



CULTURE MAGAZINE

Issue 11 – November/December 2020



Bonjour! ¡Hola! 你好! This magazine will regularly update you about French, Spanish and Chinese cultures and allow you to read, cook, sing and enjoy cultures from around the world.



This term's magazine is themed around Winter celebrations across a number of different countries:

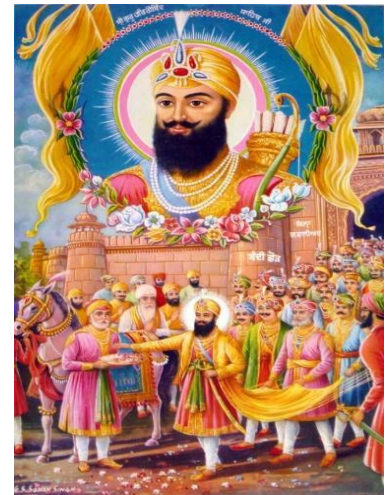
- **BANDI CHHOR DIVAS**
- **DIWALI**
- **JOUR D'ARMISTICE – REMEMBRANCE DAY**
- **CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE**
- **NEW YEAR'S EVE IN FRANCE**
- **SOUTH AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS**
- **CHRISTMAS IN SPAIN**
- **DIA DE LOS REYES**

You will also find some videos, songs and games in various languages.



BANDI CHHOR DIVAS

For Sikhs, Bandi Chhor Divas is particularly important because it celebrates the release from prison of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind Ji, and 52 other princes with him, in 1619.



The Sikh tradition holds that the Emperor Jahangir had imprisoned Guru Hargobind and 52 princes. The Emperor was asked to release Guru Hargobind Ji which he agreed to do. However, Guru Hargobind Ji asked that the princes be released also. The Emperor agreed, but said only those who could hold onto his cloak tail would be allowed to leave the prison. This was in order to limit the number of prisoners who could leave.

However, Guru Hargobind Ji had a cloak made with 52 pieces of string and so each prince was able to hold onto one string and leave prison.



DIWALI

Diwali is the Festival of Light, and one of the most popular festivals for people of Hindu faith. The celebration marks the day Lord Rama; his wife, Sita Devi; and brother, Lakshmana, returned to their homeland after 14 years in exile. To welcome them back to Ayodhya (and to celebrate his defeat of the demon king, Ravana), the local villagers lit a path for Rama. This path of light symbolises the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word “**deepavali**” - meaning “rows of lighted lamps”.

There are a number of other origin stories for Diwali – one being that it marks the day that Lakshmi (the goddess of fertility and prosperity) chose to make Lord Vishnu her husband.

Diwali celebrations come with a number of important traditions:

- Many lights and oil lamps (**diyas**) are lit on the streets and in houses.
- People visit their relatives and have feasts.
- Fireworks and festivities are an essential part of the occasion.
- Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, is worshipped as the bringer of blessings for the new year.

Click here to see how Diwali is celebrated <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrrW3rO51ak>



JOUR D'ARMISTICE – REMEMBRANCE DAY

In France, Remembrance Sunday is known as 'Jour d'Armistice'.

Jour d'Armistice is a time where people from around Europe and the Commonwealth come together to remember those who lost their lives during World War I.

Each year, people in both France and the UK hold a minute of silence for the soldiers and also those at home, who lost their lives for our freedom. The silence is traditionally held at 11am, as this is when the war between countries ended, on the 11th hour of the 11th day, and of the 11th month in 1918.



Some French people wear poppies in order to mark Remembrance Day, just as many of us do in the UK. However, the blue cornflower (**le bleuet**) is preferred by the French, which is said to have grown alongside the poppies on the battlefields. Additionally, this flower was chosen, not only because blue is one of the colours of the French flag but also because it was the colour of many soldiers' uniforms in the First World War.

- Most towns have their own parade and wreaths are laid at the war memorials.
- In Paris, the French president lays a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe.
- The full name that is given to Remembrance Sunday, is 'Armistice de la Première Guerre mondiale' (Armistice of the First World War).
- November the 11th is a public holiday in France.
- Similar to the UK, special church services are held in France to remember those who died in World War I, and in subsequent wars



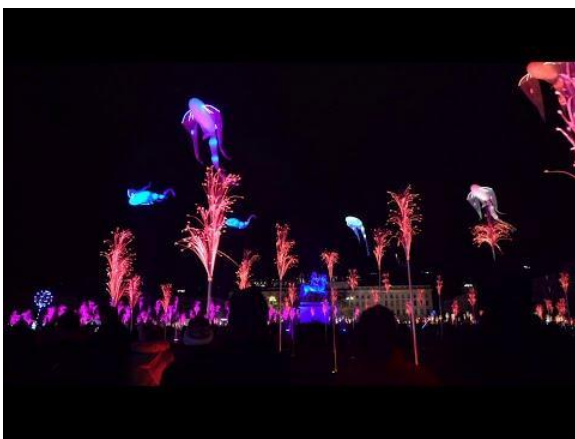
CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE

Christmas is a very important celebration in France, and the country has a number of its own unique traditions:

- In some parts of the North and the Northeast of France, Christmas is celebrated on December 6th. This is the feast-day of Saint Nicholas and ‘**Le Père Noël**’. On this day, Father Christmas brings children sweets and small presents.
- On Christmas Eve, French children traditionally place their shoes by the fire and wake up on Christmas to find them stuffed with gifts.
- Many people in France attend the Midnight Mass service on Christmas Eve.
- Christmas markets are very popular in France and two of the most famous markets are the Strasbourg Christmas Market (which has been running since the 16th century) and the Lille Christmas Market.

Festival Lights in Lyon (Fête des Lumières)

Every December for almost 30 years, the city of Lyon has lit up with lights and colours. Streets, squares, and the faces of buildings come alive with art installations by lighting designers and visual artists.



Click to see 2019's Fête des Lumières!!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlrA_yt3E6g

Christmas Trees

The French put their tree up at the beginning of the season – whenever they choose to celebrate – and they will lay the gifts donated by Père Noël under the tree. “**Les sapins de Noël**” were originally covered in red apples and candles, but now they can be multi-coloured and decorated with a wide range of baubles and tinsel.

Christmas Meal

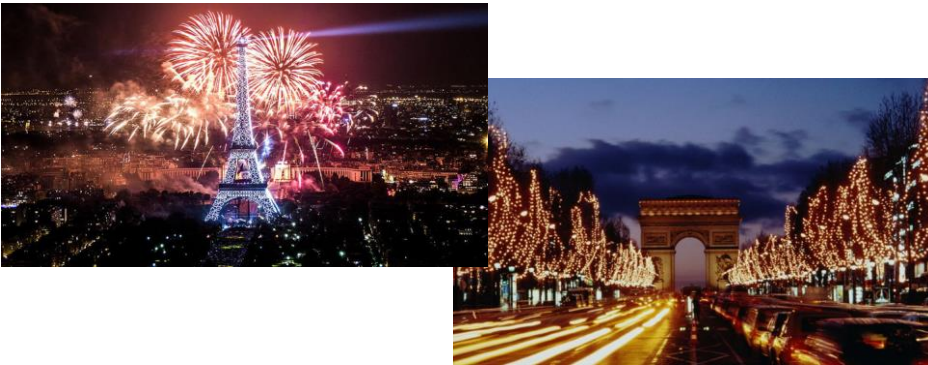
The “**Réveillon**” is the big Christmas meal that French people sit down to enjoy on the 24th December. Some maintain the tradition of serving it after midnight mass, but others decide to have it earlier during the day. This meal can last up to 6 hours and gives people

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN FRANCE

The French have a tradition which is very popular all over the world: kissing under the mistletoe “**s’embrasser sous le gui**”.

It is common in France to send New Year’s greeting cards called “**les cartes de vœux du nouvel an**” which are usually sent on or after the first of January.

New Year’s gifts called “**les étrennes**” are an old tradition that goes back to the Romans. Sometimes parents and grandparents will give children an “**étrenne**” as early as the New Year’s Eve meal.



In France, costume parties are also very popular. People often get dressed up for New Years. There’s even a French expression “**se mettre sur son 31**” which means “to dress up like it’s a New Year’s Eve party”.

Fireworks displays

There is a sound and light show projected on to the ‘The Arc de Triomphe’ at Place Charles de Gaulle off the Champs-Élysée which starts around 11 pm on New Year’s Eve.



Here are some **French New Year’s greetings** to try out!

Before the New Year:

Joyeuses fêtes

Happy Holidays

Bonnes fêtes de fin d’année

Happy Holidays

After New Year’s Eve:

Bonne année et bonne santé!

Happy new year and good

health!

Bonne Année!

Happy New Year!

Le Réveillon de la Saint-Sylvestre

Le Réveillon (meaning ‘the awakening’) is an evening celebration in France – taking the form of a feast. Saint Sylvestre is the patron saint of the New Year in France.

New Years celebrations typically begin in the evening of the 31st December, which is the feast day of St Sylvestre. This meal is shared with family and friends, and a broad range of French delicacies are served up. Dishes typically served at New Years in France are: foie gras, oysters, crustaceans, smoked salmon and “**escargots**”.

CHRISTMAS GAPFILL

Listen to this French Christmas song, and fill in the gaps below.

Return your completed gapfill to one of your teachers or Language Ambassadors for the opportunity to win House Points!



<https://youtu.be/giVQNpBP9BM>

Oh ! Vive le vent, vive le vent

Vive le vent _____

Boule de neige et jour de l'an

Et bonne année _____

Sur le long _____

Tout blanc de neige blanche

Un _____ monsieur _____

Avec sa canne dans la main, Et tout là-haut le vent

Qui _____ dans les branches

Lui souffle la romance qu'il _____ petit enfant

Oh, Vive le vent, vive le vent

Vive le vent d'hiver

_____ s'en va sifflant, soufflant

Dans les grands sapins _____

Oh ! _____ le temps, vive le temps

Vive le temps _____

Boule de neige et jour de l'an

Et bonne année grand-mère

_____, joyeux Noël

Aux _____ bougies



_____ chantent vers le ciel,
Les _____ de la nuit
Oh ! Vive le vent, vive le vent
Vive le vent d'hiver
Qui _____ aux vieux enfants
Leurs _____ d'hier.



SOUTH AMERICAN CELEBRATIONS

CUBA

Christmas was actually **banned** in Cuba from 1969 - 1997 – almost 30 years! This was because of the communist leader, Fidel Castro, who declared his government atheist and said that he needed everyone to work on the sugar harvest.



Nowadays, thousands of Cubans worship at **midnight Masses**, as church bells ring out across Havana at midnight to signify the transition to Christmas day. There are always parades on December 24th, as it encourages people to stay up until midnight for the midnight Masses.



Food rationing still exists in Cuba so many families begin to collect food for Christmas for weeks in advance. If a family is able to afford it, Christmas in Cuba involves an entire roasted pig rather than a turkey.

GUATEMALA

El quema del diablo: “The burning of the devil” takes place every year on December 7th and piñatas designed to represent the devil are burned as a symbol of releasing any negative energy from the past year.





Las posadas: Like in many other Latin countries, Las Posadas is celebrated from the 16th-24th of December. The nine nights symbolise the nine months that Mary was pregnant. Each night a wooden float with Mary and Joseph statues are carried to three houses to represent the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Decorations: They decorate their houses with lights, tinsel, lambs made from Spanish moss and pine needles to create the scent associated with North American Christmas. Some houses decorate fake trees although these are a lot smaller than the ones we are used to. The Nativity Scene is probably the main Christmas decoration however; the difference is that Jesus is not placed into the Nativity until December 25th – when he was born.



Food: “**Tostadas**” (fried tortillas with toppings) and “**Horchata**” (a milk beverage) are served during Las Posadas and after every mass. “**Carne Mechada**” takes two days to make and is made with either pork or beef. It is served over white rice with tortillas, and is incredibly popular.

MEXICO

In Mexico, Christmas is celebrated from December 12th until January 6th. Similarly to Guatemala – Mexico also performs the **Posada processions**.

As well as las Posadas, there is another type of Christmas play known as **Pastorelas** (The Shepherds) which tell the story of the shepherds going to find the baby Jesus. Pastorelas are usually very funny and light-hearted. Mexican people also tend to go to a **Midnight Mass** service like the Cubans.



Christmas trees have been becoming more popular in Mexico, but the main decoration is still the “**nacimiento**” (Nativity Scene).



In Mexico, the main Christmas meal is on the 24th and there are several popular dishes. Some include “**pozole**” (a thick soup made with hominy, chicken or pork and chilies topped with greens), roast turkey, roast pork, and salads are normally served as side dishes such as the “**ensalada nochebuena**” (Christmas Eve salad). For dessert, “**bunuelos**” (flat or round fried pastries sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon, or hot sugar syrup) are a popular choice.



ARGENTINA

Preparations for Christmas begin in **early December** and sometimes even in November! The houses are beautifully decorated with lights and wreaths of green, gold, red and white flowers. Some people decorate their trees with cotton balls to represent snow.



Christmas cards are not common in Argentina and, although some people give and receive presents, it is normally only between close family and friends.



The main Christmas celebrations take place on Christmas Eve including the **Mass** and the main meal at around 10pm or 11pm. Some popular dishes include roasted turkey, roasted pork (or goat), stuffed tomatoes, “**torre de panqueques**” (a sandwich cake made from several layers of tortillas with different fillings) and many more. Desserts can be Christmas bread and puddings like “**pan dulce**” as well as fruit salad, ice cream and different sorts of pies.

Another Christmas Eve night tradition are “**globos**”, paper decorations with a light inside that float into the sky (like Chinese Lanterns).



CHILE

Many of Chile’s traditions are similar to the UK. People like to decorate their houses with Christmas trees and lights which is a fairly new thing with more and more people being able to afford them.

Once again, Christmas Eve is the most important day over Christmas – families and friends gather and eat about 9pm or 10pm.



A popular Christmas drink is “**cola de mono**”, or monkey’s tail, which is made from coffee, milk, liquor, cinnamon and sugar.

At midnight everyone opens their presents and children sometimes go around to each other’s houses with their new toys (even in the middle of the night!).

In Chile, Santa is called “**Viejito Pascuero**” (Old Man Christmas) or sometimes “**Papa Noel**” (Father Christmas).

On Christmas day, if you live near the coast, many Chileans will go to the beach.



SPANISH CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

Complete, and return to one of your teachers or Language Ambassadors for the opportunity to win House Points!

L	L	S	E	T	R	I	N	E	O	P	H	R	L
D	O	E	H	R	S	N	C	A	L	B	R	H	O
L	I	C	S	N	O	C	H	E	B	U	E	N	A
L	P	U	A	L	E	N	A	S	I	L	U	A	O
O	E	L	U	N	N	O	I	G	L	E	S	I	A
C	N	R	L	I	G	P	V	A	N	A	O	A	D
I	P	D	E	P	E	E	N	C	E	N	E	N	V
C	C	A	G	G	A	E	S	B	R	E	N	P	L
N	L	D	P	L	A	L	O	I	B	A	I	V	N
A	O	I	S	A	U	L	H	B	E	I	S	E	U
L	U	V	L	U	N	R	O	I	S	L	O	E	I
L	E	A	D	D	E	O	E	E	E	R	N	C	L
I	G	N	P	P	A	L	E	O	P	E	E	S	V
V	A	R	R	I	S	E	L	L	V	E	R	A	U

TRINEO
VILLANCICO
NOCHEBUENA
REGALO
PESEBRE
RENOS
PAPANOEL
NAVIDAD
IGLESIA
LUCES



CHRISTMAS IN SPAIN

When looking at Christmas celebrations in Spain, the first thing you will notice is that the festive season is not nearly as commercialized as it is in many other western countries. Christmas lights are usually lit in the main cities in the first week of December - by which time, the shops are fully stocked with Christmas things. It is nothing like the US and UK where the end of summer marks the build up to Christmas.



Christmas trees are commonly found within Spanish homes but, again, do not appear until the second half of December. Also, in the home there are intricate, miniature nativity scenes called **Belénes** which depict

life in the village where Jesus was born. The Belén always include the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as well as the Three Kings (Baltasar, Melchior and Gaspar).

Click this link to listen to the popular Christmas song, "**Feliz Navidad**" (meaning "Merry Christmas")



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM70hBp2Fjk>



The Spanish Lottery

Most Spanish people keep their fingers crossed for a Christmas windfall, courtesy of the world-renowned lottery draw, **El Gordo** (literally, “The Fat One”). This is a long, drawn-out event that unfolds on the morning of December 22nd. Ticket numbers in a giant drum are matched to balls with millionaire prizes in a smaller drum. The ticketing system allows people to buy fractions and subfractions of different numbers, **décimos** and **participaciones**, with increasing chances of a share in the winnings.



As the top prizes come out, TV and radio coverage centres go on the search for the many winners and for the particular lottery shop where the winning ticket was bought. Almost everyone in Spain buys one or more tickets for **El Gordo** Christmas lottery, with an average cost of **70 euros** per person

Every year in Spain, they make an advert to encourage people to buy a lottery ticket. The adverts are much like our Christmas Adverts.

Click this link to watch an advert that was released in 2015 for the Spanish lottery!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOnrzULj-BE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poMLvQeDCKQ>

Click this link to watch the 2014 advert for El Gordo. There are English subtitles to help you follow the story!

Click this link to watch the advert that was released in 2017 for the lottery!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z8R4G1F5fU>

Which advert was your favourite? Summarise one of the videos, and return your work to a teacher or Language Ambassador for the chance to win House Points!

DIA DE LOS REYES

Día de Los Reyes (translating to “Three Kings’ Day”) is celebrated across Spain and Latin American, on the 6th January every year. The festival is designed to honour the Three Wise Men (**los Reyes Magos**), and to officially bring the Christmas season to a close. It is also the day most people swap Christmas gifts, as opposed to the 25th December.



In the Nativity story, the Three Wise Men visit the newly-born Christ, and give him gifts of “**el incienso**” (frankincense), “**la mirra**” (myrrh), “**el oro**” (gold). It is Spanish tradition for children to place old shoes at the bottom of their bed on the evening of January 5th. Overnight, instead of Father Christmas visiting, “**los Reyes Magos**” are responsible for filling up the shoes with sweets and toys.

On the eve of Día de los Reyes, most Spanish cities and towns host their own parade (**una cabalgata**) to welcome the Three Wise Men. The Kings march down the main avenue of the city, either on their camels or on elaborate mechanised floats. Often, sweets are thrown off the floats into the audience, to be caught by children.



The 6th January is an important public holiday – families come together to share presents and enjoy delicious food. The most popular dish is “**Roscón de Reyes**” – a circular brioche-like bread, served with sugared fruit and sweet cream. Sometimes, a small figurine of baby Jesus is hidden inside the cake. Whoever

ends up with it within their portion earns good luck for the rest of the year. On the other hand, whoever finds a bean within their serving has to buy the cake the following year!

MOTS MASQUÉS: JOYEUX NOËL

Find the 10 French words written below.

C C Q B H N T F Q I T B O U G I E Z C X
Y I Q K D N I P A S L X L E O N E R E P
B Y Q M N C J P B T T Z R L L L B R E I
J E D P X A C L C G B N D J E G C W C E
I E U C T U G R W M G N A H Z S P B Y O
U H T F R V A T F E Z R C F G M R Z B P
E E W J W E Y E Z O E U L E N A G I U D
Y V X J I B C N D V B O K K J E N E O B
M R H K O R B H E A S E D A L E C X W O
U O W J B L P I E Y C O Q X I H Y E R M
R C Z H E P L U V D W G L M O A O B Z K
Q D J L O L A J I O X S Z C R O J N E B
M F U O O T I D E J X R O L L S M V M D
M C W N U D Z X C R G L C J L Y M L I U
D N K F G E U M S E A N G G V E Q N D B
N Y P S Z A T R L T M W K V Y U D S P O
Q U T H Q K O S S J B B S D H E H L M T
W N E L L I M A F R W G O S I A K B M I
N E H K F G A Z O I E K T A V A N Z U R
Z N C S N O R R A M W F M F Z I E E X J

BOUGIE (candle)

BÛCHE (log)

CADEAUX (gifts)

CHOCOLATS (chocolates)

CRÈCHE (nativity scene)

DINDE (turkey)

ENFANTS (children)

FAMILLE (family)

JOUETS (presents)

MARRONS (chestnuts)

MERCI BEAUCOUP ! ; MUCHAS GRACIAS! 谢谢

We hope you enjoyed this festive issue of the culture magazine !

Make sure to look out for the next issue for the answers to all of the activities or find a Language Ambassador and return it to them.