



At Christmas children in Greece don't go to school from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 7<sup>th</sup>. Most towns are decorated with Christmas trees, bright lights, bells, angels and other Christmassy objects. You will often see boats decorated with many sparkling lights, rather than the traditional Christmas trees. In the country's big cities there are music concerts, theatrical performances and other cultural events. In the large squares there are little elf houses that sell candy and children can take part in a number of activities. The shops are decorated with all the usual Christmas ornaments. On New Year's Eve there are fireworks and concerts in the big cities. Children usually get presents on the 1st January. On Christmas Eve and New year's Eve, they go from house to house singing the carols, with the accompaniment of a triangle, and people give them money. People go to church very early on Christmas morning for the religious service. On January 6<sup>th</sup> young people dive into really cold lakes, rivers and the sea and try to find a cross which has been blessed by a priest and thrown into the water. The person who gets the cross first is meant to have good luck during the coming year. This is also known as "The Blessing of the Waters" or Epiphany.

**Christmas food in Greece**

In the past years, Christmas turkey has become very popular as the main dish of the holiday. Traditionally, the main course of Christmas dinner in Greece is roast pork, with a variety of side delicacies. Melomakarona and kourabiedes are the two varieties of Christmas and New Year's cookies in Greece. Vasilopita is a cake that is eaten on New Year's Day and has a coin in it. The person who has the coin in his piece, will have luck for the rest of the year.

Read the text above, as well as the posts in the forum discussion about *Christmas in our countries* and put:



if your answer is "Yes"



if your answer is "No"



if you are not sure about the answer or you don't know it

	Lithuania	Poland	Spain	Turkey	Greece
1. They celebrate Christmas					
2. They celebrate New Year					
3. They have fireworks					
4. They have a big street party for the New Year					
5. Stores are decorated for Christmas					
6. They decorate a Christmas tree					
7. They decorate a boat					
8. The towns are full of lights					
9. Children sing carols					
10. People celebrate Epiphany					
11. Children get presents					
12. They eat holy wafer and fish but no meat					
13. They eat a cake with a coin in it					