

# Winter Celebrations

## AROUND THE WORLD



### BOXING DAY

- Became an official holiday in 1871, celebrated on Dec. 26th
- Mainly celebrated in the UK and former British colonies
- Now, this day often features shopping sales and sports



### CHINESE NEW YEAR

- Celebrates the Lunar New Year and Chinese zodiac animals
- Starts on the first day of the new moon (Jan. 21 – Feb. 20)
- Children are often gifted red envelopes that contain money



### CHRISTMAS

- Celebrated on Dec. 25 to mark the birth of Jesus Christ
- Often includes the decorating of evergreen trees, large family gatherings, and visits from Santa Claus
- Gifts are commonly exchanged



### DIWALI

- Five-day festival of lights, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains
- Celebrates light over darkness
- Often features fireworks and festivities, and sweet treats



### HANUKKAH

- Eight-day Jewish festival, also known as the festival of lights
- One candle is lit on the menorah every day for eight days
- Features special prayers and fried foods such as latkes



### KWANZAA

- Seven-day African-American festival
- Started in 1966 and celebrated from Dec. 26 – Jan. 1
- Light the *kinara*, one candle for seven days, with each representing a different value



### LAS POSADAS

- Christmas tradition in Mexico, celebrated Dec. 16 – 24
- Involves processions to and from various houses as well as caroling
- Ends with breaking piñatas and lots of candy for kids



### ST. LUCIA DAY

- Also known as St. Lucy Day, this festival of lights is celebrated in Scandinavia and Italy
- Girls are often dressed as shown above
- Often includes St. Lucia Crown Cake with seven candles



### THREE KINGS DAY

- Celebrated on Jan. 6th
- In Mexico, children leave their shoes by the door so they can receive presents
- Sweet bread often contains lucky baby figures



### WINTER SOLSTICE

- Official start to winter
- Longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere
- Celebrates changing seasons and features an emphasis on nature and Earth