
- Junhong Park
- Yu Ling "Shane" Lin
- Ayse Yildiz
- Adel Alshahrani
- You Jin Park

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Their star signs are:



22 November - 21 December



21 December - 20 January



GEOS Holiday Celebration

December is a month filled with celebrations and festivities—



Come join us for our **13th Annual Holiday Potluck** on December 17th at 6:30P at GEOS. Students are encour-

aged to bring their family and friends to celebrate with us.

Talk with Shaun to tell him what you will bring to the party.



If you would like to join the gift exchange sign up with Lisa. Gifts should be appropriate for either a boy or a girl and should not be more than \$5.

Did you Know?



An artificial spider and web are often included in the decorations on Ukrainian Christmas trees. A spider web found on Christmas morning is believed to bring good luck.

What is your favorite Christmas Carol?

Christmas carols are an important part of the holiday season. There are hundreds if not thousands of songs that people love to listen to. Some are old and some are new. Here are some of the GEOS staff's favorite Christmas tunes:

Ashlee's favorite Christmas carol is Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

Shaun's favorite tune is: Jingle Bell Rock

Naomi's favorite carol is: Feliz Navidad

Edgar's favorite is O Holy Night

Lisa's favorite holiday tune is I t's a Holly Jolly Christmas.

You can check these tunes out by going to these links:

Jingle Bell Rocks — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHF1pspKsRA&feature=related>

Santa Claus is Coming to Town— <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLMK755Qiv4&feature=related>

Feliz Navidad— <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihW56Xa3XGQ>

O Holy Night— <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQWXfHzOKUU&feature=related>

Holly Jolly Christmas— <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up1t5siffEw&feature=related>

Ask your teachers what their favorite Christmas Carol is.



"Look, Daddy. Teacher says, every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings." - It's a Wonderful Life



Classic Christmas Movies— It's just not Christmas if you don't see these films!

There are several movies that are popular at this time of the year. These movies are shown every year and they are Christmas classics.

It's a Wonderful Life

A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Story

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

You can watch It's a Wonderful Life on Saturday, December 12 at 8P on KNBC Ch 4.

There are also classic Christmas Animation that people enjoy every year.

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

And many more—we hope that you will have a chance to enjoy some of these Christmas classics with your family this holiday season.

School Holidays

GEOS will be closed on
December 25
December 26
January 1
We hope that you will have



New Year's Celebration

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions.

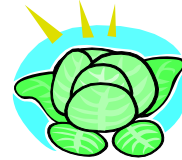
Traditionally, it was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night

after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either

good luck or bad luck the rest of the year.

Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many.



Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," playing in the background, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."



How do you celebrate New Year's?

We'd like to welcome our new stu-

Welcome To GEOS!



dents to GEOS!

JooHee Ji

Ronald Silva

Yandra Moreira

Clarissa Ramos

Sawitree Chaisakloet

Ekachai Suebsarakam

Minji Park

Rebecca Lima

Luiza Nascimento

Maria Silva

Tamara Vieira

Kyung Soo Kim



Congratulations to Youjin Park advancing to the Intermediate Class!

Good Job Youjin!

