Folklore of the Christmas Traditions

Alec Vaules and Clay Chatham

Our Collection

- Inspiration → We both celebrate Christmas and we were interested in finding out the different types of Folklore
- We collected folklore in differing mediums
- 7 Legends, 4 Superstitions, 6 traditional meals and many symbols which represent material folklore
  - Legends
  - Superstition
  - Traditions
    - Traditional Meals (Cultural, Familial)
  - Symbols of Christmas

Legends of Christmas

1. Krampus   - Germany, Austria
2. Belsnickel   - Southwestern Germany, Pennsylvania Dutch communities
3. Christkind   - Germany, Austria, Czech Republic
4. Papai Noel   - Brazil
5. Nisse - Norway
6. Santa - Many
7. St. Nicholas - Many

Superstition

1. Kissing under the Mistletoe
2. Wait as long as possible to decorate
3. Always get the Christmas tree from the same place
4. Must open stockings before presents

Traditional Meals

Sai- Central/South India: Mother makes family favorite Indian dish

Leni- USA/Greece: Spanakopita (Spinach Pastry), Tiropita (Layered Pastry), Lamb, Pastitsio (Beef Pasta) , Baklava (Honey Nut Pastry)

Austen- USA: Pizza and Chinese Food

Eric- USA: Steak & Mash Potatoes

Tyler- Jamaican: Jerk chicken, ham, rice and peas, mashed potato ackee and saltfish, cormeny porridge

Marshall- China: Dumplings + lots of asian food. It's pretty much a Chinese New Year dinner but with Christmas decorations

Symbols of Christmas

- London: Tree, Angel, Star, Wreath
- China: Tree
- Indian: Pine Tree
- Greek: Tree with lights, Angel, Cookies, Garland
- American: Star, Tree with lights, Angel, Garland, Wreath, Snowman, Reindeer, Santa, Cookies
- Italian/Egyptian: Christmas tree, wreaths, angel, stockings, Nativity scene, Santa/elves/reindeer, snow, candy canes, mistletoe
- Jamaican: Christmas tree, presents, sorrel (local drink), Jesus Christ, and a cross

Conclusions/Analysis

1. Differing legends and meals across cultures
2. Symbols remain constant
   a. Diffusion
3. Cross cultural similarities and differences

Thank You!

Questions?