

## Celebrating the birth of Jesus – Christmas

By Aniruddha Iyer (Age 11 years)



Christmas is the festival to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The festival is celebrated on 25th December. exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends are all a part of celebrating Christmas. turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, roast beef, or ham, Pumpkin or apple pie, or raisin pudding, or Christmas pudding, or fruitcake is a usual Christmas dinner. The history of Christmas dates back over 4000 years as the various custom and tradition associated with the festival of Christmas were celebrated centuries before the birth of Christ. The exact day of the Christ child's birth has never been pinpointed. Traditions say that it has been celebrated since the year 98 AD.

2.382 billion Christians across the world celebrate Christmas by decorating their houses with banners, ribbons, candy canes, holly leaves, lights and stars. People also wore red and white caps and go for parties.

There are different hypotheses regarding the date of Jesus' birth and in the early fourth century, the church fixed the date as December 25. This corresponds to the traditional date of the winter solstice on the Roman calendar. It is exactly nine months after Annunciation on March 25, also the date of the spring equinox. Most Christians celebrate on December 25 in the Gregorian calendar, which has been adopted almost universally in the civil calendars used in

countries throughout the world. However, part of the Eastern Christian Churches celebrate Christmas on December 25 of the older Julian calendar, which currently corresponds to January 7 in the Gregorian calendar.

For Christians, believing that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity, rather than knowing Jesus' exact birth date, is considered to be the primary purpose in celebrating Christmas.

Today even non-Christians celebrate the festival by decorating their houses, since it comes very close to the end of the Calendar year and ushering in of the new year. Most schools and educational institutions have a holiday on this day. Offices and schools are decorated across the globe to celebrate this festival of love, hope and care. This bright and beautiful festival is the last celebration before the end of the year.



# New Year's Resolution

By Sagarika Iyer (Age 9 years)

Each year before the end of the Calendar year my brother and I sit and make resolutions. These are nothing but promises we make, which we resolve to keep through the year. Starting with simple things like not irritating one another, the discussion gets to how health a life style we will live, or the favourite junk food that we will give up. But what is a resolution and what is its history. On researching about it, I found some interesting facts about the tradition of this Promise Making event.

As a definition New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western World but also found in the Eastern World, in which a person resolves to continue good practices, change an undesired trait or behavior, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behaviour at the beginning of a calendar year.

Around 2000 B.C., the Babylonians celebrated the New Year, which was a part of the 12-day festival called Akitu (starting with the vernal equinox). This was the start of the farming season to plant crops, crown their king, and make promises to return borrowed farm equipment and pay their debts. Thus began the tradition of making a promise at the beginning of the year.

The 1671 diary of Anne Halkett includes an entry on January 2 titled "Resolutions," which contained a number of religious pledges taken primarily from bible verses, such as "I will not offend any more."

By the beginning of the 19th century, the tendency of people to make (and fail to keep) resolutions was commonly known and satirized. At the end of the Great Depression in 1930s, about a quarter of American adults formed New Year's resolutions. At the start of the 21st century, about 40% did. A study found 46% of participants who made common New Year's resolutions (e.g. weight loss, exercise programs, quitting smoking) were likely to succeed, over ten times as among those deciding to make life changes at other times of the year.

Having read all this, we all must start thinking and understand why these promises are important and try to keep them. SO what is the biggest resolution you have made to yourself this year?



## Strange traditions across the world for new years

### Scarecrow burning - Ecuador

To banish any ill fortune or bad things that happened in the past year, Ecuadorians set fire to scarecrows filled with paper at midnight on New Year's Eve. They also burn photographs of things that represent the past year, which leads us to believe that New Year is just a thinly veiled excuse for Ecuadorian pyromaniacs to set things on fire.

### Round things - Philippines

In the Philippines New Year is about one thing, and one thing only; cold hard cash. Hoping to bring prosperity and wealth for the year ahead, Filipino people try to use as many round things as possible to represent coins and wealth. Round clothes, round food, you name it; if it's round, they want in.

### Broken plates – Denmark

If you're ever in Denmark and wake up to find a pile of smashed crockery outside your door, it's probably New Year's Eve. Unused plates are saved up all year, until the 31st of December when they are hurled at the front doors of your friends and family in a strangely vandalistic display of affection.

### Eating 12 grapes - Spain

As the clock counts down to 12 and people around the world are preparing to watch fireworks and drunkenly kiss each other, Spaniards are staring at bunches of grapes with a steely gaze. This challenge involves stuffing your face with 12 grapes, one for every ring of the bell. Succeed and you've got good luck for the year ahead.

# Animal Care – RESQ Centre: An insightful visit



**MOTO: Rescue, rehabilitate animals, reach people.**

Wildlife protection, conservation and coexistence in human-dominated landscapes. Founded in 2007 to provide emergency aid to animals in distress, RESQ Charitable Trust is a not-for-profit organisation based out of Pune, India. In the last 15 years our rescue and rehabilitation work has provided aid to thousands of animals of over 200+ species, improved public health and safety outcomes and actively worked on preventing human-animal conflict across varied ecosystems. We are powered by a 60+ member team who dedicatedly works toward our vision of conservation and coexistence between wildlife, communities and their animals through our response and prevention verticals.

The RESQ team came to our school and conducted lectures where they taught us how to take care of animals in stress. They also told us how we should behave with animals in general and what to do if we see any animal in trouble.

It gave us a good insight into things that we were doing wrong while petting our

favourite animals. For example, the one important thing I learnt was, the dog wagging its tail does not mean it likes you around. It only means that the dog is thinking and only after it gives a bum-shake does it mean that it is happy around you. Also another thing they told us was how to not directly go and touch the heads of any animals in order to pat it. That is a very wrong way to approach any animal. We also learnt about how insensitive we behave as humans, who only care for fulfilling our passions and wants. During festivals like Diwali or Sankranti, we unknowingly cause a lot of stress to the animals.

After a series of lectures we visited the centre where we saw wild cats, birds and even turtles and tortoises which were rescued by the passionate RESQ team.

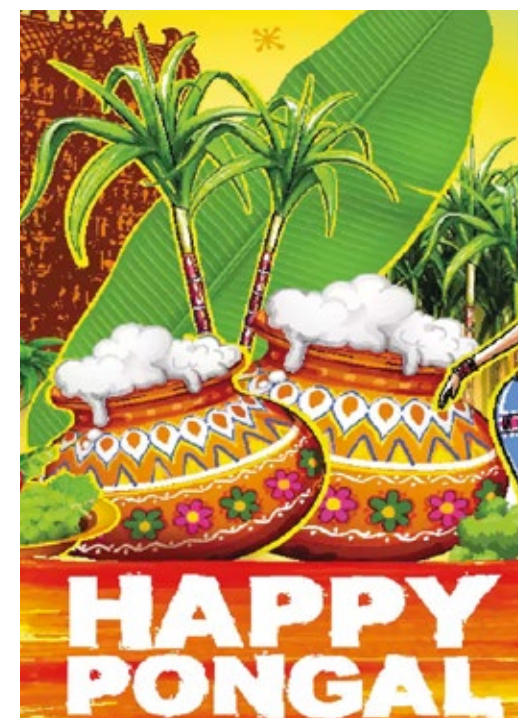
After visiting the place, my entire perspective towards animal care changed. They also have internships which students can join and work with their favourite pets.

As a token of our love, we painted a Calendar for the centre and presented it to them on the day of our visit.

## Pongal in Tamil Nadu

By Shlok Ranawade (Age 12 years)

Pongal is a harvest festival also known as Thai Pongal because it is celebrated in the month Thai according to the Tamil solar calendar which usually falls on 13 or 14 January. This festival is usually celebrated for 4 days which are known as Bhogi Pongal, Surya Pongal, Mattu Pongal and Kaanum Pongal. Each day of Pongal is celebrated differently, the first day i.e. Bhogi Pongal is celebrated by discarding old things, buying new things, and wearing new clothes signifying a fresh start. The second day is the main day which is Surya Pongal. On this day the Sun god is honoured, people draw colourful decorative patterns called kollam also known as rangoli on the entrance of their houses. The third day of Pongal is known as Mattu Pongal, Mattu means cattle in Tamil who play a big role in farming. On this day the cattles are washed, their horns are painted, they also tie garlands around their neck and they are decorated beautifully. The fourth day of pongal which is Kaanum Pongal which is also known as kaanu or virgin Pongal, on this day unmarried girls play on the river banks and pray to the god to have a successful married life. Apart from India this festival is also celebrated in Sri Lanka



# A Half Day Trip At Katraj Zoo

By Arham Bhatewara (Age 9 Years)



We went to the katraj zoo few months ago. It took us 25 mins to reach to the katraj zoo. It is located in south of pune. We reached over there at 10:00 and left at 12:00. There were other people also when we went. But there were less people at this time.

Katraj zoo is divided into 3 parts – animals, birds and snakes. First we saw the animals. Then we saw the birds and last we went to see the snakes. When we went to the

animals we saw a bear first. The bear was dark brown in colour. it was sleeping when we saw it first. When we were coming back it was eating fruits. Then we moved onto the lion. There were 2 lions, one was sleeping and one was walking in grass. Then we saw a jungle cat. It was roaming around a large area. When we walked ahead, we saw tigers. There were two tigers in the same enclosure. One was sleeping and one was coming towards us, but it turned and went

back away. Then we also a herd of deers.

After seeing the animals we went to see the birds. There was a parrot, kingfisher and many more birds. After the bird park, we started going to the snake park. While going there, we saw some monkeys. There were many types of snakes.

After that we left the zoo and went back to school. It was a fun day at the zoo.

# How to celebrate new year in 10 different ways

By Obaid Alizai (Age 10 years)

Host a game night with your friends.

Watching movies with your friends and family while eating snacks.

Dance party.

Make a short funny video and watch it.

Go to a hotel with your friends.

Just before midnight on New Year's Eve, people hold hands and sing a traditional song called "Auld Lang Syne".

Celebrating new year in your society with your society people.

Families and friends gather to share a meal and “ring in” the New Year, often with a toast and a song.

Spending the holidays at the beach.

Lion dance, dragon dance, temple fairs, flower market shopping.

# KIDS CORNER *(A world of Puzzles, Jokes, Quizzes and much more..)*

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## JOKES

*By Vrushank Pawar (Age 11 years)*

**Why did the chicken cross the playground?**

To get to the other slide!

**Why did the actor fall through the floorboards?**

They were going through a stage!

**Why did a scarecrow win a Nobel prize?**

He was outstanding in his field!

**Why are peppers the best at archery?**

Because they habanero!

**What did the duck say after she bought chapstick?**

Put it on my bill!

**Why did an old man fall in a well?**

Because he couldn't see that well!

**What do you call a fake noodle?**

An impasta!

**What did the three-legged dog say when he walked into a saloon?**

"I'm looking for the man who shot my paw!"

**How do you tell the difference between a bull and a cow?**

It is either one or the udder!

**What's red and smells like blue paint?**

Red paint!

**What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo?**

One is very heavy, the other is a little lighter!

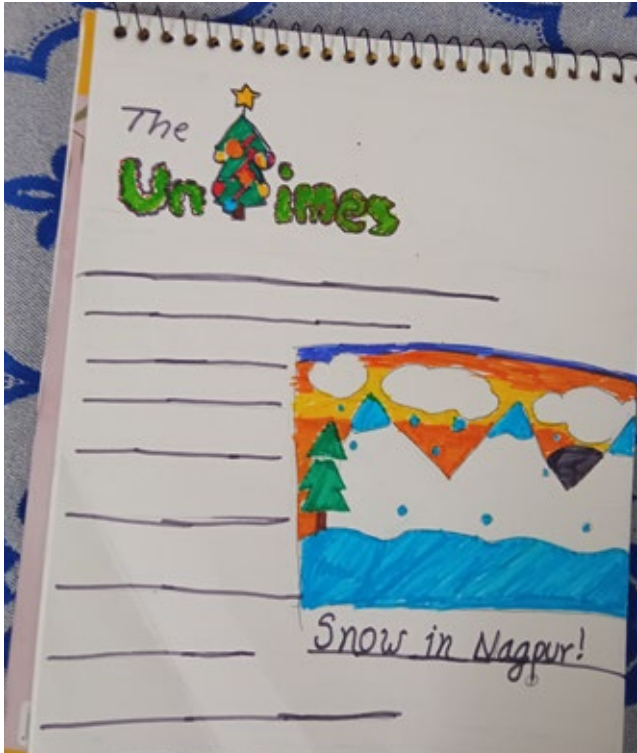
**WORD SEARCH***By Archit Korke (Age 10 years)*

Find the following words: Teachers, Gaming, Festivals, India, Plastic ban, CW games, Sports, Authors

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

# Drawings by our little artists

By Sagarika Iyer (Age 9 years)



By Tanaya Jadhav (Age 8 years)



By Fatima Aliz (Age 7 years)



By Aarohi Tatkare (Age 8 years)



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