



## Christmas in France



Christmas in France is called Noel. Gifts are brought to good children by Pere Noel, which means Father Christmas in French. Instead of hanging stockings, French children put their shoes by the fireplace or by the front door. Pere Noel visits on Christmas Eve to fill their shoes with presents.

The French people enjoy decorating for the Christmas season. They string lights along the streets. The Eiffel Tower is covered in lights. Many department stores have special windows for displaying holiday scenes.



*A French nativity scene, called a creche*

Other French families add little clay figures of people to their nativity scene. These are called santos.

Food is an important part of the Christmas celebration in France. Favorite Christmas foods are lobster, oysters and chestnuts. On Christmas Eve, families have a large dinner, called a reveillon. The food is very elegant and the dinner lasts a long time. A traditional dessert is a buche de Noel, which means Yule log. It is a cake with chocolate icing decorated to look like a wooden log. In some areas, families will have 13 different desserts.



*This is an old Christmas card with Pere Noel. "Joyeux Noel" is French for Merry Christmas.*



*A buche de Noel*





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## French Vocabulary Match

Match the French Christmas words to what they mean in English by writing the letter in the blank.



**D** \_\_\_\_\_ reveillon

A. Merry Christmas



**C** \_\_\_\_\_ Pere Noel

B. nativity scene



**B** \_\_\_\_\_ creche

C. Father Christmas or Santa Claus



**E** \_\_\_\_\_ buche de Noel

D. large dinner on Christmas Eve



**A** \_\_\_\_\_ Joyeux Noel

E. Yule log dessert



In the space below, draw a picture of the 13 desserts you would like to have at a French Christmas Eve dinner.

