

Christmas in Mexico

The Christmas season is a very religious time in Mexico. It begins with the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe on December 12. People in Mexico go to church and often have a dinner with family after church.

Las Posadas starts nine days before Christmas. Las Posadas is a parade through neighborhoods. Two people in the parade pretend to be Mary and Joseph looking for a room for the night. Other people in the parade pretend to be angels, shepherds or other travelers. Children in the parade often carry poinsettia flowers. The parade goes from house to house. At each house, the owner refuses to let them in. Finally, at the last house, the owner lets everyone in. The guests pray, sing songs and have a big party.



The poinsettia is a native Mexican flower. It is popular at Christmas because it looks like the Star of Bethlehem.



The pinata is part of the fun of Las Posadas.

At Las Posadas, children break a hanging pinata with a stick. A pinata is a colorful holder made of clay, paper or cloth. A pinata comes in many shapes, such as a star, an animal or a cartoon character. It is filled with toys and candy. When it breaks open, the children run to get the treats.

Each area in Mexico has different traditions. La Rama is a popular tradition in some areas. Children decorate branches with balloons, paper and ornaments.

They go from house to house singing songs. They often receive money, fruit or candy.

On Christmas Eve, children receive gifts from Santo Clos, which is the Mexican name for Santa Claus. On January 6, children leave their shoes out and receive candy and money from the Three Wise Men.



La Rama is a tradition in some parts of Mexico.



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Christmas Timeline

Put the following Mexican Christmas events in the order in which they happen. Write 1 in the blank for the first event, 2 in the blank for the second event and so on.

_____ CHRISTMAS EVE

_____ FEAST OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE

_____ LAS POSADAS

_____ CHILDREN RECEIVE GIFTS FROM THE THREE WISE MEN

Draw a Pinata!

In the space below, draw and color a pinata you would like to have at Christmas time.