

Name _____

Winter Holidays part 1

Read the following passage about popular holidays around the world, and answer the comprehension questions that follow.

Winter holidays are celebrated around the world in many different ways. In some countries, the holiday season starts in early December and continues through early January. Here are some popular winter holidays celebrated in different parts of the world.



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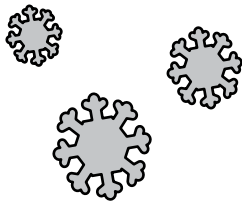
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In Israel, people celebrate Hanukkah for eight days in December. On each night of Hanukkah, a candle is lit on a special candle holder called a menorah.

In Mexico, people celebrate Las Posadas, which lasts for nine days in December. It reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay before Jesus was born. People gather together each night to sing and pray, and a procession carries a statue of Mary and Joseph from house to house.

In Japan, people celebrate New Year's Day on January 1st.



Name _____

Winter Holidays part 2

Many people visit temples and shrines to pray for good luck in the new year. Families also enjoy traditional Japanese food, such as soba noodles and mochi rice cakes.

In India, people celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, in late October or early November. It is a Hindu holiday that



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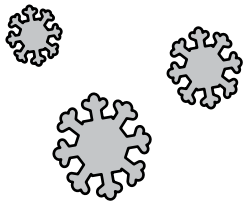
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is said to help out with chores.

Fill in the blanks:

1. In the United States, people celebrate Christmas on _____.
2. The menorah is a special _____.
3. In Mexico, people celebrate Las Posadas for _____ days in December.



Name _____

Winter Holidays part 3

4. In Japan, people celebrate New Year's Day on _____.

5. In India, people celebrate Diwali in late _____ or early _____.

6. In Norway, people celebrate Christmas Eve on _____.

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1. What is the Festival of Lights in India?

2. What is the nisse in Norway?

3. What is the purpose of Las Posadas in Mexico?
