

Teaching the Topic

Christmas! Many people are on holiday, people often go away, schools are closed. Many businesses are closed between Christmas and New Year. For Christians and other Kiwis this is the most important festival of the year. We talk about what we do, food, family visits, the outdoors, doing things with our children. There are words and customs connected with this festival. We talk about what day Christmas is this year.

Resources

Advertisements for Father Christmas, Christmas parade, carols by candlelight, Boxing Day sales; calendars, Christmas cards, Christmas recipes, CDs of Christmas carols, newspapers advertising suburban streets lit by Christmas lights.

Activities

- If it is an unfamiliar festival, locate the days 25th, 26th December and 1st, 2nd January on the calendar. Talk about possible changes in shopping hours.
- Discuss what happens at Christmas – statutory holidays, cards, presents, church services, Christmas Eve, Father Christmas, Christmas food, the tree, decorations, carols, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve.
- If the learner is not Christian it might be useful to tell the Christmas story in whatever way you feel comfortable – the three wise men, the star, the manger.
- Role play answering questions – *Do people celebrate Christmas in your country? How do people celebrate Christmas in your country? What are you doing at Christmas? Are you going away? How do you bring in the New Year? Do you give presents?*

Language

- Related to the Christmas and New Year seasons.
- Understanding and answering different questions – yes/no, 'wh' questions.
- Language for comparing cultures.

Using the Worksheet

A possible introductory activity: Talk about the Christmas break in New Zealand, about statutory holidays and the importance of the week between Christmas and New Year, when many businesses are closed and many people take a few days off to get a long holiday. If necessary, talk about the significance of Christmas.

The worksheet is calendar pages for the holiday period and three exchanges about the holidays. The learner completes the empty boxes in the exchanges and circles dates on the calendar. Use a current calendar.

Main learning points

Know how to respond to questions about the holiday period. Mark important dates in the period on the calendar. Be aware that Christmas and New Year's Days are always on the same day of the week.

What else could be learnt?

Christmas customs around cards, decorations, presents, food. Boxing Day and what often happens then (picnics, sales). What to expect on New Year's Eve in New Zealand. How a southern hemisphere Christmas is different from Europe or the USA.

The learner can mark other dates on the calendar, for example, when school terms finish, when the family goes away for a holiday or visitors are going to arrive. Talk about what will happen on these dates.



The festive season

1. Read the three questions below and discuss the answers.
2. Mark the dates on the calendar.

December 2010

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

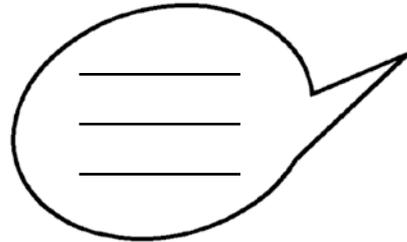
January 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1.



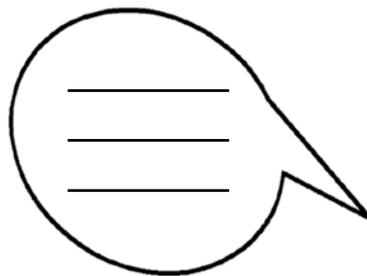
What day is Xmas this year?



2.



Do you know when New Year's Day is?



3.



When's our last lesson for this year?

