CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

PASSPORT



12 countries • 5 continents • 1 big trip

Color a circle for every stamp you collect!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Draw yourself

This passport belongs to:

Name _____

Age _____

I live in _____

My Passport Stamps

Name _____

Read about each stop on your trip, then color its passport stamp.

1 Germany



In Germany, many families open their presents around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve.

Color the Christmas tree.

2 Austria



In Austria, St. Nicholas has a shaggy, horned sidekick called Krampus.

Color Krampus and his bell.

3 Italy



In Italy, kind La Befana flies on her broomstick to fill stockings with candy.

Color the stocking.

4 Ethiopia



In Ethiopia, Christmas is called Genna and comes on January 7.

Color the genna stick and ball.

5 Sweden



In Sweden, Lucia wears a crown of candles and leads a singing procession.

Color the crown of candles.

6 The UK



In the UK, families pull crackers with a paper hat, a joke and a little gift inside.

Color the cracker.

My Passport Stamps

Name _____

Read about each stop on your trip, then color its passport stamp.

7 Iceland



In Iceland, 13 Yule Lads visit, and families swap books on Christmas Eve.

Color the books.

8 Canada



In Canada, letters to Santa go to the North Pole, postal code H0H 0H0.

Color the letter to Santa.

9 The USA



In the USA, many children leave out cookies and milk for Santa on Christmas Eve.

Color the cookies and milk.

10 Mexico



In Mexico, Las Posadas parties often have a star piñata full of candy and fruit.

Color the piñata.

11 The Philippines



The Philippines has the world's longest Christmas season, from September to January!

Color the parol.

12 Australia



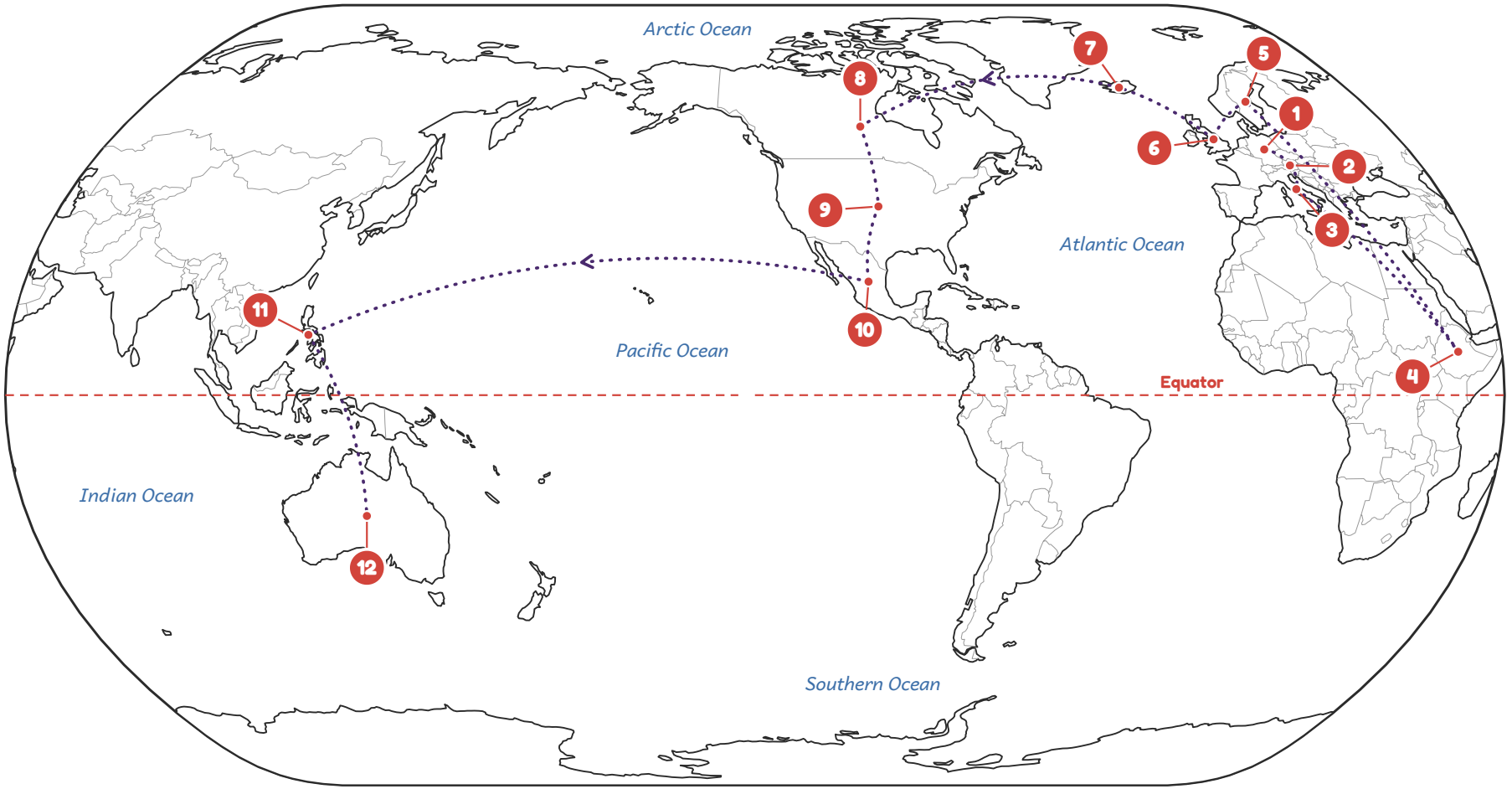
In Australia, Christmas is in summer, so you might spot Santa surfing at the beach!

Color the surfing Santa.

My Trip Around the World

Name _____

1. Trace the dotted line from stop 1 all the way to stop 12.
2. Color the land green and the sea blue.
3. Can you find the five oceans? Point to each one.



1. Germany
2. Austria
3. Italy
4. Ethiopia
5. Sweden
6. The UK
7. Iceland
8. Canada
9. The USA
10. Mexico
11. The Philippines
12. Australia

Our map is centered on the Pacific Ocean, so our trip never falls off the edge!

Same and Different

Name _____

Cut out the picture cards on page 6. Which box does each one belong in? Glue it in!

Some pictures could go in two boxes!



Gift-bringers



Lights in the dark



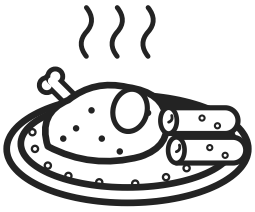
Food to share

Picture Cards

Name _____

Cut out the nine cards, then sort them into the boxes on your Same and Different page.

✂ Cut along the dotted lines.



Doro wat with injera
Ethiopia



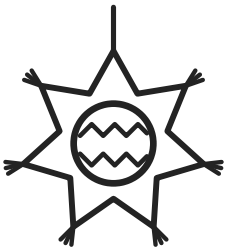
St. Nicholas boot
Germany



Parol lantern
The Philippines



Lucia's crown
Sweden



Star piñata
Mexico



La Befana
Italy



Letter to Santa
Canada



Carols by Candlelight
Australia



Mince pies
The UK

Art Challenge!

Name _____

Design your own Christmas star lantern!

In the Philippines, families hang star-shaped lanterns called parols in their windows. Parols were traditionally made from bamboo and paper. Now it's your turn! Draw your own star lantern in the big box.

Think about

- How many points will your star have?
- Will it have tails, a pattern or a picture?
- What colors will make it glow?

My star lantern

Talk About It

Which special days does your family celebrate? How do you celebrate them?

FOR TEACHERS AND GROWN-UPS

Teaching Guide

This passport takes children aged 4 to 8 on a trip to twelve countries, to discover how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Inside, you'll find a passport cover, two stamp pages, a trip map, a same-and-different sort with picture cards and an Art Challenge. Use it alongside our free guide, **Christmas Around the World for Kids**, which has everything you need to read aloud at each stop.

How to use it

- **One session (30 to 45 minutes):** read the introduction together, then choose four contrasting stops, such as Sweden, Ethiopia, Mexico and Australia, each on a different continent. Children color a stamp at each stop and finish by tracing the route on the map.
- **Two sessions:** spend the first on the gift-bringer stops (Germany, Austria, Italy, the UK, Iceland, Canada and the USA) and the second on the light and food stops (Ethiopia, Sweden, Mexico, the Philippines and Australia), finishing with the same-and-different sort and the star lantern Art Challenge.
- **Printing tips:** everything prints well in black and white. The picture cards last longer printed on card stock, and the map is a landscape page, so let your printer turn it.

Answers: same-and-different sort

There is more than one right answer. Here is one way to sort the cards:

Gift-bringers	Lights in the dark	Food to share
St. Nicholas boot (Germany)	Parol lantern (The Philippines)	Doro wat with injera (Ethiopia)
La Befana (Italy)	Lucia's crown (Sweden)	Star piñata (Mexico)
Letter to Santa (Canada)	Carols by Candlelight (Australia)	Mince pies (The UK)

Some cards fit in two boxes: Lucia's crown could go with food to share, because Lucia often carries a tray of saffron buns, and the mince pies could join the gift-bringers, because children leave one out for Father Christmas. Accept any answer a child can explain.

Answers: trip map

The stops in order are 1 Germany, 2 Austria, 3 Italy, 4 Ethiopia, 5 Sweden, 6 the UK, 7 Iceland, 8 Canada, 9 the USA, 10 Mexico, 11 the Philippines and 12 Australia. The route crosses the Atlantic Ocean between stops 7 and 8 and the Pacific Ocean between stops 10 and 11. The five oceans are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern Oceans.

Continents: the trip visits five of the seven continents: Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and Oceania, which includes Australia. Ask children which two it misses (South America and Antarctica).

Talking point: Australia is the only stop south of the equator, so Christmas there comes in summer, while children in Germany, Austria, Sweden and Iceland are wrapped up for winter.

Spot the dates: the Philippines stamp shows the longest Christmas, from September to January, and Ethiopia's shows the latest, on January 7. Which stamps share a date? Germany, Iceland and the USA all show December 24, and the UK, Canada and Australia all show December 25.

Talking about Santa and the other gift-bringers

Children may notice that different countries have different gift-bringers, who visit on different nights. Talk about what families do: "Many children in Italy hang up a stocking for La Befana" works for every child, whatever their family believes. If a child asks whether a gift-bringer is real, "What do you think?" keeps the conversation open without deciding for anyone. If Krampus worries anyone, focus on the costumes, bells and parades: he's a character people dress up as, and St. Nicholas always comes too.

If you don't celebrate Christmas

The passport works without presents, costumes or letters to Santa, so you can use it as a festivals-around-the-world lesson. Inviting children to share how their own family celebrates special days makes it richer for everyone.

FOR TEACHERS AND GROWN-UPS

Teaching Guide

Words to know

Advent: the weeks of waiting and getting ready before Christmas.

cracker: a paper tube with a treat inside that goes bang when two people pull it.

Epiphany: January 6, when Christians remember the Three Kings visiting baby Jesus.

equator: an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.

Genna: Christmas in Ethiopia, celebrated on January 7.

injera: a soft, spongy flatbread from Ethiopia, eaten with stews like doro wat.

Krampus: a shaggy, horned character who goes out with St. Nicholas in Austria on December 5.

parol: a star-shaped Christmas lantern from the Philippines.

pavlova: a meringue dessert piled high with cream and fresh fruit.

piñata: a paper shape filled with treats that children break open at a party.

posada: the Spanish word for an inn, or a place to stay.

postal code: letters and numbers that help mail reach the right address.

procession: a line of people walking slowly together, often singing.

saffron: a golden spice that makes Lucia buns yellow.

Simbang Gabi: nine special Masses held at dawn, from December 16 to 24.

Yule Lads: 13 cheeky characters who leave little gifts in Icelandic children's shoes before Christmas.

Extension ideas

- **Say Merry Christmas:** try Frohe Weihnachten (Germany and Austria), Buon Natale (Italy), Melkam Genna (Ethiopia), God jul (Sweden), Gleðileg jól (Iceland), Feliz Navidad (Mexico) and Maligayang Pasko (the Philippines).
- **Book Flood afternoon:** swap favorite books and read together with a warm drink, like families in Iceland on Christmas Eve.
- **Paper star lanterns:** decorate a paper star with tissue-paper tails and hang it in the window, like a parol.
- **Summer or winter?** Sort the stops into hot and cold Christmases, then talk about what you would wear at each one.

Curriculum links

Country	Where it fits
England	EYFS Early Learning Goal, People, Culture and Communities: explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. KS1 geography: name and locate the world's continents and oceans, and compare a small area of the UK with a contrasting non-European country.
Scotland	Curriculum for Excellence, RME early level (RME 0-03a and RME 0-06a): becoming aware of the importance of celebrations, festivals and customs.
USA	C3 Framework, D2.Geo.3.K-2: use maps, globes and other simple geographic models to identify cultural and environmental characteristics of places. D2.Geo.6.K-2: identify some cultural and environmental characteristics of specific places.
Canada	Ontario Grade 2 Social Studies, Strand A, Heritage and Identity: Changing Family and Community Traditions.
Australia	Australian Curriculum v9, Foundation HASS (AC9HSFK02): the celebrations and commemorations of significant events shared with their families and others.

More free Christmas stories

Keep the cozy Christmas feeling going! Our gentle read-alouds on Storytime with Karyn include **The Christmas Gift**, **Soulful Holidays** and **South Pole Santa**, plus **How Tooter the Otter Saved Christmas** for a big festive giggle. Find them all at changetheworldwithkaryn.com.

Change the World with Karyn

Every worksheet, video and teaching guide on our site is free because YouTube ad revenue pays for it, and a share of everything we make goes to support schoolchildren at Cansumbol Elementary School in the Philippines. To help keep it that way, subscribe to **Storytime with Karyn** and **Learn with Karyn** on YouTube, and share this free passport with a friend.