

## Lesson Plan Zwickau

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Topic/ Title of Project	<b>BEST OF EUROPE – OUR SMASHING TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS</b>
<b>Lesson goals / learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students enhance their intercultural competences while working in an international group. They learn about European customs and traditions in general, Christmas traditions as well as cultural differences and similarities.</li>   <li>✓ Students improve their language skills by reading texts, listening to and watching people talking about European traditions, by discussing a project in a group, by interviewing each other as well as by compromising and presenting their projects in front of the other groups.</li>   <li>✓ Students practise brainstorming techniques and rules of brainstorming as well as basic Design Thinking steps.</li>   <li>✓ <b>Students organise a European Christmas party and present a prototype; decorate a European Christmas tree with texts, lyrics + a poem and create a Christmas-based board game.</b></li> </ul>

Time	Task / Activity	Teacher / Student /	Materials
<b>1 Warmup</b>			
45'	Warm up activities: ice breakers and team building: (see attachment) Team building -> 3 teams of 6 students	Teacher + students	paper, Sellotape and /or masking tape, pens, music
<i>The lessons are mainly group-work-based!</i>			
<b>2 Introduction</b>			
5'	Discussion: Why is it important to know about our cultural heritage, traditions and customs? T: (1) The best way to profit from globalization and tourism and to avoid negative impacts is to know about your cultural heritage, traditions, customs and language.  (2) Tourists usually visit Europe because of its cultural heritage and traditions.	T / S	Presentation, projecor (whole lesson)
<b>3 Vocab: Game Word-Definition-Circle</b>			
8'	T: First, some words and phrase we will need.  TASK: Students stand in a circle and match words and definitions by holding them up reading them out.  2-3 rounds  Cards are then fixed onto the wall or board as a visual dictionary.	S	vocab cards (see attachment), mask tape or magnets

#### 4 My favourite holiday

12'	<p>T: Traditions often refer to special holidays. I would like to know what your favourite holiday is.</p> <p>TASK: Fill in the papers.</p> <p>→ Individual work (5')</p> <p>TASK: Tell your partners about your favourite holidays.</p> <p>→ Presentation in groups Course: short presentations (7')</p>	S	Work sheet: My favourite holiday (see attachment)
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#### 5 Weird traditions of Europe – matching game

30'	<p>T: Now let's have a look at some really unusual and funny traditions of Europe.</p> <p>TASK: S will watch 8 short video clips and sort cards after watching the videos</p> <p>→ Hand out cards. Let S skim briefly.</p> <p>T: As you can see you have to match video – tradition / festival – country - text</p> <p>→ Play the videos</p> <p>Check with whole course</p> <p>TASK: What is your group's favourite one? Give reasons.</p>	S, S/T	Cards, Projector or digital board with Internet connection, video play list on youtube  (cards and playlist see attachment)
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## 7 European Christmas traditions: Video and cloze text

<p>30'</p>	<p>T: One of the favourite holidays throughout Europe is Christmas. However, there are a lot of similarities as well as differences regarding the date, the traditions and customs around Christmas from region to region.</p> <p>TASK: S will listen to an American tourist talking about Christmas traditions in Europe and fill in a cloze text.</p> <p>Check with whole course.</p> <p>TASK: What is your group's favourite one? Give reasons.</p>	<p>S / T</p>	<p>digital board with Internet connection, video on youtube</p> <p>(cloze text see attachment)</p>
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## 8 Group work on different creative projects about Christmas

<p>140'</p>	<p>T: We have heard a lot about holidays, traditions, customs and about Christmas. Now, we will create projects to visualize the idea of Christmas in Europe. First, <u>choose a topic.</u></p> <hr/> <p>Topics on the board, groups decide on a topic</p> <hr/> <p><i>For each of the following phases set strict time limits, use a visual timer!</i></p> <p>8.1 Empathy phase</p> <p>Interviews:</p> <p>Interview sheets (3 interviews per group at the same time), calendar sheet as an additional tool to visualize and note down interview results</p> <p>8.2 brainstorming: Explain</p>	<p>T, S</p>	<p>Topics on cards language cards (see attachment), magnets or mask tape, glue, hot glue, scissors, 2-3 desks with prototyping material, small christmas tree, plastic balls, blank cards, poster paper, dices, etc.</p>
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	<p>brainstorming methods and rules (rules are visualized on boards)</p> <p>8.3 10 min individual brainstorming (Go broad) (separate, leave the room, go to a corner ...) Use post-its!</p> <p>8.4 short presentation of brainstorming results in the groups – S stick post-ist onto the boards CLUSTER; compromise on best ideas</p> <p>8.5 S. make a plan, get material Work time</p> <p>8.6 Presentation time (language cards as help) – Feedback!</p>		
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## Warm-ups

### What I like about myself

1. Stand in a circle.
  2. Me: Hi I am René and I like about myself that I am creative and sometimes have crazy ideas.
  3. students copy
  4. At the end everybody cheers and claps hands.
- 

### Hashtag

We live in times of facebook, twitter, instagram etc.

1. You have 30 sec to create two Hashtags, which say something about you,  
e.g. #cycling and #books.
2. Set Timer to 3 minutes.
3. Give a signal.
4. students walk around pointlessly and choose a person
5. Say hello, shake hands and say your two hashtags
6. Keep walking and choose the next person ...

## Back post

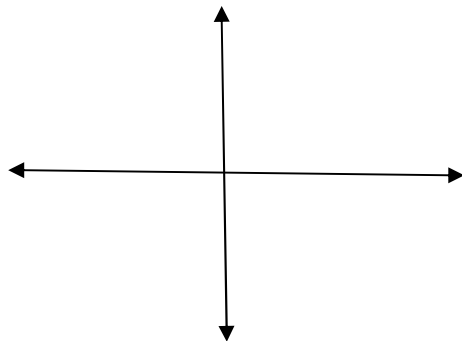
1. Stick one paper to the back of a partner.
2. Set Timer to 5 minutes.
3. Give a signal: Everybody walks around.
4. I explain: If you want to know something about another person, you can write it on the papers.  
*e.g. "Where are you from?" or "Have you got a boyfriend?"*
5. Everytime you want to write a question, you ask the person to stop and then you write your question... and keep walking
6. Time is over. Stand in a circle.
7. Take the papers.
8. Read out and answer the questions.

## Line Up

1. Everybody stand up.
2. I: ask a question like „How long was your journey from your home to Rhauderfehn?“
3. Students position in a line with a virtual scale from nearby to far away
4. Ask the students.
5. next questions:  
How long did you brush your teeth this morning?  
How many cups of coffee did you have yesterday?  
How long was your shower in minutes this morning?

## Variant 2:

### Cartesian Profile



Where do you live?

Where would you like to spend your next holidays?



## **Big Body says ...**

Stand on a chair and explain: I am Big Body and I order you ...

Round 1: When Big body says "Walk" then walk, when Big Body says "Stop" then Stop.

Walk, Stop, Stop, Walk, Stop, Walk, Walk

Round 2: Walk -> stop; Stop -> Walk

Walk, Walk, Stop, Stop, Stop, Walk, Stop

Round 3: Walk -> walk, Stop -> Jump, Jump -> Stop

Walk, Walk, Jump, Walk, Stop, Stop, Jump, Walk, Jump, Stop

## **Grandma, Tiger, Ninja**

similar to "rock, paper, scissors",  
except you act out each role with your entire body.

For example, a Grandma would be hunched over, a tiger would leap up and go "rawr", and a ninja would strike a ready-to-attack pose.

Remember:

- Ninja beats Tiger (since it's a Ninja)
- Tiger eats Grandma
- Grandma beats Ninja (since she's the Ninja's Mom)

Starting in pairs, the winner moves on and the loser becomes the winner's biggest fan. By the end, the last two people will play for the championship title, each with a massive cheering section.

## Teambuilding

### **Zombie Cats**

starts with breaking the room up into equal sized groups.

For round one, challenge the groups to find two things they all have in common with one another.

For round two, let the room know that the two things their group has in common is now their team name (i.e. Zombie Cats - one group found out that everyone liked zombie movies and cats). Give the groups five minutes to figure out how they will act out their team name.

When time is up, have each group act out their team name to the entire room and have others guess the team's name.

### **Slogan of the Day**

Write your names on post-its. One letter each.

Collect all post-its of your group.

Now write a SLOGAN of the DAY with these letters

A decorative border of small red hearts surrounds the entire page.

# My Favourite Holiday

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My favourite holiday is \_\_\_\_\_

My favourite holiday is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_

My favourite tradition for this holiday is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This is my favourite holiday because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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**Video 5**



**Video 6**



**Video 7**



**Video 8**



**Spain**



**Sweden**



**Iceland**



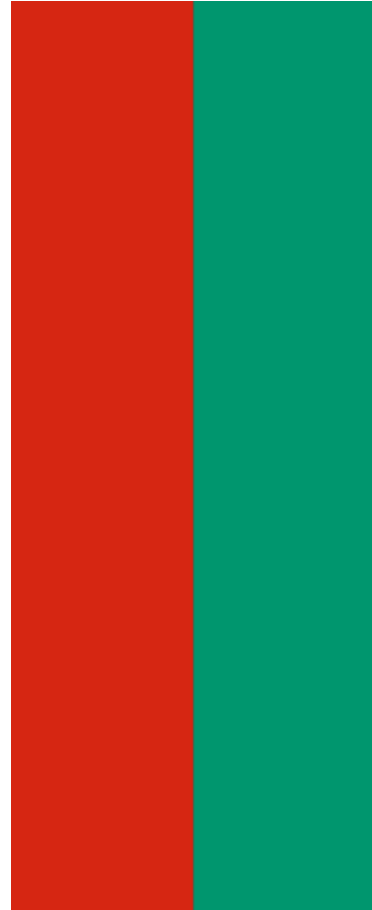
**Portugal**



**Romania**



**Bulgaria**



**Finland**



**Czech Republic**





**La Tomatina**

**Whipping Girls**

**Danube Race for the  
Cross**

**Kukeri**

**Frog Dance**

**Wife Carrying  
Championship**

**Thorrablót**

**Saint John's Festival**

Every year, in the night of 23 June, the city of P., in the north of ..., becomes lively and crazy.

Thousands of people come to the city centre to pay a tribute to **Saint John** the Baptist, in a party that mixes sacred and profane traditions.

And what do people do there ? People simply hit each other either with garlic flowers or soft plastic hammers!

The festivities have been held in the city for more than six centuries, yet it was during the 19th century that Saint John's day became a part of the city's culture and the status of the city's most important festival.

In January many people celebrate the "**Festival of Thorri**" and eat the world's most terrible food, consisting of things like boiled sheep heads, blood pudding, liver sausage and fermented shark. Mmmm, delicious!

Thorri is a personification of winter. In the middle ages people had a great party with much food and drink. Today, people in ... keep the same customs by eating "traditional" food. In former times they used to salt, smoke, bury and or ferment their food for storage and it has become a delicacy to eat it today.

To be able to eat Thorri food is also a sign of strength in modern culture of this country.

Well, well, well, it seems that these people have really strange traditions, including the annual competition of **Wife carrying**.

Believe it or not, wife carrying is a sport in which male competitors race while each carrying a female teammate through a track!

Legends have been passed down about a robber named Herkko Rosvo-Ronkainen. He and his thieves stole food and women from villages in the area he lived in - then carried these women on their backs as they ran away.

Isn't it strange ? On the last Wednesday of August, in a city of this country, people there throw once a year around 150,000 (= over 40 tons) tomatoes and get involved in a tomato fight just for fun.

The most popular theory about how the **Tomatina** started is that, in 1945, during a parade of the "Little Rabbit" some woodland animals were eating all the watermelon so, the people at the parade threw tomatoes at the animals; one missed and hit a person. Then, they started throwing the tomatoes and the police had to attack everyone.

However, there are many other theories.

On Easter Monday in towns and villages all across the country, boys and men arm themselves with a **pomlázka** (willow branch) and visit as many houses in their area as possible. Girls stay at home, and when visitors arrive, they are happy to bend over and be whipped with this Easter stick. So happy, in fact, that they will reward their male visitors with a drink before the group moves on to the next house. As the legend goes, if a woman is beaten by a pomlázka, she will remain both beautiful and fertile in the coming year, which explains why women are eager to be hit.

Believe it or not! Throwing a cross into the river, a hundred or more people watching and young men swimming in the freezing cold water!

The best part of this tradition is the prize: If you manage to get the cross back to safety first you are guaranteed good luck for one year, luck which will hopefully cure you of hypothermia.

This one is really exotic ! **Kukeri** is a traditional ritual to scare away evil spirits, with costumed men performing the ritual.

Their faces are a terrifying mix of snapping jaws, twisted horns, and large, unblinking eyes. The kukeri traditionally visit the peoples' houses at night so that "the sun would not catch them on the road." After going around the village they gather at the square to dance wildly and amuse the people.

During Midsummer celebrations, people meet around a maypole and start singing and dancing around the pole to a song called '**The Small Frogs**'. They also mimic frogs for the dance.

An excerpt from the song lyrics: "*The small frogs, the small frogs, are funny to look at. No tails, no tails, they have no tails. No ears, no ears, they have no ears.*"

The melody originates from a military march from the French revolution with the chorus '*Au pas, camarade, au pas camarade!*' ('*In step, comrade*'). The enemies of the French at the time, the British, changed the text with irony to '*Au pas, grenouilles!*' ('*In step, little frogs*'). It is unknown how that made its way here ...



## European Christmas traditions

Watch the video. Then fill in the gaps with the words below:

celebrations / Czech Republic / La Befana / Austria / heritage / tree / spirit / traditions / ritual / customs / Krampus / presents / pudding / Finland

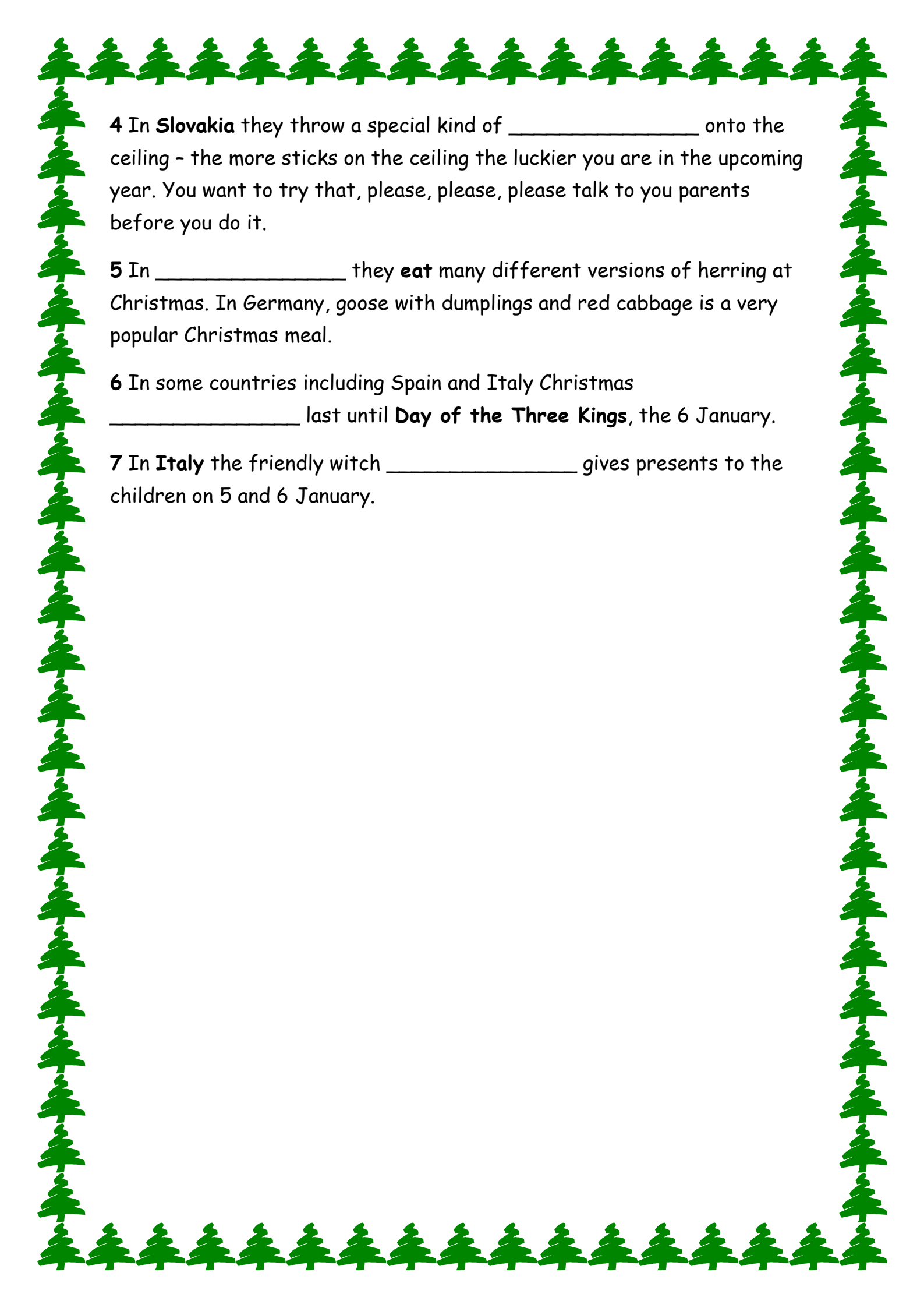
It is **Europe** where you can really feel the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christmas, because it is an **essential part of our cultural** \_\_\_\_\_. However, the video concentrates on unusual and sometimes funny or even a bit silly Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe.

1 A \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_: Single women throw a shoe over the shoulder towards the door. If the shoe tip points to the door it means that she is going to marry next year.

2 In **Germany** there are of course lots of traditions and \_\_\_\_\_ around Christmas. On **6 December** it is **St. Nicholas** Day. Children place their cleaned shoes in front of the door the night before. During the night, „Nikolaus“ comes and fills the shoes with candies, fruits and little presents - But, only if you are a nice child. Otherwise **Knecht Rupecht** will come to give you a strike with a switch (a wooden stick). In \_\_\_\_\_ and **southern Germany** there is \_\_\_\_\_, a nightmare guy who is to punish the naughty children. So, be careful! Yes, YOU!

The Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ is also a tradition of German origin, which made its way from Germany, through Britain to the rest of the world.

3 In **Spain** there are several traditions around Christmas: El Gordo - a big lottery, where you can win millions of Euros, ... and then there is **Tió de Nadal** e little figure with a naked butt who is pooping out \_\_\_\_\_. Isn't that strange? But, otherwise ... we eat eggs, don't we? ☺



4 In **Slovakia** they throw a special kind of \_\_\_\_\_ onto the ceiling - the more sticks on the ceiling the luckier you are in the upcoming year. You want to try that, please, please, please talk to you parents before you do it.

5 In \_\_\_\_\_ they **eat** many different versions of herring at Christmas. In *Germany*, goose with dumplings and red cabbage is a very popular Christmas meal.

6 In some countries including Spain and Italy Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ last until **Day of the Three Kings**, the 6 January.

7 In **Italy** the friendly witch \_\_\_\_\_ gives presents to the children on 5 and 6 January.

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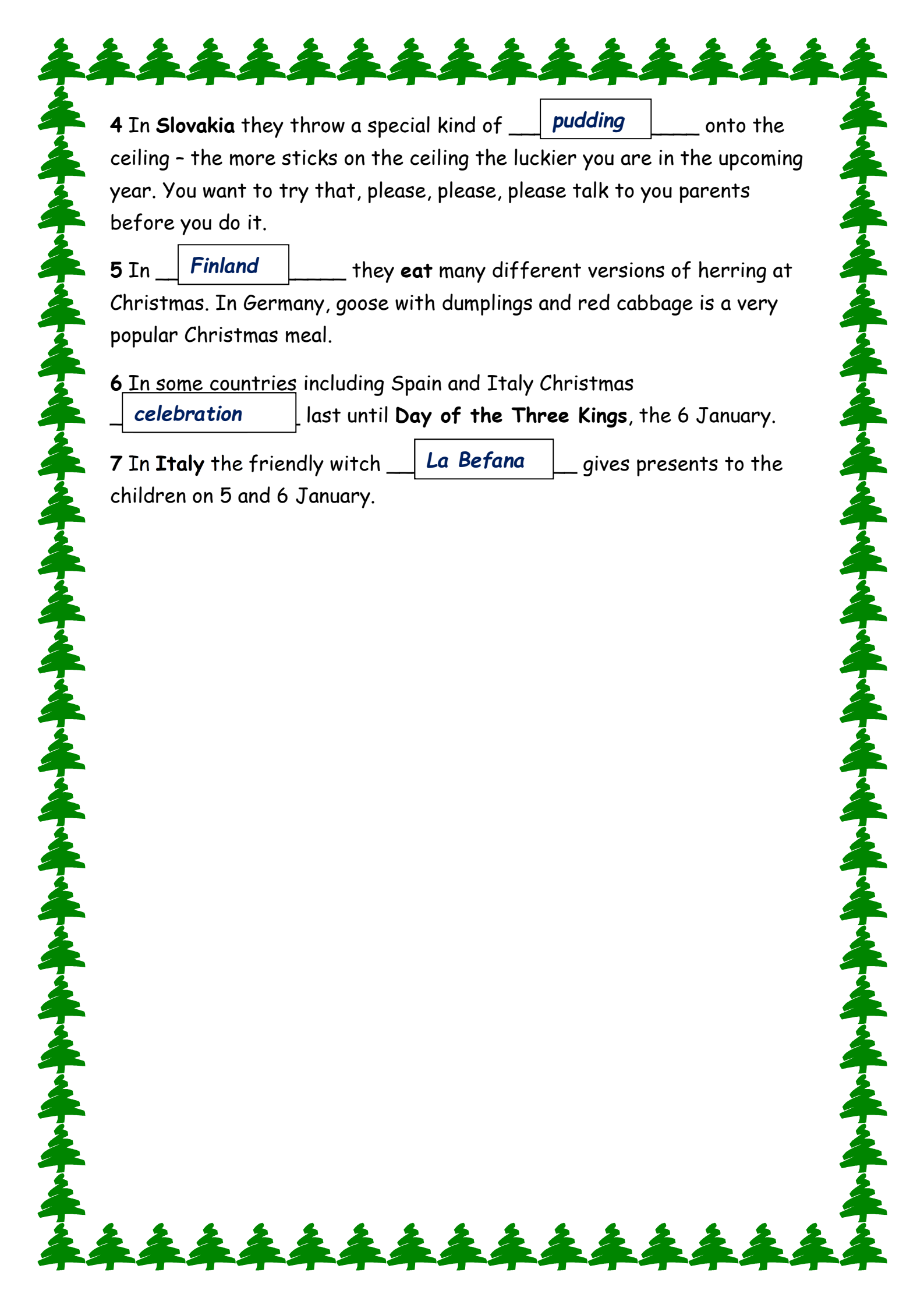
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## IT'S PARTY TIME!

Organize a European Christmas party, where different traditions and customs of your home regions come together. Make a plan and present it in a suitable form (poster, schedule, invitation cards, model - prototype etc.).  
Be visual!

Start with interviewing your team mates about their Christmas traditions.

*Key words:*

*When - time, traditions and customs, languages - special words, decorations, food, music and songs, typical presents, does and don'ts, who takes part?, who brings the presents?*



## WOW, WHAT A TREE ...

Decorate a European Christmas tree. Make all decorations on your own. Your tree should also have „written components“. Present it to the others along with a nice little poem (you have written on your own, too). Start with interviewing your team mates about their Christmas traditions.



# ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE ...

Do you know the song „The 12 Days of Christmas“?

Rewrite the lyrics of the song.

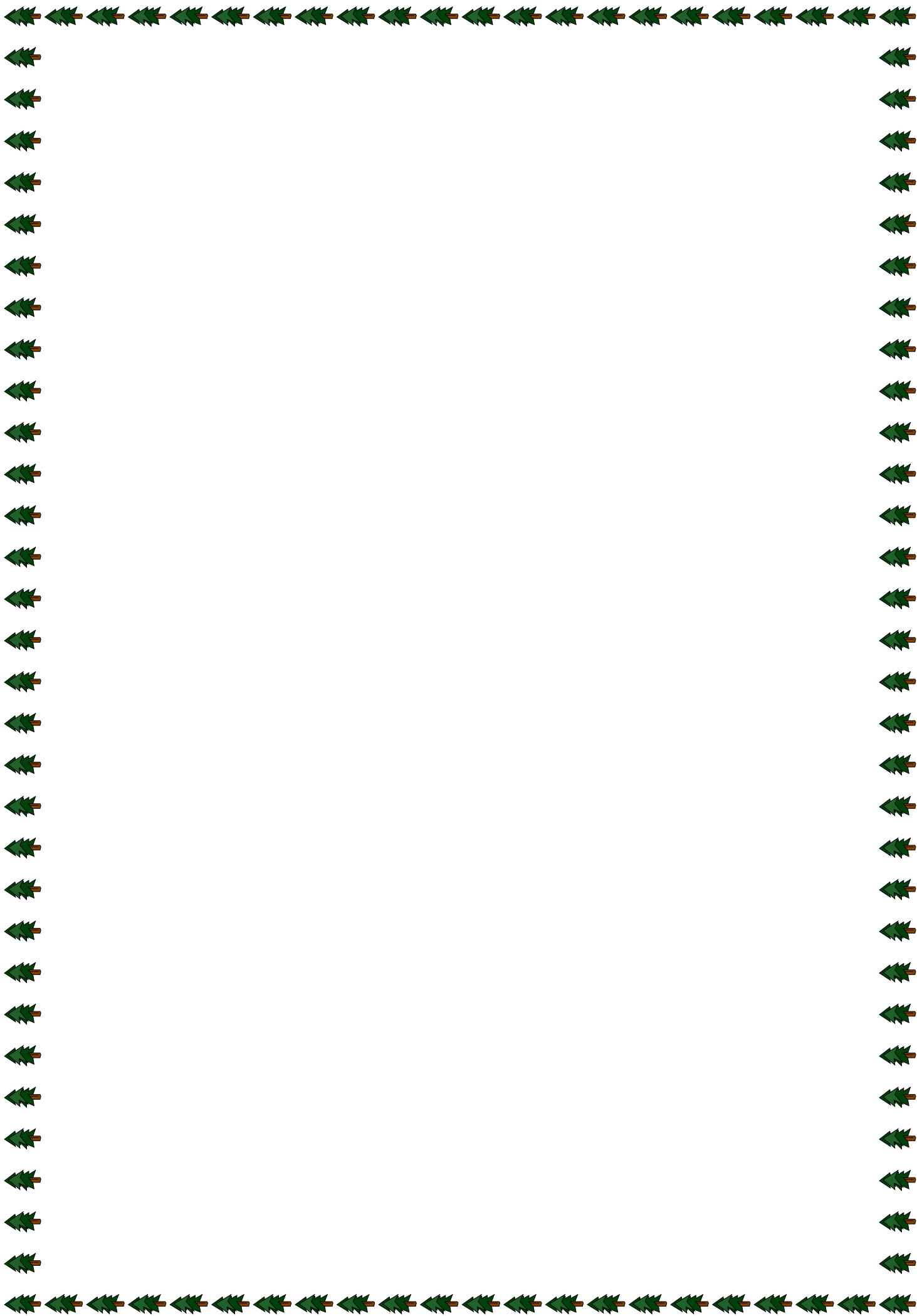
Your song could be about a travel through Europe at Christmas time, taking part in different forms of Christmas celebrations, customs, tradition etc.

Make a smartphone video. (Do not forget to add funny outtakes.)

Present you video to the others.

Start with interviewing your team mates about their Christmas traditions.





## WOOHOO, A GAME!

Invent a European Christmas Taboo, Activity or Thingy version.

You have to write a game manual and you have to make cards.

Present your game to the others. Explain the rules of the game and how to play. Play a round with your mates.

Start with interviewing your team mates about their Christmas traditions.



Team:

Challenge:

## Interview

- ✓ Interview one person at a time.
- ✓ Start specific to make your interviewee feel comfortably. (e.g. What's your name? Where do you come from? etc.)
- ✓ Then go broad. (e.g. Can you tell me about ... ; Why do you ...?)
- ✓ Take notes. After the interview mark the most interesting answers.

This is our interview partner:		
_____	_____	From:
name	age	Interests:
		Likes:

→ General

When does the Christmas period really start in \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Can you tell me about...

What (else) happens on Christmas Eve?

What are the cultural traditions on Christmas Day?

Before New Year's Eve, what other days are important at Christmas time?

What do you normally do on \_\_\_\_\_ and are there any special customs?

→ Personal:

What family traditions are there around Christmas?

What traditions and customs are important to you?

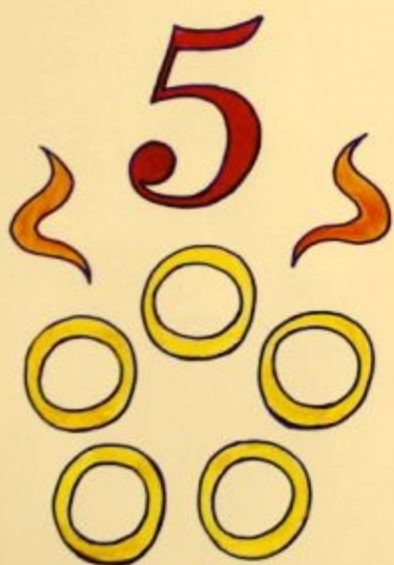
→ More specific (topic related) questions:

					1 Dec	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Jan	2	3	4	5	6

AU = Austria, D = Germany, H = Hungary, NL = Netherlands, RO = Romania







## **Presentation: Useful language**

Today we will be talking about ...  
We have chosen the topic because ...  
First, we discussed ...  
We decided to ....  
Then we ....  
Next, we collected ...  
There were some problems with ...  
It was not easy to ...  
The first / second / third thing we noticed was ...  
This made us aware that ...  
What we learned from this was that ...  
In conclusion we think that ...

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## Quellen

### Abbildungen:

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyEyMjdD2uk>

### Flaggen:

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

### Videos:

<https://europeisnotdead.com/video/broadcasts-of-europe/european-weird-traditions/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_6NRddULq4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_6NRddULq4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqAiPkqTpy4>

<https://esn.org/blog/7-weird-customs-across-europe-you-may-have-never-heard-about>

### Wörterbücher:

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