FACT SHEETS

Around the World

Use these facts to complete your boxes. Not every family celebrates in the same way.

Germany

Where: Germany is a country in the middle of Europe.

Say: Frohe Weihnachten.

Food: Stollen is a traditional fruit bread. Lebkuchen are spiced biscuits or gingerbread.

Traditions: Many families use an Advent calendar. Christmas markets open in towns and cities. In some families, the Christkind or the Weihnachtsmann brings presents.

Did you know? In many German families, gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve, 24th December.

Poland

Where: Poland is a country in Europe, east of Germany.

Say: Wesołych Świąt.

Food: Barszcz is beetroot soup. Pierogi are filled dumplings.

Traditions: Many families have a big Christmas Eve meal called Wigilia. They share a thin wafer called opłatek and wish each other well. Some families leave an extra place at the table.

Did you know? In some families, the Christmas Eve meal begins when the first star appears.

Australia

Where: Australia is a large country in the Southern Hemisphere.

Say: Merry Christmas.

Food: Pavlova is a dessert made from meringue. Many families also enjoy seafood or barbecue food.

Traditions: Many people celebrate outdoors. Some families visit the beach or have a barbecue. Many people go to Carols by Candlelight.

Did you know? Christmas falls in the Australian summer holidays.

Ireland, to compare

Say: Nollaig Shona.

Traditions: In some Irish homes, a candle is put in the window on Christmas Eve. 26th December is St Stephen's Day. In some parts of Ireland, it is also associated with the Wren Boys tradition. 6th January is Nollaig na mBan, or Women's Christmas.