CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA

A French Canadian tradition is the Taffy Pull. Households make taffy as a way for single people to mingle for the holidays.

UNITED STATES

Leaving a plate of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa began in the 1930's during the Great Depression. Parents were teaching their children it was important to give to others and show gratitude in times of hardship.

GREENLAND

Don't like what mom's making for the holiday dinner? In Greenland, Holiday foods include kiviak, made by wrapping a small arctic bird called an Auk in seal skin, burying it for several months and eating the decomposed flesh!

GERMANY

On the eve of December 5, German children leave a boot or shoe outside their bedroom. In the morning, if they've been good, they will find the shoes filled with candy. If they haven't, they will find only a branch.

SENEGAL

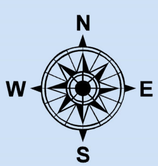
Senegal celebrates Christmas despite being a predominantly Muslim country. Each year at Christmas, streets and city squares are filled with Christmas trees, lights, and tinsel.

BRAZIL

Brazil's version of Santa Claus is called "Papai Noel", or "Bom Velhinho" which means good old man.Christmas meals are typically a barbecue party accompanied by a huge fireworks display.

PHILIPPINES

Famous for. celebrating the longest Christmas season, carols can be heard from the beginning of September through mid-January.

AUSTRALIA

Because Australia is the "land down under", Christmas comes during the summer holidays. It is often said that when Santa goes to Australia, he lets his reindeer take a break and uses kangaroos instead.