



Christmas in the Philippines



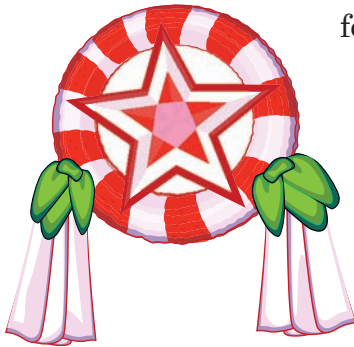
In the Philippines, people celebrate many different holidays during the Christmas season. The season begins on December 16. People attend an early morning church service each day for nine days. This series of services are called Simbang Gabi in the Filipino language. It is a very important time for the people of the Philippines. When services are over, many people will buy special holiday treats from shops. One treat is bibinka, which is a rice and egg cake.



Bibinka is a popular Christmas treat.



Christmas Eve is very busy in the Philippines. Families attend church services at midnight. In some areas, people will perform a play about Mary and Joseph looking for a room in an inn. Many families will have a late dinner and open presents. Gifts for children are delivered by Santa Claus or by the Three Kings who visited Jesus.



A parol is one of the most popular Christmas decorations in the Philippines. It is a lantern that represents the Star of Bethlehem.



On Christmas Day, Filipinos visit family members in the morning. Older members of the family give a blessing to younger ones. The older family members then give a gift of money. This gift is called Aguinaldo.

On December 28, the Philippines celebrates Niños Inocentes, which is a feast day. People attend church. Later, to have fun, they play tricks and pranks on each other.

The Christmas season continues with celebrations on New Year's Eve. Filipinos make loud noises to drive away bad luck.



Christmas lights are very popular in the Philippines.



They wear polka dots and decorate with circles to represent money coming in the new year.

The season often ends on Three Kings Day on the first Sunday in January. Children leave their shoes out in the hopes that the kings will leave candy or money.





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Christmas Timeline



Put the following Christmas events in the Philippines 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



_____ Three Kings Day



_____ New Year's Eve



_____ Nine days of church services



_____ Christmas Day



Vocabulary Match



Match each word to its definition by writing the letter in the blank.



_____ parol

A. people of the Philippines



_____ Aguinaldo

B. nine days of church services



_____ Filipinos

C. gift of money



_____ Simbang Gabi

D. hotel

_____ inn

E. a Christmas lantern

