

NSDJNJ Holiday at the Arboretum

As you enjoy the Kwanzaa items on display during dinner and then visit the Christmas Village after dinner, complete a hidden animal hunt, learn interesting holiday facts and talk about your family holiday traditions.



Find the animal hidden in each house



Holiday Facts



Talk about your traditions



Kwanzaa - Swahili for "first fruits of the harvest", is a seven-day celebration of African roots observed from Dec 26 - Jan 1. Born out of the Black Power Movement of the 1960s, and founded by activist and educator Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa was formed as a way to empower people to rediscover their African heritage. It is anchored by 7 principles known as the Nguzo Saba which inspires Black people to be united, self-determined, accountable for their communities, financially invested in Black-owned businesses, purposeful with their lives, creative and full of faith.



The Kinara - the candle used to celebrate Kwanzaa the black candle symbolizes the people themselves, the three red candles are for the struggle or blood shed in the past, and the three green candles represent the Earth or the abundance of possibilities the future holds.

During Kwanzaa handmade gifts called zawadi are exchanged. What are some zawadi you might give your loved ones?

Where in our dining room is the muhindi? That is the Swahili name for corn.

Where in our dining room is the mkeka? That is the mat that the Kinara stands on.

Candy Shop



What is your favorite treat to eat during the holidays?

According to legend, candy canes originated in 1670 as a way to keep children quiet during church! Candy canes are the No. 1-selling non-chocolate candy during the month of December, with 90 percent of the red and white striped treats sold between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The biggest single week for candy canes? The second week of December.

Hat Shop



Do you like wearing hats in the winter or other seasons? Are there any in our Shop that you would buy?

Did you know? More body heat is lost from your head than other parts of the body. So, wearing a hat goes a long way towards staying warm on a cold winter's day (or night).

Bookstore



What books or stories do you love to read around the holidays? What holiday movies do you always watch?

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was written in just two months and is the most sold fiction book about Christmas ever published. "Bah humbug" and "Merry Christmas" weren't unknown before A Christmas Carol, but the book brought them front and center in popular usage. And everyone knows what you mean if you refer to someone as a "Scrooge."

Chocolate Shop



What is your favorite chocolate treat?

Chocolate is present in Christmas traditions all around the world, like in Mexico where the turkey has a layer of chocolate on top, or in Italy where children receive pieces of chocolate from the witch Befana.

Bakery



What foods does your family like to enjoy during the holidays?

Known initially as macaroni pie, baked mac and cheese as we know it was created by James Hemings. Hemings was enslaved at the age of 8 on Thomas Jefferson's plantation. At 19, Jefferson took Hemings to France where he trained as a culinary chef and learned about pasta and cheese. Hemings' legacy of baked mac and cheese continued long after the Emancipation Proclamation in the 1860s and began to have new meanings and multiple identities in the Black community.

Toy Shop



Do you have any wooden toys at your home?



The Ore Mountains regions of Germany is famous for not only wooden toys, but also Christmas Pyramids like you see in our Christmas Village!

Music Shop

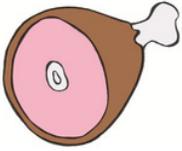


What are your family's favorite holiday songs?



"All I Want for Christmas Is You" is a song written, produced and recorded by African American singer Mariah Carey in 1994. It is the best-selling holiday song by a female artist, and one of the best-selling physical singles in music history. The song is certified Diamond - selling 10 million copies in the US - becoming the first and only holiday song to accomplish this feat. By 2017, it had reportedly earned \$60 million in royalties.

Butcher



Do you have a favorite winter holiday meal?



Many German families enjoy goose, turkey or classic German Bratwurst during the holidays. But it is also popular in the US: Americans purchase an estimated 318 million pounds of ham around the holidays.

Flower Shop



How many flowers in the shop can you name? Which is your favorite?



Joel Roberts Poinsett introduced the poinsettia plant to the US from Mexico. Poinsett was a botanist, physician and the first United States Ambassador to Mexico. There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available in colors like red, white, pink, burgundy, marbled and speckled. The Paul Ecke Ranch in California grows over 70% of all Poinsettias purchased in the US and does about 50% of the world-wide sales of Poinsettias.

Cobbler



What are your favorite ways of decorating?



Have you ever wondered why red and green are traditional Christmas colors? In ancient times, Romans celebrated a winter festival in honor of the god of sowing and seeds. When the winter planting was done, Romans celebrated with feasting, drinking and gift giving and homes were decorated with evergreens and holly. The red berries and green leaves from those plants became associated with these celebrations and continued into the Christmas celebrations we know today.

Doctor's Office



Have you ever enjoyed holiday foods, music, or traditions from another country?



In Ethiopia, Christmas is celebrated on January 7th and is called Ganna or Genna. Many Ethiopians fast during the 43 days before Christmas, called the 'Fast of the Prophets' (Tsome Nebiyat). During this time, traditionally only one vegan meal is eaten each day and dress in white, often in a traditional garment called Netela.

Post Office



Have you ever written a letter to Santa Claus? What did you write in your letter?



Did you know that nearly 16 billion pieces of mail and packages were delivered during the holiday season of 2019? And in the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the Postal Service delivered more than 900 million packages.

Carpenter



Have you ever built something that you are proud of? How long did it take? Did you do it alone?



German legend says possession of a nutcracker in your home is good luck for all that live there and for the house too! In 2008 the largest known nutcracker was made and put on display in Germany. It stands 33 feet and 1 inch tall and is included in the Guinness World Records Book.

Santa's House



What do you think the weather is currently like at the North Pole? Would you want to visit the Arctic?



Did you know that Santa has no specific race or color? Instead, it depends on how the people that love him perceive him. Santa delivers presents to good-hearted children from all over the world, regardless of race, ethnicity or nationality. And each of those children has a special relationship with Santa and sees him through their own eyes.