



*Christmas in  
the United  
States*

# Christmas in the United States

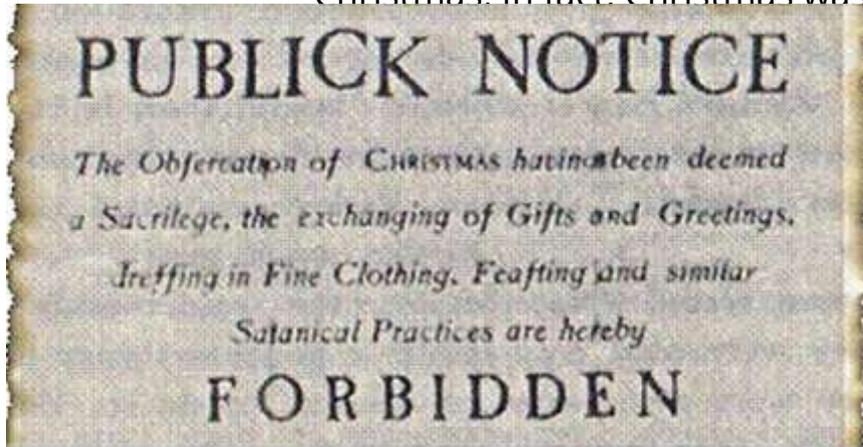
**Christmas** is one of the most popular holidays in the United States. Today, most Americans blend religious and secular customs with their own family traditions, often celebrating with food, decorations and rituals.



# History

The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were orthodox in their Puritan beliefs. Therefore, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually **outlawed in Boston**. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. In contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain **John Smith** reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the **American Revolution**, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.



# History

Though people have celebrated Christmas for hundreds of years in the United States, the modern, commercialized Christmas that we know today began to emerge in the 19th century with the new custom of purchasing gifts for young children. Seasonal “Christmas shopping” began to assume economic importance.

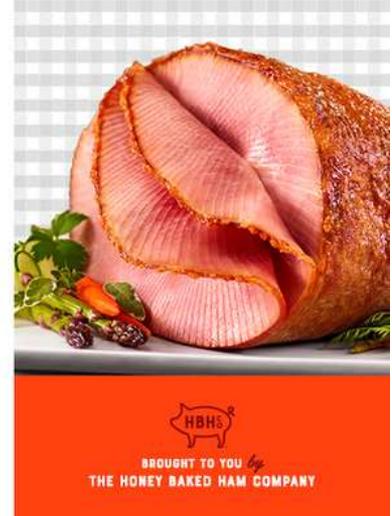


# What People Eat

Roast turkey and ham are popular for Christmas dinner throughout the country, but depending on the region, so are tamales, roast goose, crawfish jambalaya, roast pork or “seven fishes” seafood salad.



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# Decorations



Luminaries



Candy canes



Christmas tree

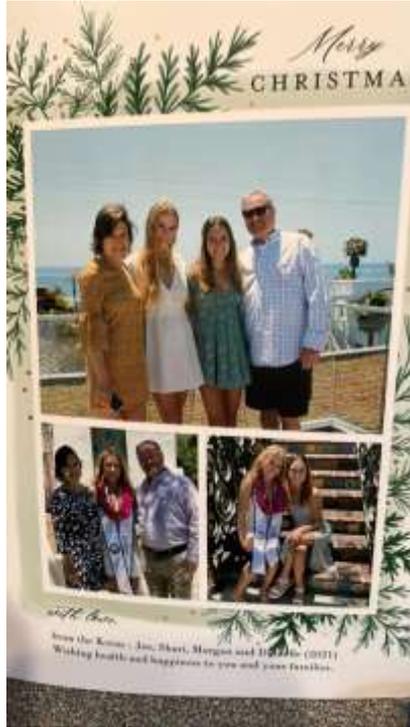


Lights



Stockings

# Traditions



Christmas cards



Cookies and milk  
Reindeer on the roof

# Santa Claus

**Santa Claus**, also known as **Father Christmas**, **Saint Nicholas**, **Saint Nick**, **Kris Kringle**, or simply **Santa**, is a legendary character originating in Eastern Christian culture who is said to bring children gifts on Christmas Eve of toys and candy or coal or nothing, depending on whether they are “naughty or nice”.



# Other Popular Holidays in the U.S.

Non-Christian holidays celebrated at roughly the same time of year as Christmas — most prominently the African-American Kwanzaa and the Jewish Hanukkah — also blend into a broader “holiday season” in the U.S.

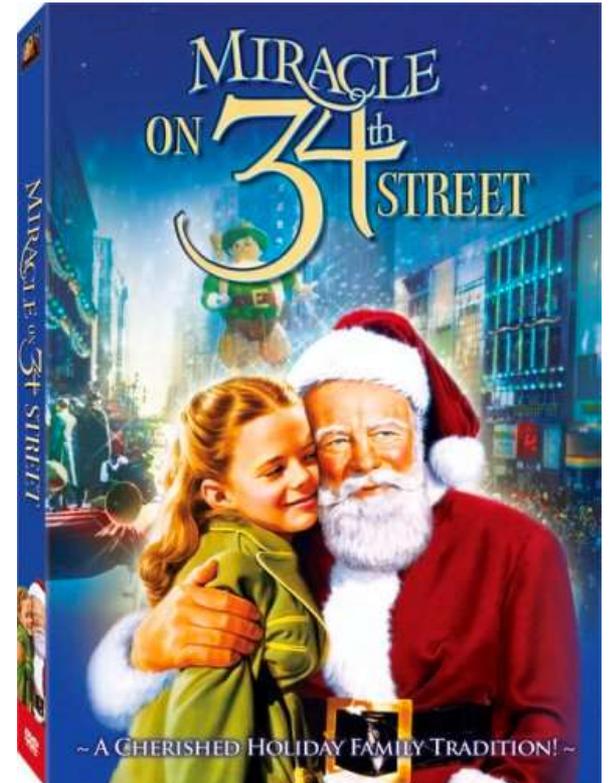
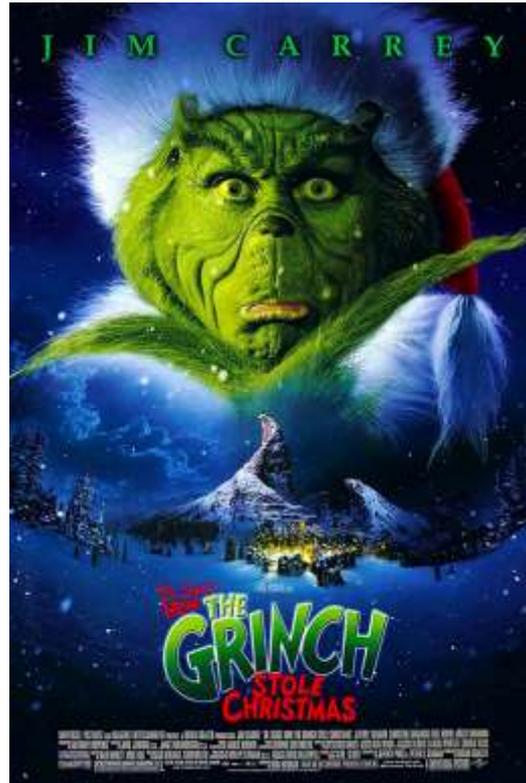
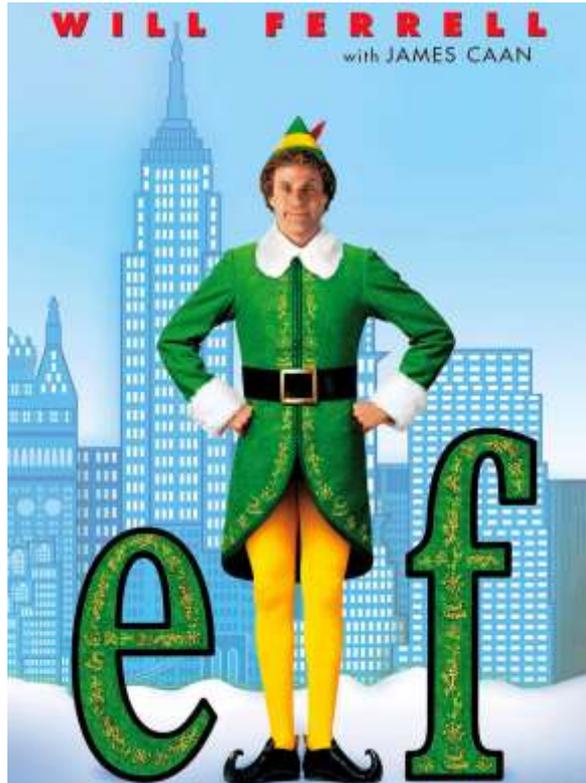


# Fun Facts

- Each year, 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States alone. There are about 21,000 Christmas tree growers in the United States, and trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.
- In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy —a lot like today's [Mardi Gras](#) parties.



# Movies







<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAkMkVFwAoo>

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/255fce96-0786-4cf6-8eab-e63d95d2863d>