

Christmas True/False Quiz

by Svetlana Gavrilović, Užice Grammar School

Level: Pre to upper intermediate.

Materials: coloured paper, handouts with origami instructions.

Time: 45 min.

Step 1: Students are divided into groups of five and each group is given 50 bonus points to start the game with.

Step 2: Each group is given a handout with the instructions on how to make an origami ornament and some origami or regular red or green paper. The ornaments are very simple and the instructions can be found on the Internet quite easily. (I usually take them from the book 'Easy Christmas Origami' by John Montroll, Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, New York.) Each group gets a different ornament to make and as they finish making five ornaments of the same type such as candles/four-pointed stars/ candy canes/ Christmas trees/ stockings/ bells, etc., they score additional points, e.g. the first group to finish scores additional 50 points, the next one gets 40 points more, and so on. The name of the figure they have made becomes the name of their group. The teacher or one of the students keeps the score on the board.

Step 3: The teacher reads true/false statements about Christmas and Christmas traditions around the world. After each statement students decide on the number of points they want to bet on their true or false answer. If they guess correctly they score the points, if they make a mistake they lose the same number of points. The game gets more exciting towards the end as many teams decide to bet everything they have on the last statement. If a team loses all their points before the end of the game, it is disqualified.

Step 4: Everyone enjoys the prizes - sweets.

N.B. The rules of the game as well as the statements are adaptable.

Quiz statements

1. Christmas trees did not exist in England before Queen Victoria's reign.
False. 'The Good Queen Charlotte', the German wife of George III, set up the first known English tree at Queen's Lodge, Windsor, in December, 1800.
2. It was the custom to eat goose at Christmas until Henry VIII decided to tuck into a turkey.
True.
3. 75% of the population in the UK will eat turkey on Christmas Day; this means 7 million turkeys being cooked.
False. 93% of the population in the UK will eat turkey on Christmas Day; this means 11 million turkeys being cooked.
4. The carol 'Silent Night' was first sung in 1818 in Austria.
True. It happened in Oberndorf in Austria.
5. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner, Blitzen, Cupid and Comet are the names of Santa's reindeer.
True.
6. The popular Christmas song 'Jingle Bells' was originally written for Thanksgiving.
True. It was composed by James Pierpont in 1857.
7. The Queen's Christmas speech was televised for the first time in 1956.
False. It happened in 1957.
8. In the American state of Hawaii Christmas starts with the arrival of the Christmas Tree Ship.
True. The Christmas Tree Ship arrives in Hawaii in mid to late November, bringing Christmas trees and festive goodies.
9. At 3.00pm on Christmas Eve everything stops in Sweden, for Donald Duck and his friends wish you all a Merry Christmas!
True. This 1958 Walt Disney Christmas special has been shown every year without exception since 1959.
10. In a popular Australian Christmas song 'Six white boomers' Santa abandons his reindeer by the time he gets to Australia and replaces them with koalas.
False. Boomers are kangaroos.
11. In Finland the TV stops at about 5.00pm and restarts at 10.00pm. This time is traditionally when the Christmas tree is eaten and festivities begin.
False. This happens in Iceland.
12. It isn't Santa who brings gifts for the children but kindly witch La Befana.
True. She brings gifts to good children and pieces of coal to the naughty ones.