

Awaking Wonder

Christmas Around the World



GERMANY:

Germany is known for beginning the tradition of the Christmas tree, making lebkuchen (gingerbread), and handmade wooden decorations. To celebrate German traditions, let your children help make gingerbread cut outs or buy some to enjoy at a local shop. Collect craft supplies your child can use to make a nativity set or buy a plain wooden set to decorate.

LATIN AMERICA:

In Latin America, Las Posadas is celebrated from Dec. 15 to Dec. 23. Children dress as Mary, Joseph, and others from the Christmas story and act out the journey to Bethlehem and no room at the inn. Gather with several families, collect some simple costumes (bathrobes, towels, and pillowcases will work). Read Luke 2, and let the children act it out.



LEBANON:

Lebanese Christians sprout seeds two weeks before Christmas. Place cotton in a cup, dampen it with water, and place lentils, chickpeas, or wheat berries on top. The seeds will have grown by Christmas and are used to decorate the Christmas crib (Nativity scene). The sprouts symbolize new life.

PHILIPPINES:



Filipino Christians make parols--star-shaped lanterns representing the star the wise men followed. Help your child make something star shaped--maybe sugar cookies or an ornament for your tree. Be on the lookout for parols in your area.