

Christmas Around the World

第41回 English Extravaganza(Rebecca 先生放送原稿) Fri. December 1, 2017
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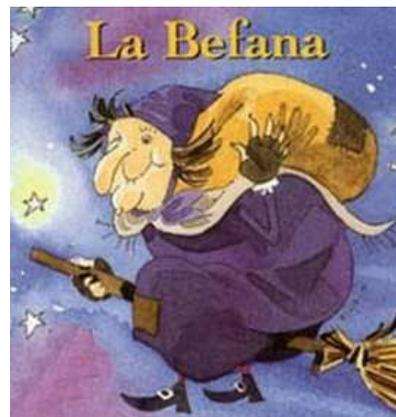
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Hi, everyone! It's time for another English Extravaganza. Today, I'm going to talk about Christmas. Christmas is a holiday in December. Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, the son of God, on Christmas. The holiday is also about spending time with family and exchanging gifts. Since Christianity is practiced (キリスト教の教えが実践されている) around the world, I want to tell you about some Christmas traditions from different countries.



For example, Japan is the only country that eats KFC on Christmas Eve. This is not common in the United States or elsewhere. In other countries, Christmas dinner is usually turkey, cranberry and sweet potatoes. Eating KFC started in Japan in the 1970's because KFC had a popular TV commercial for the Christmas season. That commercial started a whole Japanese Christmas tradition!

In some countries, spirits and witches join the holiday. In Norway, there's no cleaning on Christmas Eve. All brooms (ほうき) are safely hidden away, in case they're stolen by witches and evil spirits. Guatemalans, however, sweep out their houses before Christmas. Each neighborhood makes a large pile of dirt, puts a small statue of the devil on top, and burns it. Austrian children live in fear of Krampus, a Christmas devil who hurts naughty (腕白な) children. Meanwhile, Italian children await the arrival of Befana, a friendly witch who delivers sweets and toys on January 5th.



Many traditions are about giving gifts. Germans hide a pickle (一本のキュウリの漬け物) in the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. The first child to find the pickle gets a small gift. On December 5th, German children leave a shoe outside, which is filled with sweets overnight. Naughty children awake to find a stick instead. In Canada, the Canadian Post delivers mail to the address "Santa Claus, North Pole, Canada, HOHOHO". Any letters received at this address are opened and replied to. So, if you want to write a letter to Santa, you know where to send it now! I hope you

enjoyed this week's English Extravaganza! I'll see you next week!

