

# Christmas carols ... songs of joy

## Santa Claus ... Who's He

Our Canadian traditional Christmas means turkey and cranberry sauce, Christmas trees and Santa Claus.

In other countries, however, Christmas is quite different.

Our children hang up their stockings and wait for Santa Claus. In Holland, Dutch children are visited by Sinter Klaas. He is a saint from Spain who rides over the rooftops on a white horse. He leaves gifts for children in front of the fireplace, and the children leave a bundle of hay for his horse. Sinter Klaas' helpers are called Black Peters, and when Dutch children are naughty it is the threat of punishment from Black Peter that they fear most.

Norway's version of Santa Claus is Nisse. As well as leaving gifts for the children, he is a prankster. He plays tricks and tells jokes like a mischievous elf. The children leave a bowl of cereal for Nisse on Christmas Eve.

In England the stockings are hung for Father Christmas. French children look forward to a visit from Pere Noel, while in Germany, St. Nicholas leaves a gift on the Christmas Plate. In Sweden and Finland the children are visited by Kris Kringle, while in Brazil the man in the red suit is Papa Noel. In Greece, instead of Santa in a sleigh, St. Basil distributes gifts in a boat. In other countries he is sometimes known as Christkindii or La Befana.

### AWAY IN A MANGER



Away in a manger,  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down His sweet head,  
The stars in the bright sky,  
Looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,  
The Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus,  
No crying He makes,  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side  
Until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever,  
And love me, I pray,  
Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven,  
To live with Thee there.

### JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ever heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and flocks, rocks, hills and  
plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground,  
He comes, to make His blessing flow  
Far as the earth is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love.

### SOLUTION



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May everyone have a Joyous Christmas  
with happiness continuing through the New Year.

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