

Christmas Activity Pack



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Merry Christmas!

Welcome to tripAbrood's
Christmas activity pack



At **tripAbrood** we've built an AI travel assistant, matching you and your family to the perfect accommodation for your next family holiday - giving you tailor-made holiday accommodation options at a fraction of the price of other websites. Over lockdown, we created activity packs to inspire families all over the country to travel from the comfort of their homes.

Whether you want to travel soon or you'd rather travel at home, tripAbrood is here every step of the way to give your brood a lifetime of enriching experiences together.

This pack is split into 5 parts:



Learn:

A little introduction to how Christmas is celebrated in six European countries.



Taste:

Here are two Christmas recipes for you to try at home with your kids.



Explore:

Explore our map to discover where countries are, how you might get there and what you might do.



Talk:

Learn a few words to help you celebrate like a local.



Creative:

Build your own origami Christmas shoes and learn how to make your own handprint trees and wreaths.

We hope that you and your kids enjoy your journey around the world learning about how other cultures celebrate Christmas.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas,

The tripAbrood team x

Learn

A little introduction to how Christmas is celebrated in six European countries



GERMANY



When we think of countries that celebrate Christmas in a BIG way - people often think of Germany. It's thought that **Christmas trees** originated there and every year, they have massive Christmas markets where you can buy everything from yummy snacks to beautiful decorations. But Christmas Day isn't the only day celebrated in Germany!



Germans celebrate many days on the lead up to Christmas. Like many of us, they have **advent calendars** containing sweets or chocolate that they open each day from 1st December until the 24th.

On the 6th December, it's **Nikolaustag** - Saint Nicholas Day. On this day, they believe that St Nicholas and his helper *Knecht Ruprecht* visits houses with young children delivering small presents to everyone who has been good. German children put their **shoes, socks** or even **plates** outside and hope that St Nicholas will leave them sweets.

Then, on the 24th December - the real celebration begins and German children open their Christmas presents - **a whole day earlier** than we traditionally do in the UK!



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GREECE

Many of us take for granted that we decorate a big tree with lights, bobbles and tinsel at Christmas but the people of Greece decorate something quite **different**. Traditionally, when sailors returned from sea to spend Christmas with their loved ones, their families decorated their **boat**! If you visit Greece over Christmas time, you'll still see some Christmas trees but you'll also see beautifully lit up boats!

On Christmas Eve, children go out in the streets to sing **kalanda** - Christmas carols. They play their drums and other instruments and some might even carry a **model boat** decorated with nuts and gold. Greek children wait until 1st January to get their presents as **Aghios Vassilis - St Basil** - delivers them on St Basils day.

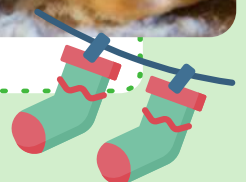


FRANCE

Like Germany, France also celebrates St Nicholas Day. Children leave out a carrot and sugar lump for St Nicholas' pet **donkey** and place their **shoes** outside their front door and wait for St Nicholas to fill them with fruit and sweets. Food is a very important part of French Christmas. In some parts of France, it is even traditional to serve **13 desserts** on Christmas Eve - yummy! These represent Jesus and his 12 disciples and are eaten across three days.

Have you ever heard of a **Yule Log**? In the UK, we often think of the dessert but in France, it's part of a Christmas tradition. If they have a fire in their house, a French family might bring back a special log on Christmas Eve. They then cover it in wine before lighting it on fire.

It smells amazing!



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SPAIN



In Spain, Christmas celebrations traditionally begin with **La Misa Del Gallo** - The Mass of the Rooster. A midnight mass named after the tradition that a rooster crowed the night Jesus was born.

On 28th December, it is **Dia de los santos inocentes** - this holiday is a little like April Fools Day. People try to trick each other into believing silly stories and if they believe them, they shout "inocente, inocente!" calling them "innocent, innocent".



In Spain, the main celebration is on **6th January** - a day called **Epiphany**. This is traditionally the day that the three wise men or Kings brought presents to the baby Jesus. Because of this, most Spanish children open their presents on 6th January instead of Christmas Day!

POLAND



In Poland, Christmas is considered a very religious time of year. People go to church more often, there are **special masses** held and people give up their favourite food and drinks to prepare for the festivities.



On **Wigilia** - Christmas Eve, it goes even further as traditionally Catholics would fast (not eat anything) all day until **Kolacja wigilijna** - Christmas Eve supper - in the evening. This meal can only start when the **first star** is seen in the sky! Children often wait outside to see who can spot the first star.



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ICELAND



In Iceland, the Christmas period is called **Jol** and its celebrated a little differently than in most of Europe. *Jol* begins on the 23rd December with **St Thorlakur's Day** when Icelandic families have a simple meal together and decorate their Christmas tree.

Next, on Christmas Eve, celebrations begin at 6pm! Many many years ago, days ended at 6pm rather than midnight in Iceland so some people think that is why 6pm still plays a big part in these Icelandic traditions.

Families have their evening meal together and then it's time for presents! It's tradiitonal in Iceland to get a new item of **clothing** and a new **book** at Christmas. Many families then spend time, drinking a cup of their favourite drink and reading. One traditional story says that if you don't wear your new clothes on Christmas Day, you'll get **eaten** by the Christmas cat!

New Year is also a major festival in Iceland. They believe that it is a magical night where cows can talk, seals become humans and elves move house. But that's not all! You better watch out for the **Jólasveinar** - 13 playful imps who like to eat lots and play tricks. Icelandic children leave out shoes in the hopes of getting a present from them but beware, If you've been naughty, they might leave you a **potato** instead of a present!



Taste

Here are two Christmas recipes for you to try at home with your kids.



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I'm sure you've realised by now that many Christmas traditions across the world involve food! We've chosen two of our favourites for you can try at home.

Lebkuchen are traditional German Christmas cookies! You'll find them at German markets all over the world and they're super yummy. You can cut them into stars, hearts or any shapes you like then decorate with icing!

In Greece, there are many foods eaten at Christmas. Many of the islands have their own traditions too! One popular comfort dish is **Avgolemono** - a lovely warm chicken and rice soup. Perfect for cold nights!

LEBKUCHEN

Makes: 20

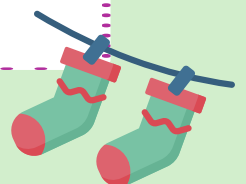
Ingredients:

- 200ml honey
- 85g butter
- 225g plain flour
- 75g almonds
- 2 tsp ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp mixed spice (optional)
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 125g Icing Sugar



Method:

1. Heat the honey and butter together in a pan over a medium heat until melted and combined.



Taste

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Method:



2. Add all the dry ingredients (except the icing sugar!) to a bowl and mix together.
3. Pour the melted butter and honey over the ingredients and combine until a dough forms - be careful, it'll be sticky!
4. Wrap the dough in baking paper and leave to chill for at least 45 minutes. Preheat your oven to 180C.
5. Add flour to a clean surface and roll your dough out until it is around 1cm thick.
7. Grab your favourite cookie cutters (glasses and mugs also work!) and cut out some fun shapes! (Remember you can reroll the dough so none should go to waste!)
8. Line some trays with baking paper and add your shapes - leaving spaces between them. Pop them in the oven for 12-15 minutes.
9. Once the biscuits are cool, add the icing sugar to a bowl with 5 tsp of water. Mix it up until you have a runny consistency and spoon over each biscuit and enjoy!



Taste

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Serves: 4

Avgolemono

Ingredients:

- 950ml chicken broth (or stock)
- 400g of white rice
- 2 egg yolks
- 4 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 rotisserie chicken (already cooked and shredded)
- 4 tbsp fresh dill



Method:

1. Cook your rice according to the instructions on the package.
2. While the rice cooks, add the stock/broth to a pot, bring to a simmer and season with salt and pepper.
3. Take 225ml of the (now hot) stock and add to a blender.
4. Add 100g of rice, the eggs yolks and lemon juice then blend until smooth.
5. Slowly add the puree into your stock and mix together.
6. Add in the chicken, the rest of your rice and simmer for around 10 minutes until the soup thickens.
7. When you're ready to serve, add in the fresh dill and you're ready to go!



Explore

Explore our map to discover where countries are, how you might get there and what you might do

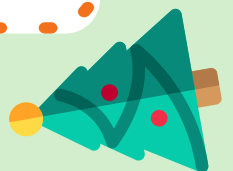


EUROPE MAP



Looking at the map of Europe:
We've highlighted the six
European countries that we
learned about earlier. Do you
know which is which?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____



Explore

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PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Looking at the map:

We've highlighted **France, Spain, Greece, Poland, Germany** and **Iceland**.

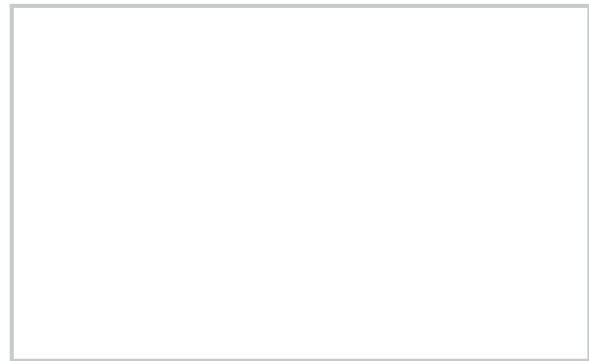
Which country would you most like to celebrate in?

How would you travel there?

Who would you take with you?

What would you eat there?

What would you do there? (Get creative! Draw a picture of yourself celebrating)



Think about someone special to you... where would they most like to visit and why?

CHRISTMAS AT HOME

Looking at the map:

We've highlighted **France, Spain, Greece, Poland, Germany** and **Iceland**



Which countries are furthest away from where you live?



How do you celebrate Christmas at home?

Explore

Explore our map to discover where countries are, how you might get there and what you might do



WORD SEARCH

Find the following **Christmas** words in the word search.

Words may run forwards, backwards, diagonally, up or down.
Some may overlap!



Advent

Kalanda

Aghios

Inocentes

Jol

Epiphany

St Nicholas

Shoes

Yule Log

Wigilia

Boat

Rooster

A	C	O	R	O	O	S	T	E	R	O	O	S
T	A	O	B	S	A	E	O	S	O	B	S	A
O	A	L	B	Y	K	U	L	A	T	O	T	A
S	H	O	E	S	A	D	V	E	N	T	N	L
L	O	N	N	E	L	A	K	R	Y	O	I	L
W	L	I	A	X	A	F	E	N	N	O	C	O
I	O	G	H	O	N	D	L	L	A	P	H	J
G	S	A	L	G	D	R	A	O	H	M	O	R
I	A	F	L	E	A	F	O	X	P	F	L	A
L	Y	U	L	E	L	O	G	F	I	L	A	O
I	L	A	W	O	K	A	K	O	P	E	S	E
A	X	I	N	O	C	E	N	T	E	S	A	I



Talk

Learn a few words
to help you celebrate like a local.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Each of the six countries in this pack have
their own language!

Here you can learn how to wish someone
Merry Christmas in all six languages!



joyeux Noël
jwai-yuh no-el
French



Feliz Navidad
fe-leeth Navi-dad
Spanish



Frohe Weihnachten
fro-uh vyn-nach-ten
German



Gleðileg jól
glai-lag jol
Icelandic



Wesołych Świąt
vess-oh-vitch shvee-ont
Polish



καλά Χριστούγεννα
kar-la christo-ye-na
Greek



Talk

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CHRISTMAS CAROLS

It's common in many European countries for both adults and children to sing songs at Christmas time. Sometimes these are sang in the streets, sometimes groups go from door to door of houses. In the UK, this is called **Christmas caroling**.

Some countries sing the same songs that we do - just in a different language - but there are also many different songs sang across Europe.



Do you know the song **Silent Night**?

In France, they sing *Douce Nuit*. Try singing along to the lyrics in French - it uses the same tune!

Saint enfant, doux agneau! (Holy child, tender lamb)

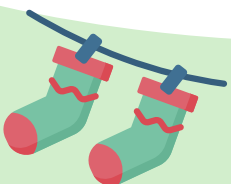
Qu'il est grand ! Qu'il est beau! (How big he is! How beautiful he is!)

Entendez résonner les pipeaux (Listen to the flutes sound)

Des bergers conduisant leurs troupeaux (Shepherds driving their flocks)

Vers son humble berceau! (To his humble cradle)

Vers son humble berceau! (To his humble cradle)



Creative

Build your own origami Christmas shoes and learn how to make your own handprint trees and wreaths.



MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS SHOES

In this pack, we've learned that there are lots of different countries that put shoes out at Christmas - similar to how many of us put stockings by our beds.

Putting your shoes outside is a bit of a problem in the UK because of all the rain. So let's make some special Christmas elf shoes instead!

You will need:

- Square paper

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Step 1) Fold the paper in half diagonally. Make a sharp crease then unfold and repeat with the other side.



Step 2) Now fold all corners into the middle.



Step 3) And one more time! Fold all the corners into the middle again.



Creative

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Step 4) Now, unfold the top layer of folds. Then unfold two of the original folds that are opposite each other.



Step 5) Taking one of the sides that are still folded, fold half of the straight edge onto the diagonal crease beside it. Repeat with the other half of that side then repeat with the opposite side of the paper.



Step 6) Flip the paper over and fold in half so you end up with a shape like a pointy triangle.



Step 7) At the base of the triangle, pull out the two bottom folds.



Step 8) Now, taking the pointy end, fold both flaps down to create a flat top.



Creative

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Step 9) Fold the newly created flat edge upwards to the flat edge at the other side.



Step 10) Now, take the flaps you folded down in Step 8 and fold them over the other side of the paper.



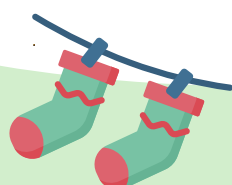
Step 11) One by one, fold the two side flaps across (as shown above), crease, then unfold.



Step 12) Move these two flaps so they are sticking up in the air (these will be your shoes).



Step 13) Now, stick your finger into the pocket at the back of the shoe and the hole underneath the shoe and open the shoe up. Press your finger down on the back of the shoe and right in front of the pocket to keep the shoe open.



Creative

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Step 14) Use your fingers to shape your shoe however you like, making sure the base remains flat so they can stand up.



Step 10) Repeat with the second shoe.



Step 11) Fold the flap at the back of the shoes underneath the shoes.



Step 12) Flip the shoes upside down and flatten all the flaps on the bottom.



Now, you've got your elf shoes!



Creative

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HANDPRINT ART

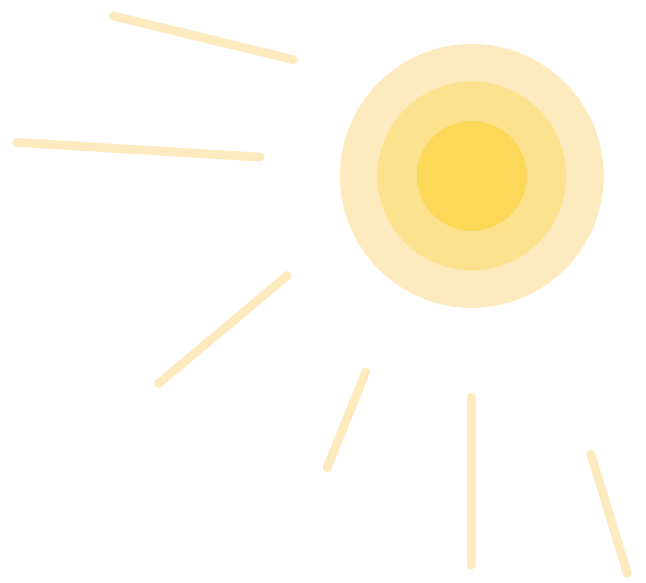
Think about the Christmas decorations we have at home - many of you will likely have a Christmas tree and maybe a wreath at your door or somewhere else in your house. Lets make our houses even more Christmassy with handprint trees and wreaths!

Just grab some scissors, a pen and coloured paper (different shades of green work really well but you can get creative) and lets go!



- Step 1)** Put your hand down on a piece of paper or card and trace around your hand. Repeat lots! Be sure to start from the edge of the paper so you can get lots of handprints out of each sheet.
- Step 2)** Cut out the outlines of your hands carefully.
- Step 3)** Now, decide if you're making a wreath or a tree!
- Step 4)** For a wreath, arrange and glue your hands into a circle. For a tree, start with a line of overlapping hands and build your tree up (using glue) until there's one on top!
- Step 5)** Time to make your extras - cut out bows, berries, bobbles, stars and anything else you'd like to use to decorate your wreath or tree.
- Step 6)** Glue your extras on and voila - You're ready to decorate the house!





Until next time!

Thanks so much for downloading our Christmas pack. We hope you had as much fun using it as we did creating it.

Don't forget to share your creations with us via Facebook or Instagram (@tripabrood).

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