CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD RESEARCH PROJECT

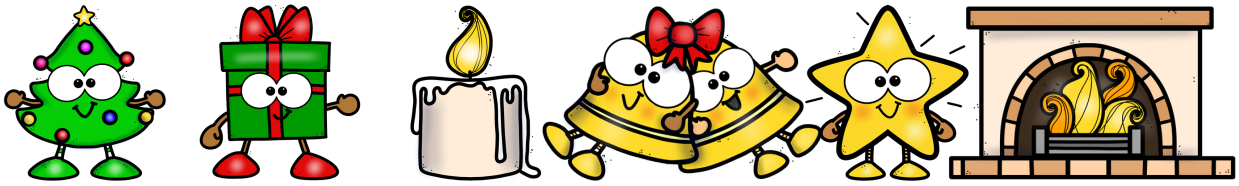


6 COUNTRIES + MAP

GRADES 3-5

Bright Path Sped

Christmas Research Project: Start Here



What's inside

- Choose a country (page 3) and find it on the map (page 4).
- 6 fact pages (pages 5-10): Mexico, Germany, Italy, Australia, France and Sweden. Each has 5 sentences to finish from a word box, a place to add one more fact and an "I found out from" line.
- The research steps: a fact finder for food, music, decorations, gifts and a greeting (page 11), a sources page (page 12), How do people celebrate? writing on three levels (pages 13-15), a Venn diagram to compare with my family (page 16), a share-it planner (page 17) and a self-check (page 18).
- For adults: a filled example by an invented student (page 19), an answer key (page 20), starter facts (page 21), a family letter (page 22) and credits (page 23).

How to run it

Children each pick one country and use your books, a video or a talk to find out about it. The fact pages give a safe place to start; the fact finder (page 11) is where children record what they learn from their own sources. The key (page 20) has the answers for the word boxes and the map.

Three levels (the small shape before the instruction)

Circle: finish five sentences (page 13). Square: answer five questions in your own sentences (page 14). Triangle: plan and write a paragraph (page 15).

A five-day plan

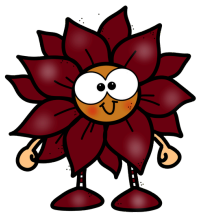
- Day 1: choose a country, find it on the map (pages 3-4). Day 2: the fact page for that country, then the fact finder (pages 5-10 and 11).
- Day 3: sources and writing (pages 12-15). Day 4: compare with my family (page 16) and plan the share (page 17).
- Day 5: share with the class and do the self-check (page 18). Send the family letter (page 22) home any time.

Customs differ from family to family and place to place, and not every family celebrates Christmas. These pages describe what some people do, and every child is welcome to share their own traditions. You need pencils, crayons and a few books about the six countries. Print single-sided.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Pick one country. Tick its box.

☐ 

Mexico

Feliz Navidad

☐ 

Germany

Frohe Weihnachten

☐ 

Italy

Buon Natale

☐ 

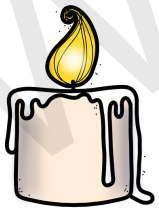
Australia

Merry Christmas

☐ 

France

Joyeux Noël

☐ 

Sweden

God Jul

My country is _____

I picked it because _____

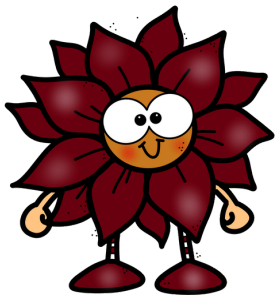
What I already know

What I want to find out

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Finish the sentences about Mexico.



Mexico

Merry Christmas in Spanish:
Feliz Navidad

tamales posada sled piñata Spanish poinsettia

1 In the days before Christmas, some families go to a _____ party.

2 A red plant called the _____ is a Christmas flower in Mexico.

3 Kids take turns hitting a _____ full of candy.

4 A food many families eat is steamed corn dough called _____ .

5 People say Feliz Navidad in _____ .

One more fact about Mexico:

_____

_____

I found out from _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Finish the sentences about Italy.



Italy

Merry Christmas in Italian:

Buon Natale

fish presepe igloo Befana Italian panettone

1 Many families set up a _____ , a little nativity scene.

2 A sweet bread with fruit, called _____ , is eaten at Christmas.

3 La _____ is a kind witch who brings treats to children in January.

4 On Christmas Eve, many families eat a _____ dinner.

5 People say Buon Natale in _____ .

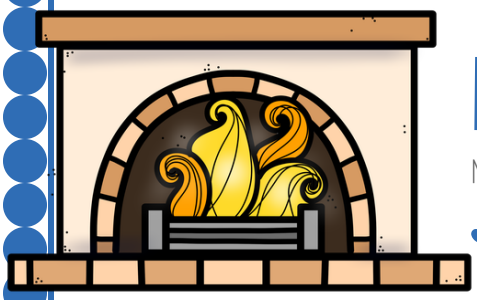
One more fact about Italy:

I found out from _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Read. Finish the sentences about France.



France

Merry Christmas in French:

Joyeux Noël

Père Noël	shoes	cactus	réveillon	French	bûche

1. On Christmas Eve, children put their _____ by the fireplace.
2. A dessert shaped like a log is called a _____ de Noël.
3. A big, late dinner on Christmas Eve is called a _____ .
4. French children hope the _____ will bring them gifts.
5. People say Joyeux Noël in _____ .

One more fact about France:

_____

_____

I found out from _____

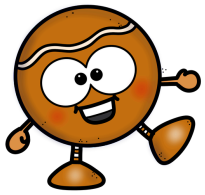
PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____

Find out. Write what you learn.

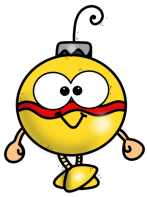
My country is _____



Food What do people eat?



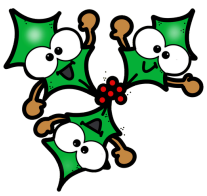
Music What do people sing or play?



Decorations What do people put up?



Gifts Who brings the gifts? When?



Greeting How do they say Merry Christmas?

PREVIEW

My name _____

Finish the sentences.

How do people celebrate Christmas?

I learned about _____

People there celebrate Christmas by _____

A food they eat is _____

Their music or songs are _____

Something like my family is _____

Draw one thing you learned.

PREVIEW

My name _____

Plan. Then write a paragraph.

How do people celebrate Christmas?

Beginning	Middle	End
Name the country.	Tell 3 things people do.	Say what you liked best.

My title _____

PREVIEW

My name _____

Plan what you will tell the class.



1. Say hello

Write Merry Christmas in their language.



2. Tell 3 facts

Pick your best facts from your fact finder.



3. Tell what is like my family

One thing that is the same or different.

Practice

- [ ] I practiced out loud.
- [ ] I speak loudly and clearly.
- [ ] I look at my class.
- [ ] I say where I found my facts.

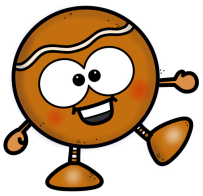
PREVIEW

EXAMPLE: the fact finder filled in by Maya, an invented student. Not a real child.

My name Maya

Find out. Write what you learn.

My country is Mexico



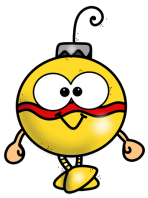
Food What do people eat?

tamales



Music What do people sing or play?

songs at a posada party



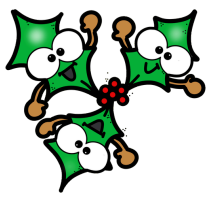
Decorations What do people put up?

red poinsettia flowers and a star piñata



Gifts Who brings the gifts? When?

some families open gifts on December 24 and some on January 6



Greeting How do they say Merry Christmas?

Feliz Navidad

I found out from a library book about Mexico

PREVIEW

Starter Facts for Your Class

Some people and many families do these things. Use this page to start a talk, then let the children find more in your books.

Country	Food	Music	Decorations	Gifts	Greeting
Mexico	tamales	villancicos (carols) at posadas	poinsettias; a star-shaped piñata	some families open gifts on December 24, some on January 6 (Three Kings Day)	Feliz Navidad
Germany	gingerbread (Lebkuchen); stollen	carols such as Stille Nacht (Silent Night)	Advent wreath and calendar; a Christmas tree	many families open gifts on Christmas Eve	Frohe Weihnachten
Italy	panettone; a fish dinner on Christmas Eve	pipers (zampognari) play in the weeks before Christmas	the presepe, a nativity scene	La Befana brings treats in early January	Buon Natale
Australia	pavlova; a barbecue or seafood	Carols by Candlelight	Christmas trees and lights, like many places	Santa Claus (also called Father Christmas)	Merry Christmas
France	a bûche de Noël (log cake); the late réveillon dinner	carols such as Il est né, le divin enfant	a crèche (nativity scene) with little clay figures called santons	the Père Noël; children leave shoes by the fireplace	Joyeux Noël
Sweden	a julbord (Christmas buffet); saffron buns on St. Lucia Day	Lucia songs on December 13	a straw goat; candles	many families open gifts on Christmas Eve	God Jul

Ideas for the fact finder (page 11)

- Read one book or watch one short video about a country together, then ask the class to add a fact to each of the five boxes.
- Ask: "How do you know? Where did you find out?" and link the answer to page 12.
- Let children bring a fact from home about their own family's traditions for the Venn diagram (page 16).

Not every family celebrates Christmas. Invite children to write about a holiday or a winter tradition their family keeps instead.

PREVIEW