

## Feature Article

Lucy is reading a feature article about Christmas celebrations in a magazine. Read the article.

**Global Christmas**

[1] There is not only one way to celebrate the festive day. Take a **glimpse** at the variety of regional customs that people around the world follow to ring in Christmas.

## South Korea

5 [2] Most Asian countries do not officially celebrate Christmas, but South Korea is an **exception**. 25 December is a public holiday in the country where Christians make up around 27 percent of the population. During the festival, people exchange presents, and  
10 money is a popular gift, just as the Chinese give out red packets during Lunar New Year. Such habits **inject** East Asian character into the traditional Western festival.

[3] In South Korea, Christmas cakes are served. But unlike the English Christmas cake - a heavy fruit cake - the South Korean version is a **sponge** cake covered in cream. It is also popular in  
15 Japan.

## Russia

[4] Most people in this country follow the Orthodox Church so Christmas is normally celebrated on 7 January. In Russia, the official Christmas and New Year holidays are from 31 December to  
20 10 January.

[5] Some people eat a kind of **porridge** called 'sochivo' on Christmas Eve. In the old days, some families would **fling** a spoonful of sochivo onto the ceiling. If it stuck to the ceiling, this symbolised a good **harvest** for the coming year.

- 25 [6] Children receive presents on New Year's Day from 'Ded Moroz', the Russian Santa Claus, **accompanied** by his granddaughter, Snegurochka.

Italy

- 30 [7] In Italy, the Nativity crib scene is one of the most important features of the celebration. The scene is sometimes displayed in the shape of a **pyramid**, with several tiers of shelves, and decorated with coloured paper, gold painted pinecones and small candles, as well as a small star on the top. Some displays are several metres tall.

- 35 [8] St Francis of Assisi, a 13th century friar, first used cribs as a way to tell the Christmas story in Italy in 1223 and it is still popular today. The Italian city of Naples is now famous for crib **production**.

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences and blacken the correct circles.

1. Which of the following is the most possible reason why South Korea celebrates Christmas?
- A. 25 December is a public holiday.
  - B. South Korea is an exception.
  - C. There is a significant number of Christians in South Korea.
  - D. People can exchange presents at that time.

2. Which of the following pairs have similar meanings?
- A. presents; gifts                       B. Christmas; festival
- C. money; red packets                   D. habit; character
3. In line 7, the word “habits” can be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. routines                                   B. cultures
- C. practices                                  D. problems
4. Is it common for Chinese people to give money as a Christmas present?
- A. Yes, because China is close to South Korea.
- B. Yes, because this can introduce Chinese culture into Western festivals.
- C. No, because China does not celebrate Christmas.
- D. Not sure, because the passage does not mention Christmas celebrations in China.
5. Fill in each blank with only ONE word using information from the passage. You may need to change the form of the word. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.
- i) There are different kinds of Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ around the world.
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_ a spoonful of sochivo onto the ceiling has symbolic significance in Russian Christmas.
- iii) The Russian Santa Claus is \_\_\_\_\_ by his granddaughter when they deliver presents to children.
- iv) In Italy, people use coloured paper, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and a small \_\_\_\_\_ to decorate the Nativity crib scene.
6. To some Russians in the old days, what was the symbol of a good harvest year to come?
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why would Italians display the Nativity crib scene at Christmas?
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. Complete the following table by circling the correct answer and filling in the blanks.

Place	Is Christmas an official holiday?	Method of celebration	Symbolic food
South Korea	i) Yes / No / Not Sure	iv) Exchange _____ v) Eat _____	viii) _____
Russia	ii) Yes / No / Not Sure	vi) Eat a special kind of _____ on Christmas Eve	ix) _____
Italy	iii) Yes / No / Not Sure	vii) _____ the Nativity crib scene	

B. Fill in the blanks by using the following vocabularies.

glimpse	exception	inject	sponge	porridge
fling	harvest	accompany	pyramid	production

- Farmers are reporting a very big \_\_\_\_\_ this year.
- He crumples up the letter and \_\_\_\_\_ it into the bin.
- You must report to me every Tuesday without \_\_\_\_\_.
- We are watching a video showing the various stages in the \_\_\_\_\_ of glass.
- I tried to \_\_\_\_\_ a little humor into the meeting.
- The acrobats form a \_\_\_\_\_ by standing on each other's shoulders.
- Did you catch a \_\_\_\_\_ of the robber's identity before he ran to his getaway car?
- The course books are \_\_\_\_\_ by four CDs.
- I don't like the taste of \_\_\_\_\_.
- I love eating \_\_\_\_\_ cakes.

