

# Merry Christmas!

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What are some signs of Christmas?

### Definitions:

- Celebrate – to observe a certain day or time with special activities



## Reading

Christmas is a **festive** time. You can see it. You can smell it. You can hear it. The sights, smells, and sounds of Christmas are celebrated by millions of people every year. It is a religious holiday, but many non-Christians also enjoy it.

What do you see at Christmas? People light candles and decorate Christmas trees. Wreaths are hung on doors. People wear red and green clothing. Strings of lights twinkle on trees and houses. Some people even have reindeer on their lawn!

You may receive some Christmas cards in your mailbox. Many people send holiday greetings to their family and friends. A family photo and letter of the past year's events are often included. There are also sights of Christmas in the newspaper. You see ads for special sales in many, many stores. Don't forget Santa! He can be seen in most shopping malls.

What do you smell at Christmas? Christmas cookies are baked by young and old. Frosted cut-out cookies are a favorite. You see them in many shapes. There are green trees, yellow stars and red stockings. Many families make them every year. They are a Christmas **tradition**.

What do you hear at Christmas? "Frosty the Snowman?" "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?" "Jingle Bells?" Christmas **carols** are enjoyed by all. Religious songs like "Away in the Manger" and "Silent Night" are also favorite carols of the season.

Other sounds you may hear include friendly Christmas greetings. People say, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" to friends and strangers. You will also hear the sound of cash registers ringing! Christmas is a busy time for the buying of gifts.

The sights, smells and sounds of Christmas are many. People of all ages and backgrounds share the spirit of the season. Christmas is a festive time for all.

## Understanding

1. What is a **tradition**? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What are **carols**? Which ones do you like? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. How do people greet each other at Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. What are the colors of Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How are “Mary” and “Merry” similar? How are they different? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do you think some non-Christians celebrate Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
7. What does the word **festive** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Option A: What do you see, smell, and hear at Christmas?

Option B: How do you celebrate Christmas?

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