Spain

In Spain, one of the most important traditions is decorating homes, stores, and the town with *Nacimientos* (Nativity Scenes). The statues they use can be small or quite large. The scenes can get very fancy with many characters. Some have hundreds of figures! What a beautiful way to keep the true meaning of Christmas in mind!



Making Music Praying Twice

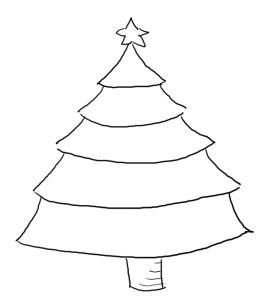


A La Nanita Nana is a traditional Spanish Lullabye used as a Lullabye for Jesus at Christams

Germany



Germany is famous for bringing us the tradition of the Christmas Tree! Now, people all over the world celebrate with this German decoration symbolizing life in the cold of winter, just as Jesus came to save us with new life by saving us from our sins!



Silent Night is a German Carol. We present the song in its original German and in English.

Ecuador

ANDES MOUNTAINS



In Ecuador, throughout Advent, all the people gather together to pray Christmas Novenas with prayers, poems, songs, and incense followed by cookies and hot chocolate. On Christmas Eve a parade through the streets show Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem joined by angels, shepherds, kings, and children in costumes. At night, church bells call the people to Midnight Mass which they call Misa del Gallo!

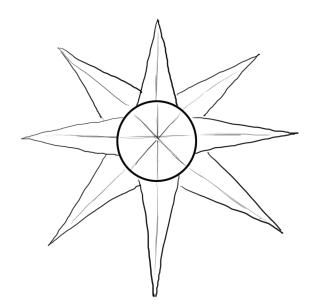


Christmas Dance is based on a Christmas song from the Andes Mountains of Ecuador

Russia



In Russia, children carry a star on the first day of Christmas as they go caroling from house to house. They sing Christmas Carols and the neighbors give them treats and goodies to thank them!

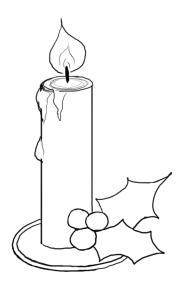


Tip Toe of the Sugarplum Fairy comes from The Nutcracker Suite by Russian composer, Pyotr Tchaikovsky

Ireland



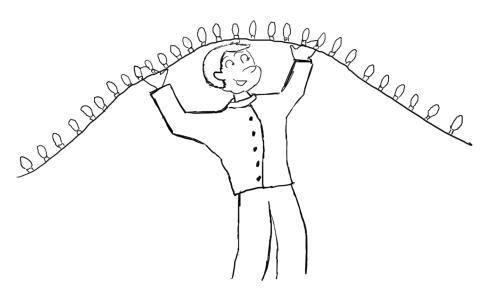
In Ireland on Christmas Eve, red candles are put in the windows to help guide Mary and Joseph to a place of safe shelter in their journey to Bethlehem. In this way, the Irish show our Lord that they are waiting for Him and ready to give Him a place in their homes and hearts!



Wiggeldy Wag is based on a traditional Celtic tune from Ireland.

USA United States of America

The United States has inherited traditions from all over the world. In the USA you'll see large, bright nighttime light displays on homes businesses, and community property. Special American foods like popcorn and cranberries are important for decorating too!

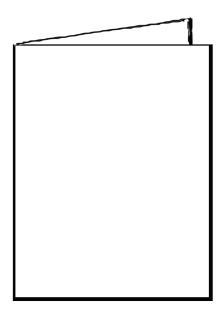


The Little Drummer Boy was written in 1958 by Americans, Katherine K. Davis, Henry Onorati and Harry Simeone

England



England is the birthplace of the Christmas Card! The very first one was sent 70 years ago. Today, over a billion cards are sent each year in England. Many of the cards are sold to raise money for the needy.



Coventry Carole is an English Carol for the Feast of the Holy Innocents, part of the Christmas Season