**Christmas**

Christmas is the main public holiday in Britain. This Christian holy day is held on December 25th (in Russia on January 7th) in honour of the birth of Christ. The word “Christmas” means “Christ’s Mass”. The Mass is a traditional church service at which people give praise to God. At Christmas they remember the birth of his son, Jesus.

In Britain people have many interesting Christmas traditions. Read these short texts and match them to the pictures. Two texts are extra.

*Christian holy day – святой для христиан день*

*in honour – в честь*

**1. Trees and Presents**

People began to celebrate Christmas many, many years ago. They began to decorate the evergreen tree and give presents to each other. They placed a large shining star at the top of the Christmas tree and many bright shining balls (red, blue, yellow, green, silver) from top to bottom.

*evergreen — вечнозеленое (дерево)*

*placed — помещали, вешали*

*from top to bottom — сверху донизу*

**2. Christmas Stockings**

In the evening of the 24th of December children hang their Christmas stockings on their beds or along the mantelpiece above the fireplace hoping that Santa Clause will fill them with presents. They can also put their stockings under the Christmas tree. A Christmas stocking is not a real stocking. It is big and beautifully decorated.

*mantelpiece* - *полка над камином*

*fireplace — камин*

**3. Christmas Pudding**

Christmas pudding is the highlight of Christmas dinner. It is a sweet pudding containing a lot of dried fruit. Children often put holly on the pudding. Traditionally a coin is placed into the pudding. It brings good luck to a person who finds it.

*pudding — пудинг (сладкий пирог; рождественский пудинг бывает обычно с изюмом и цукатами)*

*highlight — зд. самое главное угощение*

*holly — остролист (вечнозеленое растение с заостренными листьями и красными ягодками)*

*coin — монета*

*It brings good luck — Она приносит удачу*

**4. Holly**

Holly is an evergreen plant with sharp-pointed leaves and red berries. People put holly on Christmas pudding. They also use holly to decorate their homes. It is a very old tradition. Long ago people began to put holly in their homes during the dark cold winters. They liked to look at holly and think about the spring and the sun.

*sharp-pointed leaves - заостренные листья*

**5. Mistletoe**

Mistletoe is an evergreen plant with small leaves and small white berries. On Christmas Eve there is a bunch of mistletoe in every house. When two young people meet under a bunch of mistletoe, they have to kiss each other. This tradition goes back to the Druids. They were priests in Celtic Europe. The Druids praised the mistletoe’s ability to stay green in winter in spite of having no roots.

*mistletoe — омела (вечнозеленое растение с маленькими белыми ягодками)*

*Christmas Eve—сочельник, канун Рождества (24 декабря)*

*bunch — букетик, пучок*

*the Druids - друиды*

*priests - священнослужители*

*praised – восхвалять*

*roots – корни*

**6. Robin**

Many years ago postmen had bright red coats. They looked like robins. At Christmas they brought many Christmas cards. And people began to think about a robin as a Christmas bird. You can see it on almost every Christmas card.

*robin — малиновка (птичка с красной грудкой)*

*looked like — были похожи*

**7. Yuletide**

Yuletide begins in the middle of December and ends on the 6th of January. All the children like this wonderful time because it is the time of much fun.

*Yuletide — святки (дни от середины декабря до 6 января)*

*much fun — большое веселье*

**8. Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve is on the 24th of December. Or this day everybody is very busy and in a hurry. Offices close at 1 o'clock, but the shops stay open late.

On Christmas Eve children hang their Christmas stockings on their beds. They wait for Father Christmas (Santa Claus) and other miracles.

*everybody is very busy and in a hurry — все очень заняты и спешат*

*stay open late — открыты допоздна*

*miracles — чудеса*

**9. Christmas Day**

Christmas Day is on the 25th of December. British people celebrate this holiday with big dinners. Children have much fun. They play under Christmas trees, find presents in their Christmas stockings, eat Christmas puddings, watch pantomimes. The grown-ups don't go to work on that day.

*celebrate — празднуют*

*watch pantomimes — смотрят рождественские представления для детей*

*grown-ups — взрослые*

**10. Boxing Day**

Boxing Day comes after Christmas Day. It is on the 26th of December. People do not go to work on that day. They visit friends or go to the theatre. Everybody gives and receives Christmas cards and Christmas boxes.

*Boxing Day—день рождественских подарков (26 декабря)*

*gives and receives — дает и получает*

*Christmas boxes — рождественские подарки (обычно они бывают упакованы в коробки — boxes; отсюда и происходит название праздника — Boxing Day)*

**11. Twelfth Night**

The Twelfth night is on the eve of the 6th of January. This is the twelfth day after Christmas Day. It is the last day of Yuletide. People eat the Twelfth cake on the Twelfth night. This is a big cake with a coin baked inside. The person who finds the coin in his piece of cake becomes the king of the Twelfth night.

*Twelfth night — двенадцатая ночь (ночь накануне б января — двенадцатого дня после Рождества )*

*on the eve — накануне*

*baked inside—запеченная внутрь*

**12. Pantomime**

A pantomime is a traditional performance for children at Christmas. All the children have much fun when they watch fairy tales with princes, beautiful princesses and fairies ("Cinderella", "Puss in Boots", "Dick Whittington" and many others).

*performance — представление, спектакль*

*fairy tales — сказки*

*princes — принцы*

*princesses — принцессы*

*fairies — фен, волшебницы*

*"Cinderella" — «Золушка»*

*"Puss in Boots" — «Кот в сапогах»*

*Dick Whittington" — «Дик Унттингтон» (английская народная сказка о бедном деревенском мальчике, который впоследствии трижды становился лорд-мэром Лондона)*

**13. Yule Log**

A Yule log is a piece of wood which people burn in the fireplace on Christmas Eve. This tradition goes back to ancient times. In the North of Europe people celebrated Yule. They burnt big logs, built bonfires, ate and drank a lot, danced and sang songs. Now at Christmas British people often have small ‘Yule’ logs on the Christmas table.

*Yule Jog — рождественское полено*

*burn — сжигают*

**14. Christmas Tree**

A traditional feature of Christmas in Britain is the Christmas tree. Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert, brought the German tradition (he was German) to Britain. He and the Queen had a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle in 1841. A few years later, nearly every house in Britain had one. Traditionally people decorate their trees on Christmas Eve. They decorate it with tinsel, toys, shining balls and flags. A giant Christmas tree is set up in Trafalgar Square each year. The tree is a present from the people of Oslo, Norway.

tinsel — блестки или мишура

*giant - громадный, гигантский*

**15. Candles and Crackers**

On Christmas Eve people like to light candles. If there are children in the family, they often have Christmas crackers. When you pull a cracker it makes a bang and inside there is usually a Christmas hat, a small toy and a piece of paper with a joke on it.

*candles and crackers — свечи и хлопушки*

*to light candles — зажигать свечи*

*When you pull a cracker — Когда потянешь за хлопушку*

*it makes a bang — она с треском разрывается*

**16. Father Christmas (Santa Claus)**

There is another name for Father Christmas in Britain – Santa Claus. That comes from the European name for him – Saint Nicholas. They say he lives at the North Pole. On Christmas Eve he visits every house. He climbs down the chimney and leaves lots of presents. He has a white beard and white and red clothes. He is always merry.

*merry — веселый*

*chimney - дымовая труба; дымоход*

*climb down - слезать, спускаться*

**17. Carol singers**

Caroler singers are a group of singers who sing carols. A carol is a Christmas song. They sing carols, for example, in front of a Christmas tree. In small towns and villages carolers often come and stand in front of the house and sing or play carols. They receive money for their singing or playing. They give the money to poor and old people.

*waits — рождественский хор*

*carols — рождественские гимны*

*sing or play carols — поют гимны или разыгрывают сценки (на основе этих гимнов)*

*singing or playing — пение или игра*

**18. Christmas Dinner**

The most important meal is Christmas Dinner. At the start of the meal British people often pull a cracker. The typical meal consists of turkey with potatoes and other vegetables. This is followed by Christmas pudding. Other traditional foods include Christmas cake – a cake containing a lot of dried fruit and usually having a covering of icing, and mince pies.

*turkey — индейка*

*mince pies — сладкие пирожки c начинка из изюма, миндаля, корицы и сахара*

*covering of icing – корочка из глазури*

**19. Mince Pies**

Mince pies are small round pies. Mince pies should traditionally have a star on top, to represent the Christmas Star which some believe led the shepherds to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Mince pies are a favourite food of Father Christmas. Children leave one or two mince pies on a plate at the foot of the chimney (along with a small glass of brandy, sherry or milk, and a carrot for the reindeer) as a thank you for filling their stockings.

*shepherd - пастух*

*Bethlehem - Вифлеем, город в Палестине, где согласно Библии родился Иисус Христос.*

**20. Christmas Card**

Another Christmas tradition – is sending Christmas cards which bring good wishes to the family and friends.

The earliest known Christmas card was sent by Sir Henry Cole in 1843, but giving cards didn’t become popular for over 20 years. Traditionally there is a robin on almost every card. Sometimes there is a bunch of holly on the Christmas card. You can read on the card: "Merry Christmas!"

*sends and receives — посылает и получает*

*Merry Christmas! — Счастливого Рождества!*

**21. Christmas Box**

Traditionally people put their Christmas presents into boxes. That is why the day on which they give and receive these boxes is called Boxing Day. A Christmas box is wrapped in bright coloured paper with ribbons. Traditionally, 26 December was the day to open the Christmas Box to share the contents with the poor. The Christmas box was a wooden or clay container where people placed gifts.

*is wrapped in — заворачивается в*

*to share - делиться*

*wooden or clay – деревянный или глиняный*

*ribbon - лента*

**22.** **Christmas Colours**

Red and green are the traditional colours of Christmas.

Green represents the continuance of life through the winter and the Christian belief in eternal life through Jesus.

Red symbolizes the Jesus’ blood.

*represents the continuance - означает продолжение*

*belief - вера*

*eternal life - вечная жизнь*

*blood - кровь*

**23. The Queen’s Christmas Message**

Another Christmas tradition particularly for older people is the Queen’s Christmas Message, broadcast on TV at 3pm on Christmas Day afternoon. It lasts 5-10 minutes. The tradition has been going since 1932 when King George V broadcast a radio message to Britain and the colonies.

*the Queen’s Christmas Message речь Королевы*

*broadcast - транслировать*

**24. Christmas Candy Cane**

These white and red candy sticks are used as a Christmas treat and a decoration for the tree. There are many legends and stories about its origin and how it became the part of tradition. Many believed that it was designed to symbolize Jesus.

*Christmas Candy Cane - леденец в форме посоха*

*treat - угощение*

*origin – происхождение*

**Лист ответов к домашнему заданию.**

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