

Christmas Traditions in Great Britain



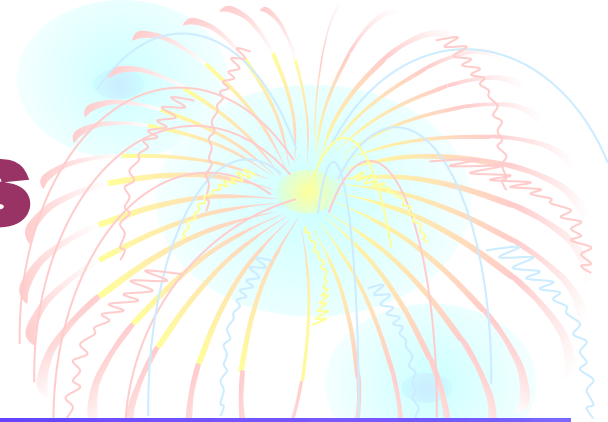
Christmas

Christmas Day ,
December 25, is
probably the most
popular holiday in
Great Britain. It is a
family holiday.
Traditionally all
relatives and friends
get together and give
each other presents.



Santa Claus

Santa Claus, also called Santa, Father Christmas (in Britain), or Kriss Kringle (in America) is an imaginary old man in red clothes and with a long white beard.





Some people say that Santa lives in the North Pole.



In Finland, they say that he lives in the north part of their country called Lapland.



But everyone agrees that he travels through the sky on a sledge that is pulled by reindeer, that he comes into houses down the chimney at night and puts

presents for the children in socks, in front of the family Christmas tree, or near the fire place.



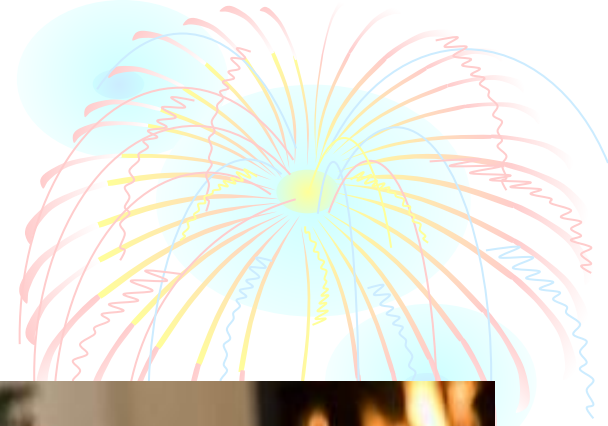
Stockings



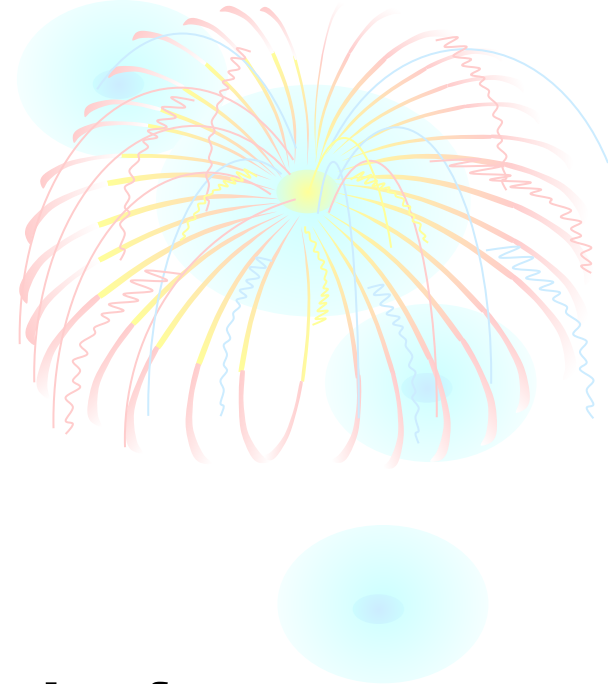
Christmas Tree



Christmas Dinner



Carols



Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations as people danced round stone circles. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, usually taking place around the 22nd December. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has really survived!



Carols

Christmas carols are special songs which are sung during a Christmas season.



The songs are about Jesus and the time when he was born.



Christmas Cards

People around the world send Christmas Cards to their friends and family.

The first Christmas card was created and sent in 1843. A man named John Calcott Horsley printed the first Christmas card for Sir Henry Cole, the friend who had given him this idea.



