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Holidays Around the



World



Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ 2000 years ago. Christmas trees, big dinners, and the singing of Christmas carols are some of the traditions families follow year after year. Roman Catholics and Protestants always celebrate Christmas on December 25.



Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture.

Kwanzaa is represented by seven symbols: Mazao (crops), Mkeka (mat), Kinara (candle holder), Mishumaa Saba (seven candles), Muhindi (ears of corn), Zawadi (gifts), and Kikombe Cha Umoja (unity cup). The candle holder has seven candles, one black, three red and three green. The colors are black for black people, red for their struggle and green for the hope and future.



Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights. It is one of the most important of the Jewish holidays. The holiday goes back almost 2,400 years. It takes place every year in mid to late December. The menorah holds nine candles. The candles are lit from left to right, one each day of the celebration and so, the menorah gets brighter each day.



Eid Al-Fitr is the celebration that comes at the end of Ramadan. Ramadan is a month of fasting, every day from dawn until sunset. The Islamic calendar follows the moon and so each year, the dates are shifted forwards by about eleven days in the normal calendar.



Beginning in the middle of December, families all around China start preparing for Chinese New Year. This is a time of gratitude and family togetherness.

To celebrate Chinese New Year's, large crowds gather in cities where Chinese have settled. A huge cloth dragon sways back and forth in the streets, chasing a red sunball or a white pearl-ball.



Diwali is a five day Hindu festival which occurs on the fifteenth day of Kartika. Diwali means "rows of lighted lamps" and the celebration is often referred to as the Festival of Lights. Candles and lamps are lit as a greeting to Laksmi. Gifts are exchanged and festive meals are prepared during Diwali. The celebration means as much to Hindus as Christmas does to Christians.

I have a special holiday called Hanukkah.



I light the menorah candles.



I have a special holiday
called **Christmas**.



I sing **Christmas** carols.



Happy Holidays!



I have a special holiday called
Chinese New Year.



I watch the
Chinese New Year's
parade.



I have a special holiday
called **Diwali.**



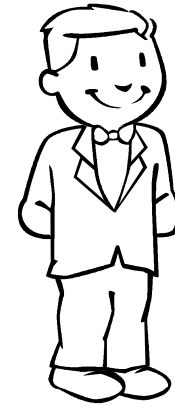
I light the **diyas.**



I have a special holiday called **Kwanzaa**.



I have a special holiday called **Ramadan**.



I light the **kinara** candles.



I celebrate the **Eid al-Fitr** feast with my family.

