

# Christmas Facts

*Merry Christmas*

Выполнил: Матвеева Н.  
А.

учитель английского  
языка

Пролетарского района  
Города Тулы

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# The 26<sup>th</sup> of December

- is known as Boxing Day because it was the day the family opened a gift box for the poor.



# Gold – wrapped chocolate coins

- commemorate St. Nicolas who gave bags of gold coins to the poor.





# A traditional Christmas dinner

- in early England included a pig's head with mustard sauce. It was usually followed by roast peacock.

- Displayed in Trafalgar Square in London is an annual gift to the UK from Norway since 1947. The Norwegian spruce given is a token of appreciation of British friendship during World War II from the Norwegian people.

# The Christmas tree



# Christmas trees

- became popular in the UK from 1841 when Prince Albert erected a tree in Windsor Castle following a German tradition. Fir trees have been decorated at Christmas time in Germany since the 8 century.

*Merry Christmas*



# Christmas tree

A large, illuminated Christmas tree stands at night, its branches covered in numerous small, glowing lights. To the left of the tree is a large, ornate fountain with multiple water jets spraying upwards. In the background, a church tower with a spire is visible, also illuminated. The scene is set in a public square or park area.

- It can take between 4-15 years to grow a Christmas tree of typical height(6-7 feet).
- The world's biggest Christmas tree (76 m high) was put up in America in 1950.
- In the USA, Christmas tree are now called «Holiday Trees».

# The Queen's Christmas speech

- was first televised in 1957.





# The first Christmas card

- Was designed in 1843 by English artist J. C. Horsley. Robins on cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.



# A Christmas wreath

- A Christmas wreath hanging on your front door symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life for all who enter.



# The poinsettia

- is a traditional Christmas flower. In Mexico (its original birthplace), the poinsettia is known as «The flower of the Holly Night»





# Mistletoe

- At Christmas, it is traditional to exchange kisses beneath the hanging mistletoe. In ancient Scandinavia, mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship.



# Santa Claus



- has many different names around the world including Father Christmas in the UK, Pere Noel in France, Kriss Kringle in Germany, La Befana in Italy, Julinesse in Denmark, Grandfather Frost in Russia, Papa Noel in Spain.



# 13 Santas in Iceland

- There are 13 Santas in Iceland, each leaving a gift for children. They come down from the mountain one by one, starting on December 12 and have names like Spoon Liker, Door Sniffer and Meat Hook.



# The very first Santa pictures

- often depicted him wearing a variety of different colour coats including green, blue and mauve. The modern day depiction or picture of Santa Claus wearing a red coat only became standard in the 1920's.



# Rudolph

- The red-nosed reindeer was invented for a US firm's Christmas promotion in 1938.







- One of the most popular Christmas songs, «**Jingle Bells**» was actually written for Thanksgiving.

# Christmas

- become a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.



# Electric lights

- for trees were first used in 1895.



**Merry Christmas**

