

QUIZ



Glossary

patron saint - покровитель

shopkeeper - торговец

pawnbroker - ростовщик

bishop - епископ

concern - опасение

charity - благотворительность

aid - помощь

broadcast - передавать

confectioner - кондитер

cracker - хлопущка

supply - снабжать

crew - команда

promote - рекламировать

brother-in-law - шурун

Merry Christmas

The legend of Santa Claus began with Saint Nicholas. He is the patron saint of children, shopkeepers, pawnbrokers and sailors among other things.



Saint Nicolas

Merry Christmas

The real Saint Nicholas was bishop of the town of Myra in Turkey. The Dutch named him Sinter Claes, which became Santa Claus when Dutch settlers took the tradition to the United States.



Merry Christmas

In the United Kingdom, children traditionally put out socks for Santa Claus to put their presents in. They are usually hung above the fireplace or at the end of the child's bed. Santa comes down the chimney, fills the socks and then drinks the wine that the family has left for him. It is traditional to leave a carrot or some other food for his reindeer.



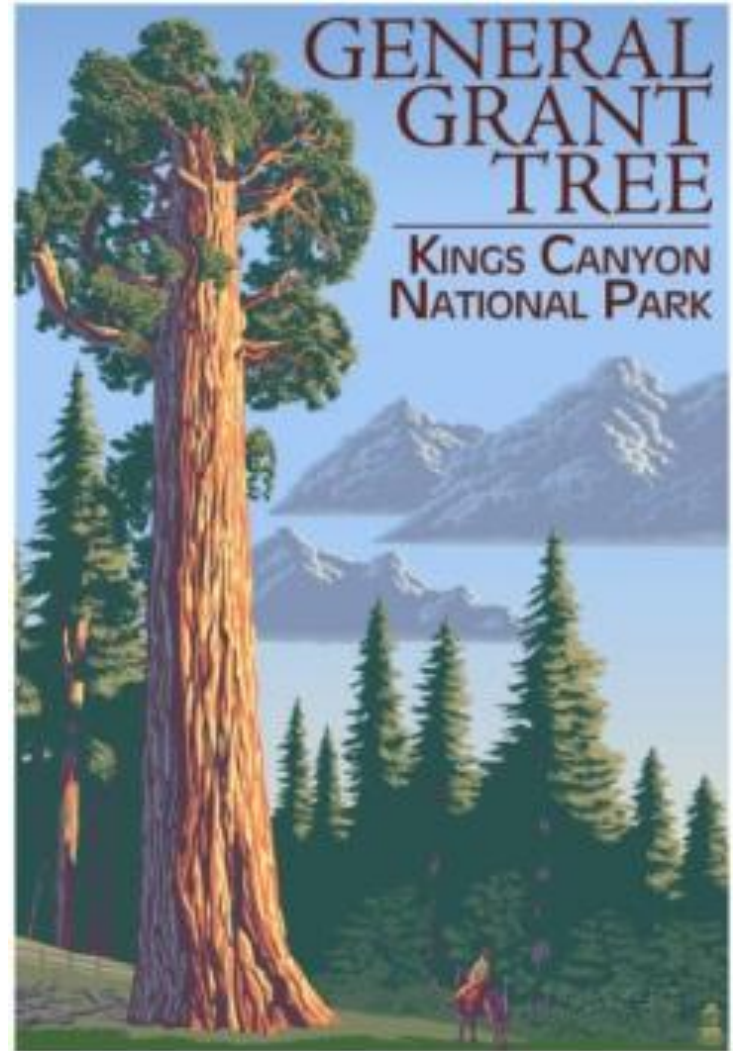
Merry Christmas

The Christmas tree tradition started in Germany in the sixteenth century. Queen Victoria's husband, Albert, who was from Germany, brought the tradition to the United Kingdom and German immigrants took it to the United States at the end of the 1800s.



Merry Christmas

Since 1925, the United States' official Christmas tree has been a Giant Sequoia called 'General Grant' in King's Canyon National Park.



Merry Christmas

Electric Christmas tree lights were invented in 1895 by American Ralph Morris after concerns over accidents involving the use of candles.



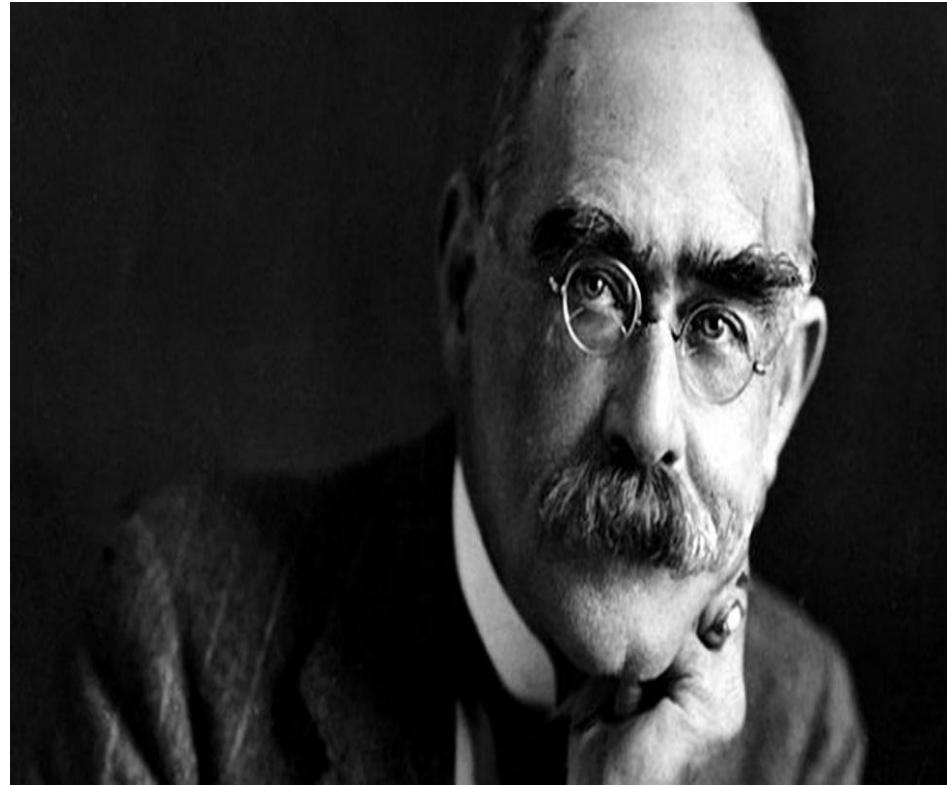
Merry Christmas

The first charity Christmas card, produced by UNICEF in 1949, was painted by a seven-year-old girl. The girl was from Rudolfo, a small town in Czechoslovakia, which was one of the first places to receive aid after the Second World War. The picture was of children dancing.



Merry Christmas

The first British Monarch's speech broadcast to the nation in 1932 was written by Rudyard Kipling, author of Jungle Book and the poem If. Its opening words were 'I speak now from my home and from my heart ...'



Merry Christmas

In 1847, Tom Smith, an English confectioner, invented the Christmas cracker. The company he founded exists to this day and supplies Christmas crackers to the British royal family.



Merry Christmas

Since the crew of Apollo 8 became the first people in space over Christmas 1968, thirty-five people have so far spent Christmas Day in either in Salyut, MIR or the International Space Station.



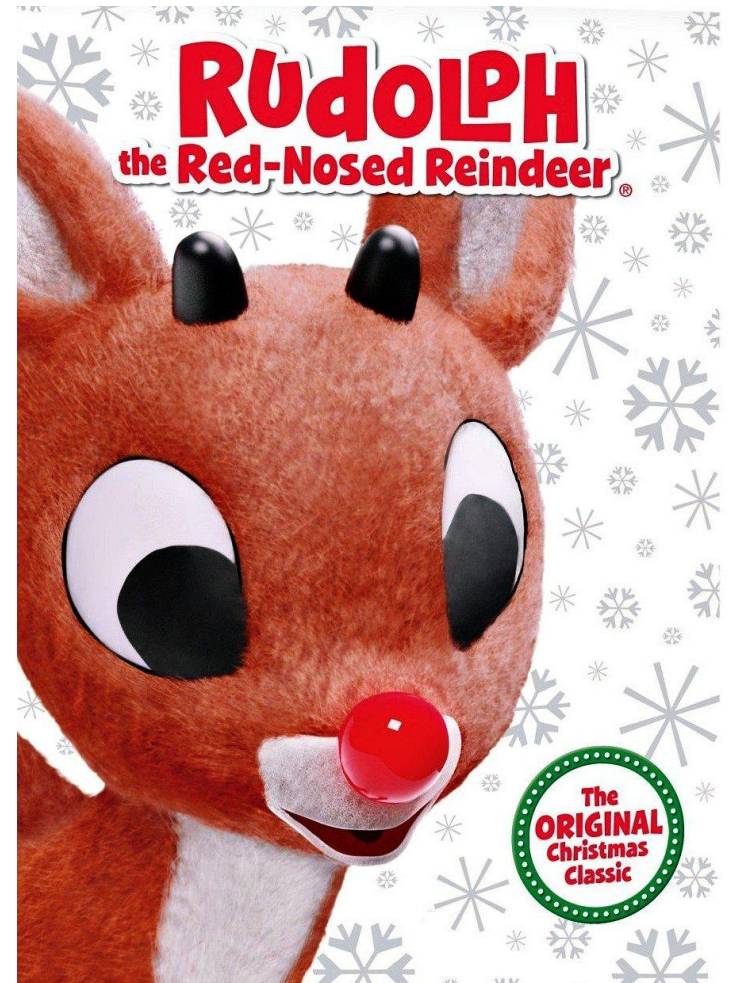
Merry Christmas

Both Idaho and Indiana in the United States have a town called Santa Claus.



Merry Christmas

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer first appeared in 1939 to promote the opening of the latest shop in the Montgomery-Ward department store chain. The story was written by Robert May whose four-year-old daughter chose the name Rudolph. The famous song of the same name was written by his brother-in-law.



Merry Christmas

In Finland, Santa travels on a goat made of straw called Ukko. Straw decorations are a great tradition at Christmas in Sweden.



Merry Christmas

In Syria, Christmas gifts are given out by a camel. It is supposed to have belonged to one of the three wise men who visited the new-born Jesus.



Merry Christmas

In Poland, as well as in many other eastern European countries, the main ingredient of the Christmas meal is fish. The meal, which consists of twelve different dishes, is eaten on Christmas Eve. Guests must sample each of the dishes. After the meal, a wafer is broken and shared among the guests.



Merry Christmas

In Lithuania, children must sing a song for Kaledu Senelis, or Grandfather Christmas, before they can receive their presents. If they don't do this, they forfeit the presents, which are given to another child.



Merry Christmas

In Greece, the only way to get rid of the Kallikantzori is by burning an old shoe. If you do not have an old shoe, salt may be burned instead.



Merry Christmas

In the Ukraine, if you find a spider's web in the house on Christmas morning, it means good luck. Legend has it that by spinning webs, spiders used to decorate the trees of poor families who could not afford decorations. Today, spiders and webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations in the Ukraine.



Merry Christmas

In Holland, Santa Claus is accompanied by his servant, Black Peter, when he gives out presents. It is Black Peter and not Santa who throws the presents down the chimneys. Black Peter also punishes naughty children by putting them in sacks and taking them to Spain.



Merry Christmas

In the United Kingdom, the day after Christmas is known as Boxing Day. The name derives from the 19th century tradition of charitable employers giving boxes of food and clothing to their employees on this day.

