

Christmas in Russia



*Dyed Moroz, or
Grandfather Frost*



*A yolka, or a
decorated tree*

In Russia, Christmas is on January 7. A long time ago, Russians celebrated Christmas like they do in other places. The Russian people went to church services, put up decorations and ate special food.

When Russia became part of the Soviet Union, the government didn't want Christmas as a holiday. So the Russian people celebrated New Year's instead. Many of the older traditions of Christmas became part of the New Year's celebration. Today, many Russians enjoy both Christmas and New Year's.

Russian children receive presents from Dyed Moroz, or Grandfather Frost. His granddaughter, named Snegurochka, or The Snow Maiden, travels with him to help. He comes to parties to deliver the presents to the children in person.

Sometimes, Dyed Moroz and Snegurochka have to fight Baba Yaga, a mean witch who tries to steal the children's gifts.

Russians also decorate a tree for New Year's. The tree is called a yolka. Many businesses and homes are decorated with lights and candles.

On Christmas Eve, religious Russian families attend several church services. Between services, they will have a large family dinner called a Holy Supper. There are 12 different dishes at a Holy Supper, which represents the 12 Apostles of Jesus. The first of these dishes is usually kutia, a sweet pudding made of grain, honey, nuts and raisins.



*Kutia, a sweet
Christmas Eve pudding*

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Fill in the Blank

Fill in the blank with the correct answer about Christmas in Russia.

1. Christmas in Russia is on _____.
2. There are _____ dishes at a Holy Supper.
3. Dyed Moroz's granddaughter, _____ travels with him to deliver presents.
4. Russians celebrate Christmas along with _____.
5. Russian children receive presents during _____.

Is It Different or the Same?

In the chart below, compare the Russian Christmas to your own. Write what parts are the same or similar to your own on the left. Write the ones that are different on the right.

Things that are alike	Things that are different