

Christmas In PORTUGAL

READING COMPREHENSION

FREEBIE



Tips For Teaching About Christmas In Portugal

The activities in this freebie are designed to teach second and third graders about Christmas traditions in Portugal. I designed this resource for [the 2015 Holidays Around The World Blog Hop](#).

If you are interested in teaching your students about holiday traditions in other countries, take a moment to visit the link above. You will find my full post blog post about teaching about Portuguese Christmas traditions and links to free resources that teach about winter holidays in eleven other countries.

Here's how you can use this resource in your classroom:

Nonfiction Comprehension Check

Your students will love reading the included nonfiction article [Christmas In Portugal](#). You can check their reading comprehension as they complete the 7 related comprehension questions. These questions require understanding of information within the text as well as application of information to answer questions beyond the text.

Compare and Contrast Map

After reading about Christmas in Portugal, your students can compare and contrast the holiday traditions of families in Portugal with their own family traditions using a bubble map.

Making Inferences

After reading [O Dia Louco Do Pai Natal](#) by Dominique Curtiss, have your students make inferences about the characters, setting, and plot of the story. This picture book is writing in Portuguese so you will likely have to "read" it in the same way you would a wordless picture book. Each inference question also requires your young readers to collect illustration evidence to support their inference.

I hope you enjoy sharing this resource with your students and have the opportunity to further build cultural appreciation with the other resources from the 2015 Holidays Around the World Blog Hop. I always love seeing resources in action so feel free to snap a photo and tag me @CoreInspiration on Instagram to share your lesson.

Christmas In Portugal

During the month of December, families in Portugal celebrate Christmas. Today, Portuguese (por-che-geez) families enjoy a mix of special religious traditions and fun new activities that make this a favorite holiday.

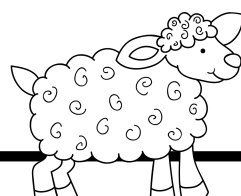
Christmas Dinner

For Christmas dinner, Portuguese families eat codfish, green vegetables, and boiled potatoes. For dessert they eat sweets including sweet breads, sweet rice, and **Bolo Rei**, also known as King Cake. Inside the cake a trinket and a fava bean are hidden. If you find the bean in your piece of cake, you are in charge of making Bolo Rei next Christmas. The cake you make must be given as a gift to whoever finds the trinket.

Catholic Christmas Traditions

After dinner, families go to church for a special mass called the **Mass of the Rooster**. The name of this mass comes from a legend that says a rooster was crowing on the first Christmas Eve.

In most Portuguese houses, you will find a decoration called called a **Presépio**. This is a 3D model of the manger where Catholics believe the Baby Jesus was born. A manger is an open barn where animals sleep and eat. When the baby appears in the manger on Christmas Eve, it is time to open gifts!



Gifts

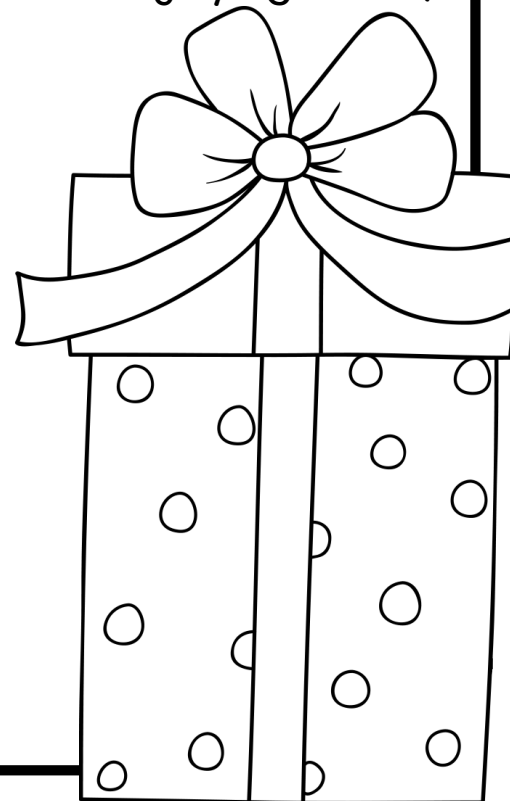
Portuguese children get very excited when Pai Natal (Father Christmas) delivers gifts under their Christmas Tree. Every family is different when it comes to opening gifts. Some open all their gifts on Christmas Eve. Others save some gifts for Christmas day.

Around Town

If you are ever in Portugal during Christmas time, you will see many lights and decorations. You may even see a life-sized Presépio with living animals and people in some town squares. You can greet people with a smile and say “Feliz Natal”, which means “Merry Christmas in Portuguese.

In some towns, groups of carolers walk from house to house singing songs known as the “Janeiras”. The wife of the house opens the door, invites the carolers inside, and thanks them by sharing treats from her Christmas feast. Her husband may also share a thank you by giving them money for their singing.

The Christmas season in Portugal is a time for enjoying food, gifts, family, friends, and happiness.



Feliz Natal!

Christmas In Portugal

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are some traditional foods enjoyed by Portuguese families on Christmas Eve?

2. How do children know it is time to open Christmas gifts?

3. Why is Christmas mass in Portugal called "The Mass of The Rooster"?

4. What surprises do Portuguese families look forward to on Christmas?

5. What might you see in a town in Portugal during the Christmas season?

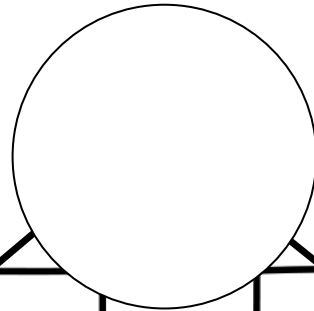
6. How is Christmas in Portugal similar to a winter holiday you celebrate?

7. Would you like to celebrate Christmas like Portuguese families do? Why or why not?

Compare & Contrast

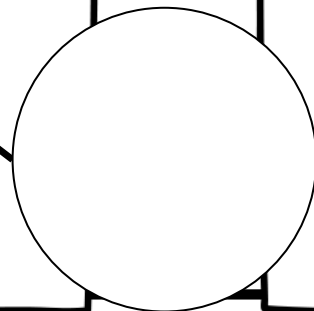
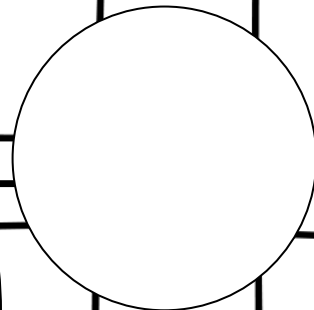
Name: _____ Date: _____

Now that you have learned about Christmas in Portugal, take a moment to compare and contrast Portugal's winter holiday traditions with the holiday traditions of your own family.



MY FAMILY

PORTUGUESE FAMILY



O Dia Louco Do Pai Natal:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Flip through the Portuguese picture book O Dia Louco Do Pai Natal by Dominique Curtiss. Use the illustrations to help you make inferences about what is happening in the story. Answer each question below and record the illustration evidence that helped you answer each question.

What is the setting of this story?	Illustration Evidence
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Who are the characters and what are their jobs?	Illustration Evidence
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Record three details from the introduction of the story:

Illustration Evidence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Record five details from the middle of the story:

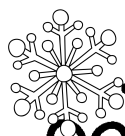
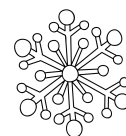
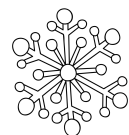
Illustration Evidence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Record three details from the conclusion of the story:

Illustration Evidence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



TERMS OF USE

Thank you for your purchase! By purchasing this resource, you are agreeing that the contents are the property of Laura Santos and **licensed to you only for classroom/personal use as a single user**. I retain the copyright, and reserve all rights to this product.

YOU MAY:

- Use items (free and purchased) for your own classroom students, or your own personal use.
- Reference this product in blog posts, at seminars, professional development workshops, or other such venues PROVIDED there is both credit given to myself as the author and a link back to my TPT store is included in your post/presentation.
- Distribute and make copies of **free items only** to other teachers PROVIDED there is credit given to Laura Santos and a link back to my TPT store.

YOU MAY NOT:

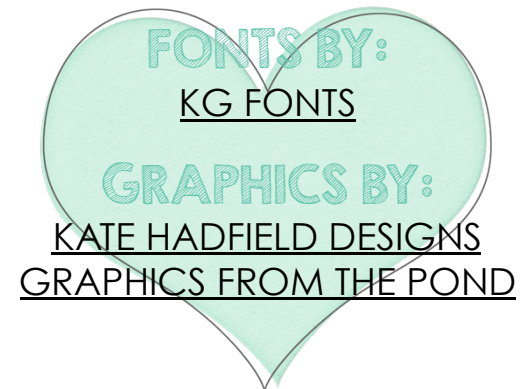
- Claim this work as your own, alter the files in any way, or remove/attempt to remove the copyright/watermarks.
- Sell the files or combine them into another unit for sale/free.
- Post this document for sale/free elsewhere on the internet (this includes Google Doc links on blogs).
- Make copies of purchased items to share with others is strictly forbidden and is a violation of the Terms of Use, along with copyright law.
- Obtain this product through any of the channels listed above.

Thank you for abiding by universally accepted codes of professional ethics while using this product.

If you encounter an issue with your file, notice an error, or are in any way experiencing a problem, please contact me and I will be more than happy to help sort it out!

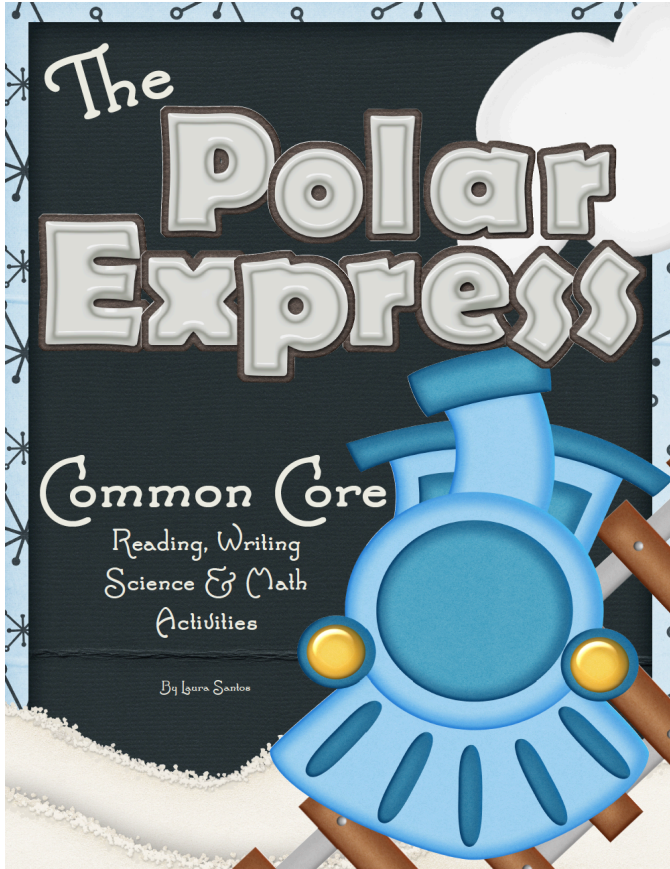
Thank you :) Laura Santos

Thank you to all the amazing artists who created the beautiful design elements featured in this product:



Recommended Resources

You may also enjoy my holiday resources:



CORE
inspiration
BY LAURA SANTOS

p

f

CREDITS FOR
YOUR
NEXT PURCHASE

tpt

Have a minute? [Earn credits toward a free TPT product](#) of your choice when you stop by now and share your feedback.

