



# Christmas Customs

November 2010

This pathfinder will be useful in finding information about Christmas traditions from around the world.

**For an introduction to the topic, see:**

- "Christmas," [World Book Encyclopedia](#) 031 WOR

## Key Resources at a Glance:

- [Encyclopedia of Christmas](#), by Tanya Gulevich. (2000)  
Nearly 200 alphabetically arranged entries covering all aspects of Christmas including folk customs, religious observances, history, legends, symbols, and related days from Europe, America, and around the world. Supplemented by a bibliography and lists of Christmas web sites and associations, as well as an index. (394.2663 ENC)

## Reference Background

- History of the Holidays: Christmas (History Channel)  
<http://www.history.com/minisites/christmas/>
- "Christmas" Encyclopedia online  
<http://encyclopedia.com/searchresults.aspx?q=christmas>

## Resources

### Books

- [Christmas Crafts and Customs Around the World](#), by [Virginie Fowler](#), 1984 (394.2663 ELB)
- [The Everything Christmas Book](#), by [Michelle Bevilacqua](#), [Brandon Toropov](#), [Sharon Gapen Cook](#), 1996 (394.2663 EVE)
- [Christmas Customs and Traditions, their History and Significance](#), by [Clement A. Miles](#), 1976 (394.2663 MIL)
- [Hearth & Home: Discover the origins of Christmas Traditions](#), by [Creative Publishing International](#), 2001 (745.5941 HEA)
- [The Christmas Almanac](#), by [Natasha Fried](#), 2009 (394.268 CHR)

## Search Aids

### Search Terms

(Use for computer searches)

- Christmas traditions world
- Christmas history
- Christmas customs

### Subject Headings

(Use in card catalogs and print indexes)

- Christmas
- Christmas decorations
- Christmas--History

### Call Number

- 394.2 (Dewey Decimal)

### Indexes and Abstracts

- EBSCOhost  
<http://search.ebscohost.com>
- FirstSearch  
<http://firstsearch.oclc.org>

### Library catalogs

- Urbandale Public Library  
<http://www.urbandalelibrary.org>
- SILO – (Iowa Locator) -- State-wide catalog  
<http://z3950.silo.lib.ia.us/cgi-bin/zform.CGI?SILO>
- WorldCat - World-wide Catalog  
<http://worldcat.org>

## Magazine Articles

- "Origins of the Christmas card," by Marian Behan Hammer. *Early American Homes*, (1999 Special Issue Christmas, Vol. 30, Issue 4) Available through EBSCOhost

## Web Pages and Web Portals

- Bill Egan's Christmas World  
<http://christmas-world.freesevers.com/>
- Christmas Trees and More (Univ. of Illinois Extension)  
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees/>
- Christmas Around the World  
<http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/>
- How "Merry Christmas" is said around the world  
<http://www.santas.net/howmerrychristmasissaid.htm>
- Colonial Christmas Customs (Colonial Williamsburg)  
<http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/xmas/customs.cfm>
- Christmas recipes: Search Christmas then cuisine  
<http://www.foodnetwork.com/>
- Santa's Christmas Around the World at  
<http://www.santaclaus.com/world.html> which lists by country their celebrations.

## Organizations and Special Collections

- National Christmas Center (Paradise, PA ); 717-442-7950  
<http://www.nationalchristmascenter.com/>
- German Christmas Museum (Rothenburg, Germany)  
<http://www.weihnachtsmuseum.de/e/home.asp?spr=e&a=10>  
[virtual tour of exhibits online; in English]

\*\* You can evaluate other resources using criteria at:

<http://www.THEpathfinderproject.org/evaluate.html> \*\*

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and THE Pathfinder Project.

Production funded in part by Library Services and Technology Act funds administered by the State Library of Iowa.

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