

Holiday Missions Pickers

Around the World with 8 Holidays

Valentine's Day

St. Patrick's Day

Easter

Mother's Day

Spring

Fall/Winter

Back to School

Children's Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas

VALENTINE'S DAY

Around the World

Valentine's Day is celebrated in most countries, but not always the same day or with the same name

In Brazil, Valentine's Day is June 12, and called "Dia dos Namorados" (Boyfriend/Girlfriend day). It is popular to go on a date night

Popular Valentine's Day traditions include exchanging gifts such as roses or chocolates, and a romantic night out or dinner

In Haiti, "Happy Valentine's Day" is "Bòn fèt Sent Valanten", and is celebrated similarly to the USA--if you can afford it

In South Korea, only the girls give gifts to boys on Valentine's Day. Boys give to girls on March 14, and singles celebrate on April 14

In Kenya, "Happy Valentine's Day" is "furaha ya siku ya wapendanao" and they send romantic messages called "ujumbe wa kimapenzi"

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they don't celebrate Valentine's Day

In Tanzania, Valentine's Day is considered a holiday for the wealthy, the urban, and the young people

In India, many Hindus don't celebrate Valentine's Day. There are often protests, because they don't want the Western influence

In Uganda, you wear red and black, rather than pink, for Valentine's day. Most young people want to "hang out" together

VALENTINE'S DAY

A Basic History

1

200-
300AD

Valentine served others and was killed

No one knows exactly, but the common tale is that Valentine was a priest who married people in secret when Rome declared it illegal. He was imprisoned, but wrote beautiful letters, signing them "Your Valentine." He was martyred by Rome and made a saint by the Catholic church much later in time.

2

1300s

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote about Valentine's Day

Around this time, it became popular to connect Valentine with love and romance, and it was connected to the specific day, February 14th, that was purportedly the day Valentine was martyred for defying Rome by marrying couples in secret.

3

1700s

Valentine's Day is popular in England

The main things we connect with Valentine's Day are now common: sending flowers, giving candy, and making Valentines cards. Around this time, the day was also connected with hearts, cupid, and doves.

4

Now

Valentine's Day is a Big Deal

Valentine's Day has its roots as a religious holiday, but now it is much more of a secular and commercial holiday. Kids don't get the day off of school, but most often share some kind of cards with their friends (especially younger children). Most of the world now celebrates this holiday, and over 20 billion dollars are spent on it each year.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Connected to Missions

1



Write Valentine's Day cards to your missionaries and child sponsorships

Ask them how they celebrate Valentine's Day where they are, and how they would celebrate it if they had a million dollars. Tell them about how you celebrate Valentine's Day.

2



Have a Daddy Daughter Dance fundraiser

There are always a lot of needs with missions. You can ask your missions team or representatives if there are any specific goals, or just general funds you can give to.

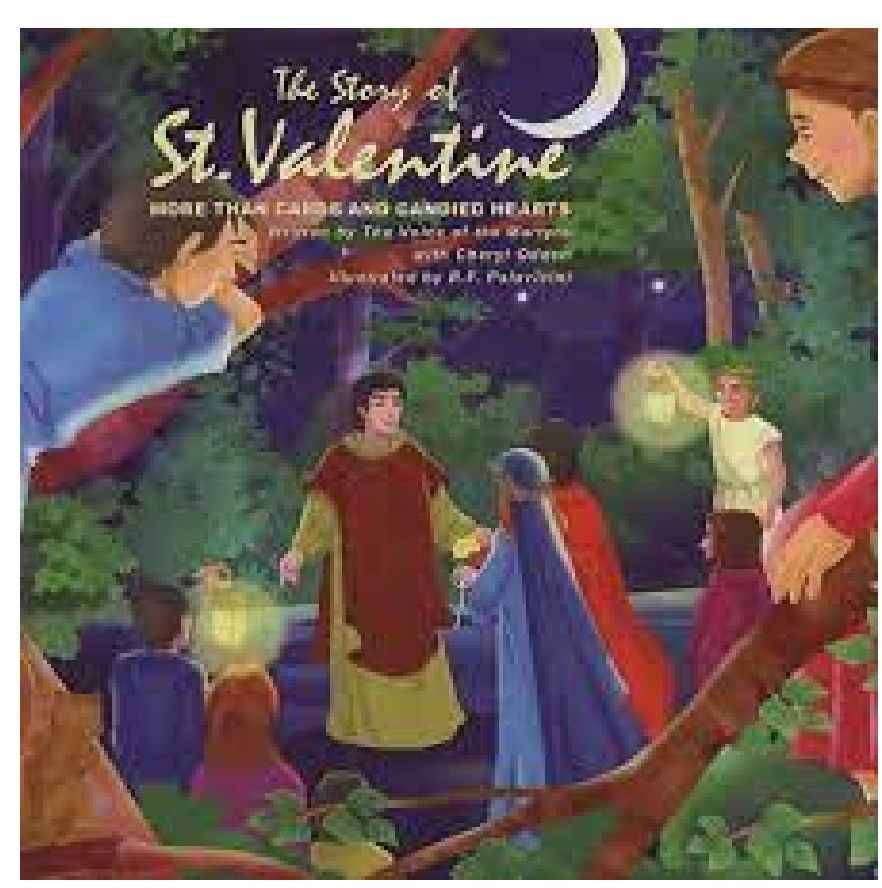
3



Use the 10 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great Valentine's Day ideas, with videos, Bible verses, songs, and printable resources.

4



Learn more about Valentine, a Martyr

Voice of the Martyrs has a fantastic book called "The Story of St. Valentine" which is an easy and great way to talk about martyrdom, and serving others even when you could get hurt

St. Patrick's Day

Around the World

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in many countries, but is only an official holiday in Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada), and Montserrat

In Brazil, they celebrate many different saints. In fact, most towns have their own "saint" they celebrate with a local holiday

Popular St. Patrick's Day traditions include local parades, eating green/Irish food, pinching people who don't wear green, and drinking beer

In Haiti, St. Patrick is connected to the vodou serpent god, Damballa. They are connected as opposites. St. Patrick was said to have removed the snakes from Ireland

Most countries only celebrate St. Patrick's day in the big cities (with Western influence) or where there are groups of Irish and or Catholic people

In Kenya, it's only celebrated in the big cities, or perhaps in connection with Catholic holidays, like in Brazil

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they don't celebrate St. Patrick's Day, as it is a Catholic tradition

In Tanzania, St. Patrick's Day is not really celebrated

In Mumbai, India, the Gateway of India is turned green for St Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day comes not long after the Indian Holi festival

In Uganda, it is not celebrated much, but when it is, it is to celebrate ties with Ireland

St. Patrick's Day

A Basic History

1

300-500AD

Patrick served others and died in 461AD

At 16, he was kidnapped, taken to Ireland, and enslaved. He escaped and returned home, but felt called to return and serve those in Ireland, which he did for the rest of his life. He died on March 17th, which is why we celebrate that day.

2

1600s



The Catholic Calendar includes the feast of St. Patrick

Around this time, the first recorded St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the USA as a time to celebrate Irish culture and history. This is very closely connected with the Catholic church, and considered more of a religious holiday.

3

1900s



St. Patrick's Day is an official holiday in Ireland

The main things we connect with St. Patrick's Day (secular) are now common: eating Irish food, drinking beer, and parades. As Irish continued to migrate, more places celebrated the day, including Argentina and Japan.

4

Now



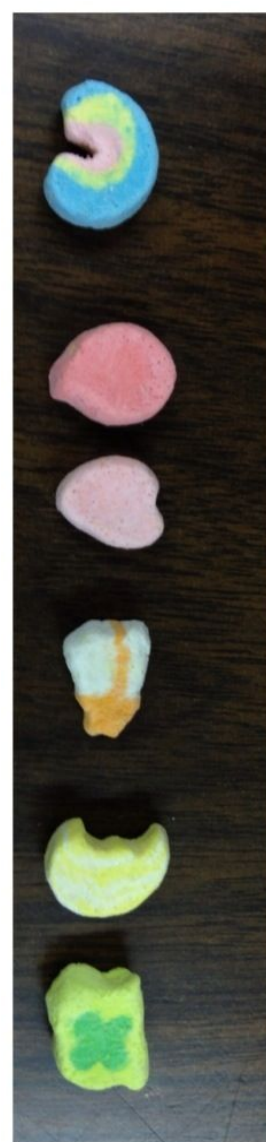
St. Patrick's Day is a Big Deal

While it isn't an official holiday, many people in the USA will at least wear green (for fear of being pinched if they don't) and/or eat something green or Irish for the day. It is rarely connected to its Christian origins. About 5 billion dollars is spent celebrating St. Patrick's Day around the world.

St. Patrick's Day

Connected to Missions

1



rainbow: symbol of God's Promises

balloon: He LIFTS our burdens! Psalm 55:22

heart: He is abounding in love! exodus 34:6

star: He is SO big, He knows the names of the stars & my name too! psalm 147:4-5

moon: sorrow only last for the night. psalm 30:5

clover: reminder of the trinity!

Enjoy the message from Lucky Charms

There are many good ideas of green food and snacks for St. Patrick's Day on the Internet. Here is a simple idea, or you could ask the kids what each marshmallows might represent.

2



Have green food bake sale

There are always a lot of needs with missions. You can ask your missions team or representatives if there are any specific goals, or just general funds you can give to.

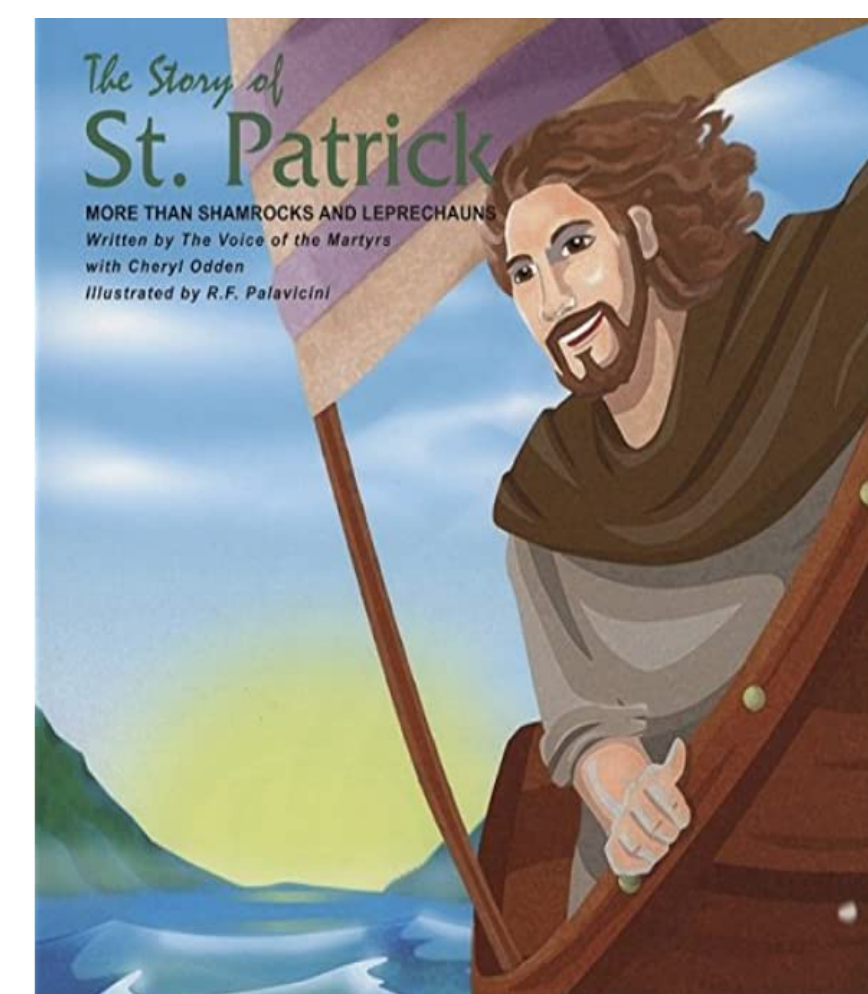
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Use the 8 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great St. Patrick's Day ideas, with videos, Bible verses, songs, and printable resources,

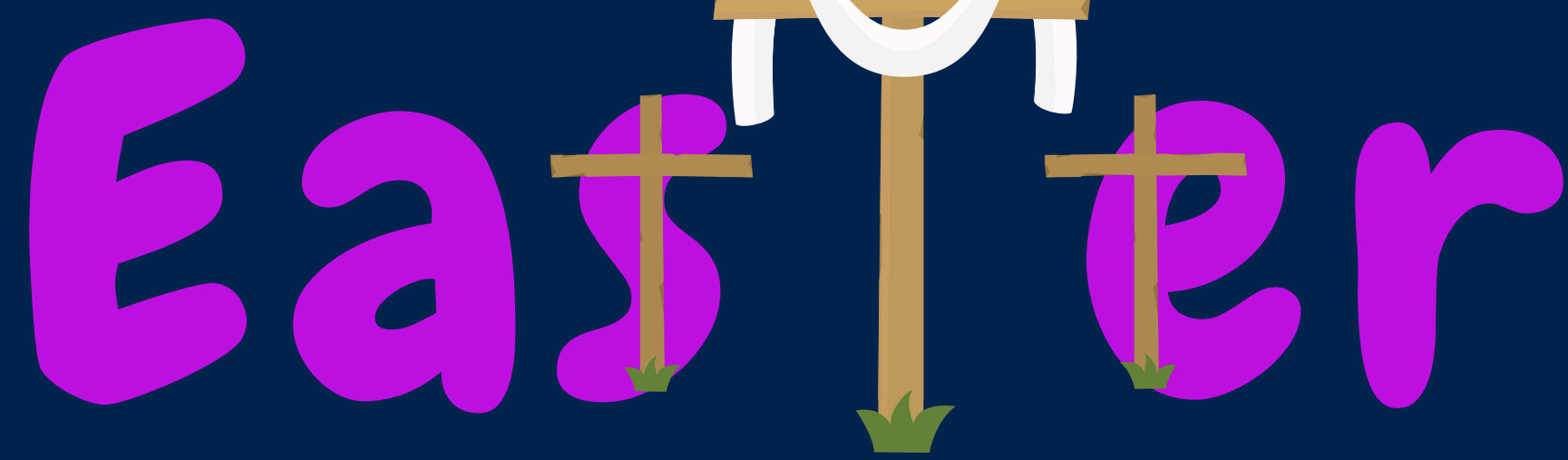
4



Learn more about Patrick, a Missionary

Voice of the Martyrs has a fantastic book called "The Real Story of St. Patrick's Day" which is an easy and great way to talk about missions, and serving others even when they've hurt you

Easter



Around the World

Easter is celebrated in most countries, but not in majority Muslim or Communist countries

In Brazil, Easter is called "Pascoa," closely linked to Passover. They have a lot of chocolate eggs, but not plastic Easter eggs

Orthodox Christians in Europe, Africa and the Middle East celebrate Easter later than traditional Easter because they use different calendar to set the date

In Haiti, they have special church services for Easter, often including a watch night, and a Easter Sunrise service

Easter is celebrated two different ways (or both at once): as a Christian holiday (Jesus' death and resurrection) and as a secular holiday: chocolate, eggs, flowers

In Kenya, many Easter celebrations begin on Palm Sunday. On Good Friday, many Kenyans have processions, re-enacting the Stations of the Cross.

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they don't celebrate Easter. It is a Christian holiday

In Tanzania, Christmas and Easter are the two largest celebrations. They often celebrate similarly to Kenya, and share a meal together as families

In India, the areas that have more Christians celebrate Easter, while those with more Hindus do not. Not many decorate eggs, but many buy them

In Uganda, they often have passion plays and parades. Many eat chicken or goat for Easter dinner

Easter

A Basic History

1

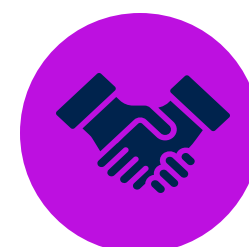
Around
30AD

Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead

The Easter holiday began as a time to celebrate and remember how Jesus gave everything for us to be able to be redeemed and made new. You can read about it in each of the Gospels: Matthew 26-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 22-24, and John 17-20.

2

325AD

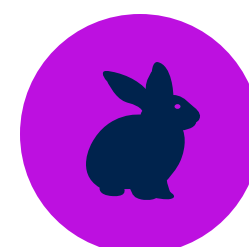


The First Counsel of Nicea decrees Easter to be celebrated after the spring equinox

This means that the date of Easter moves each year with the lunar calendar. This broke the tradition of Easter occurring at the same time as Passover, but the two holidays still align occasionally.

3

1700s

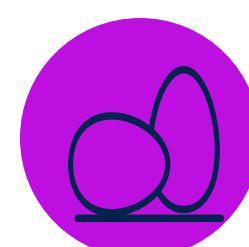


Easter begins to be secularized

Eggs had long time been associated with Easter/Lent, but the Easter bunny/egg hunt tradition begins with German immigrants. Fast-reproducing rabbits and egg-laying birds represent fertility and the renewed life of springtime and the Christian resurrection. As chocolate becomes a thing, so do chocolate eggs.

4

Now



Easter is a Big Deal

Easter, as both a secular and a Christian holiday, is celebrated most everywhere that has (or had) a Christian influence. People spend around 30 billion dollars (about the same as Mother's Day) for Easter. For most practicing Christians, Easter is the second biggest holiday after Christmas.

Easter

Connected to Missions

1



Write Easter cards to your missionaries and child sponsorships

Ask them how they celebrate Easter where they are, and what it means to them. Tell them about how you celebrate Easter, and why it is an important holiday to you.

2



Have a community Easter Egg Hunt

This is your chance to reach out and share Jesus with your own community! We are to be missionaries HERE and THERE. Think of creative booths to do before/after the hunt to extend the time with people.

3



Make your own, and give opportunities to share the story of the Resurrection Eggs

Rachel, a missionary, put together simple Resurrection eggs (with videos) at FiveMinutesOfFergie.com on her Friday Finds blog. WorldRenewal.org/kids-holidays also has an Advent/Lent book for lots of LENT ideas.

4



Learn more about the Gospel and how to share it with others

"This Is the Gospel: A Kids Read Truth Story & Scripture Book" is a great tool to study and learn what the Gospel is, and what is the mission of missionaries to share.

Mother's Day

Around the World

Mother's Day is celebrated the second Sunday of May in most places, but the last Sunday of May, May 10, the first day of spring, or some other date in other places

In Brazil, Mother's day is the same as the USA, but Father's day is the second Sunday of August

In the UK, it is called "Mothering Sunday" and is on the 4th Sunday of Lent, and some countries have connected it with Women's Day in March.

In Haiti, Mother's Day is the fourth Sunday of May. They honor their mothers by wearing a red flower if the mothers are alive and a white or purple one if they have passed

Common ways to celebrate Mother's Day are with gifts, flowers, and cards, as well as giving her a day off of cooking and cleaning

In Kenya, Mother's Day is celebrated in churches and mosques by special prayers held in their honor. Mothers are also celebrated by being served breakfast, or "kiamsha kinywa", in bed

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, the actual day might not be celebrated, but Mothers are valued and celebrated

In Tanzania, "Happy Mother's Day" is "furaha kwa siku ya kina mama" and they celebrate similarly to us

In India, they celebrate by giving cards and making a meal so Mom doesn't have to, much like we do

In Uganda, they celebrate with flowers and gifts, much like we do

Mother's Day

A Basic History

1
Middle Ages

Mothing Sunday began

This is when they would visit the local "mother" church or the church in which one was baptized, and would honor one's mother as well. It was a break from fasting halfway through the season of Lent (the fourth Sunday).

2
1907

Anna Jarvis organized the first Mother's Day in the USA

It was just in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia, but was very popular. This doesn't mean that moms were not celebrated before this-- they just didn't have a specific day set aside for it. They celebrated on May 10, to honor Anna Jarvis' mother and her service to others.

3
1914

Congress made the second Sunday in May Mother's Day

This means that the date of Mother's day changes each year with the calendar, so it can always been on a Sunday. There was a strong push by Anna Jarvis and others to not commercialize this holiday, but that has largely failed.

4
Now

Mother's Day is a Big Deal

Most cultures and religions appreciate mothers, so this holiday wasn't hard to start. People spend around 30 billion dollars (about the same as Easter) for Mother's Day. It is the 3rd most popular holiday around the World, after Christmas and Easter. More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day, and it is also the busiest day of the year for restaurants.

Mother's Day

Connected to Missions

1



www.RewardCharts4Kids.com

Rewardcharts4kids.com has free PDF Mother's Day coupon books

You can get the ones already filled out, or with fill in the blanks for making your own.

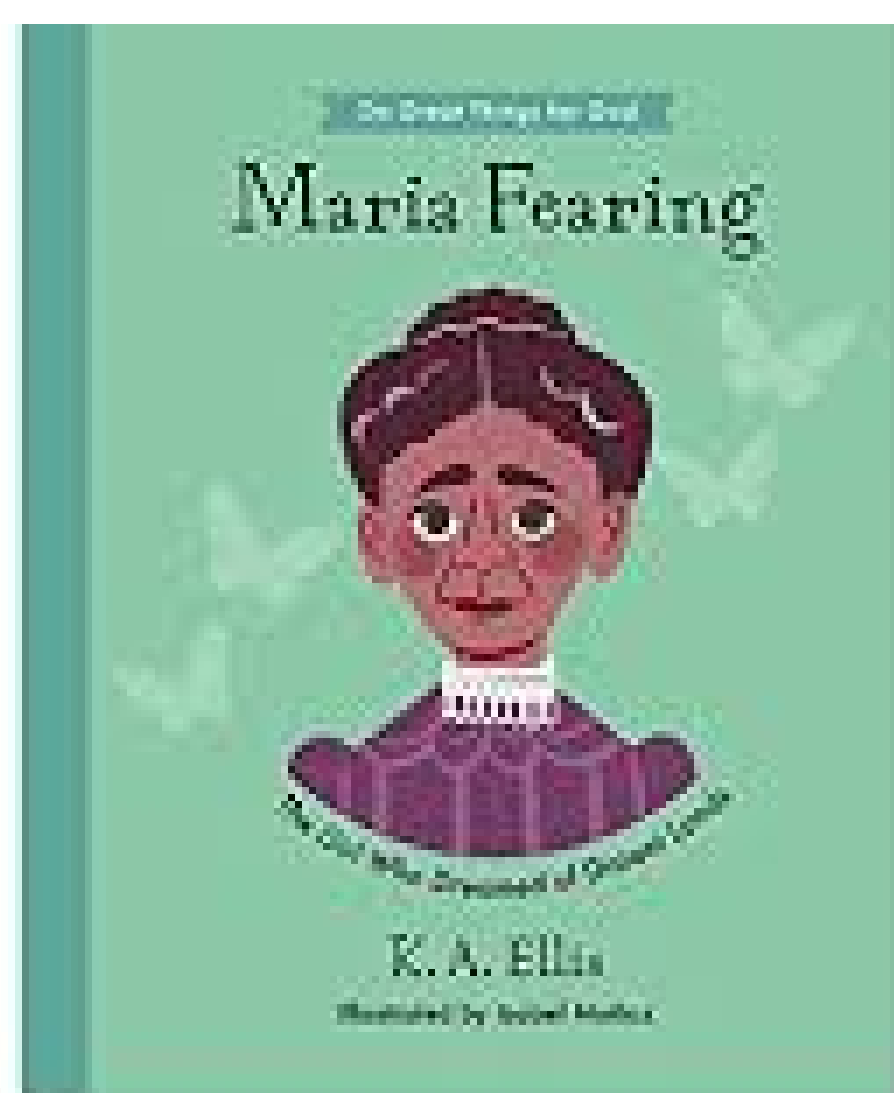
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Sell flowers to raise funds for Missionary Moms

There are always extra financial needs in missionary families, and this is a special time to think of the mothers. It might be nice to send a card that everyone signs as well.

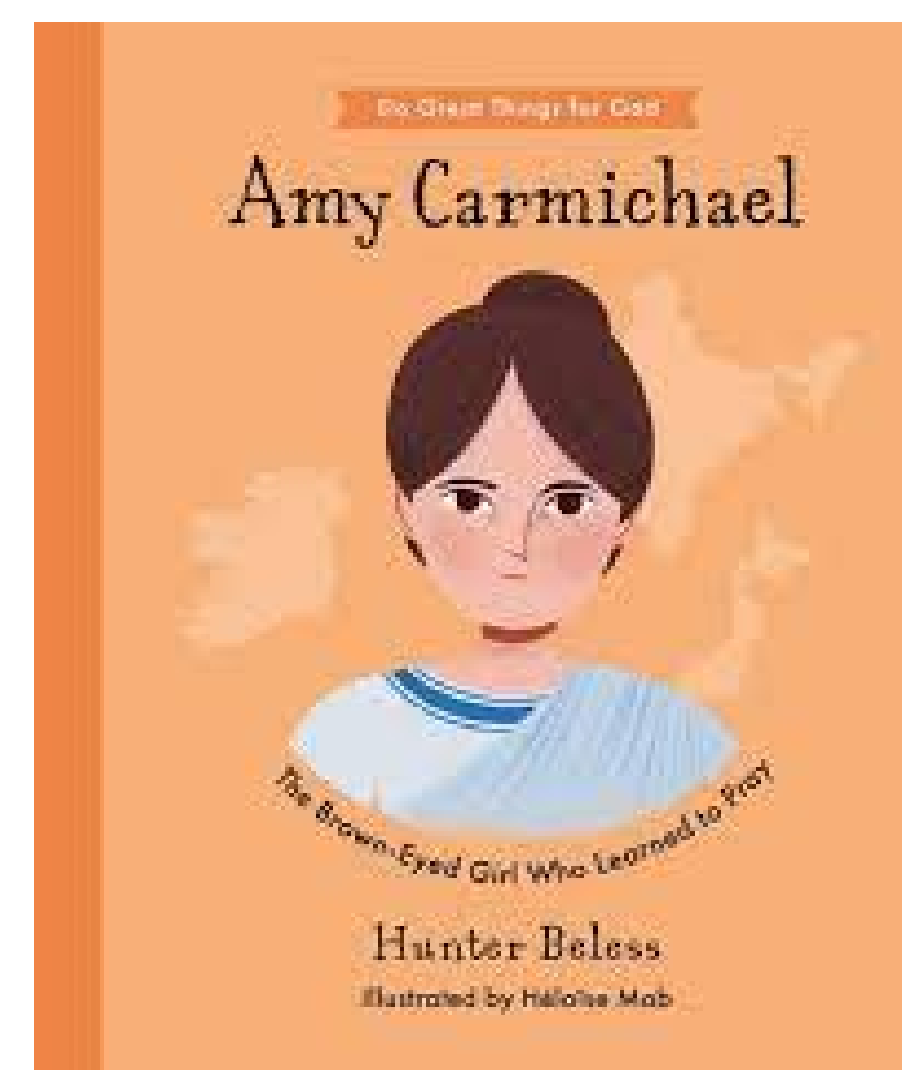
3



Learn more about Maria Fearing, a missionary mother to many

"Maria Fearing: The Girl Who Dreamed of Distant Lands" is a great easy to use missionary biography of a single woman who when freed from slavery went and saved many children from the same fate.

4



Learn more about Amy Charmichael, a missionary mother to many

"Amy Carmichael: the brown-eyed girl who learned to pray" is a great easy to use missionary biography of the single woman who became a mother to so many.

Back to School

Around the World

Education is a big deal around the world. In the USA, it's from August to June in two semesters. School is 7ish hours a day, K-12th (grade/middle/high school)

In Brazil, summer break is in January, so the school year starts in February and goes to December, with a short winter break in July. School is typically 4 or 5 hours a day

Japan has school 230 days a year, while France has only 160 (everyone else is between them). China has 9 hours of school a day, while Finland, Brazil, and Tanzania have 5 or less

In Haiti, the school year is similar to ours, but because of gang violence, many parents are scared to send their children to school. An average of 4 Haitians are kidnapped a day

In 2018, per student per year, the USA spent about \$14,000. Tanzania spent about \$500.

In Kenya, they have three 13-week terms with a month or so off between, starting in January. School days are about 8 hours, and most require uniforms and provide lunch

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, girls often don't go to school for very long, forced to marry or take care of younger kids

In Tanzania, the school year is January-December, and school is 4 or 5 hours a day

In India, the school year is typically May-March. School days are 6-7 hours. Many girls drop out of school when they start their period for lack of training/supplies

In Uganda, school similar to Kenya. There is 7 years of primary school (like grade school), 4 years of secondary, 2 years upper secondary (like middle/high school)

Back to School

A Basic History

1

For most of time

Education was up to your family

You would learn what you needed to know from your family, information was passed down through generations. Some cultures had religious schools, or specialty schools. You might apprentice under a master to learn a trade. Education was private and expensive and for males only.

2

1685



The first public USA school is the Boston Latin School

Early schools in the USA focused on reading, writing, and math (and often religion). Many schools were one-room schoolhouses. In the 1800s, the dictionary and some textbooks were first created. For higher education girls were mostly in all-girl schools, which were rare.

3

1918



Every USA student is required to complete elementary school

Although schools would be segregated until the 1960s, in 1975 public school became for all handicapped children. In the 1980s, homeschooling and charter schools started becoming popular. Private schools continue to be a popular choice for those who can afford it.

4

Now



Education is a Big Deal

Technology has changed education a lot, as well as the pandemic. There are many online school options now. There have been many reforms, like No Child Left Behind (2002) and adopting the Common Core, but many reforms have caused more problems. There are many challenges to being a teacher and a student in the USA today, and everyone is feeling behind from the pandemic.

Back to School

Connected to Missions

1



Decorate a folder and send it with stickers and light items to your missionaries and sponsored children

Most of the time you can't send school supplies because they are too heavy. But you can often send light things with someone traveling to that country, and include money for them to buy supplies.

2



Get pledges for a Read-a-Thon to send money for school supplies to ministries

Child sponsorships always need school supplies, as do many missionary families, and ministries.

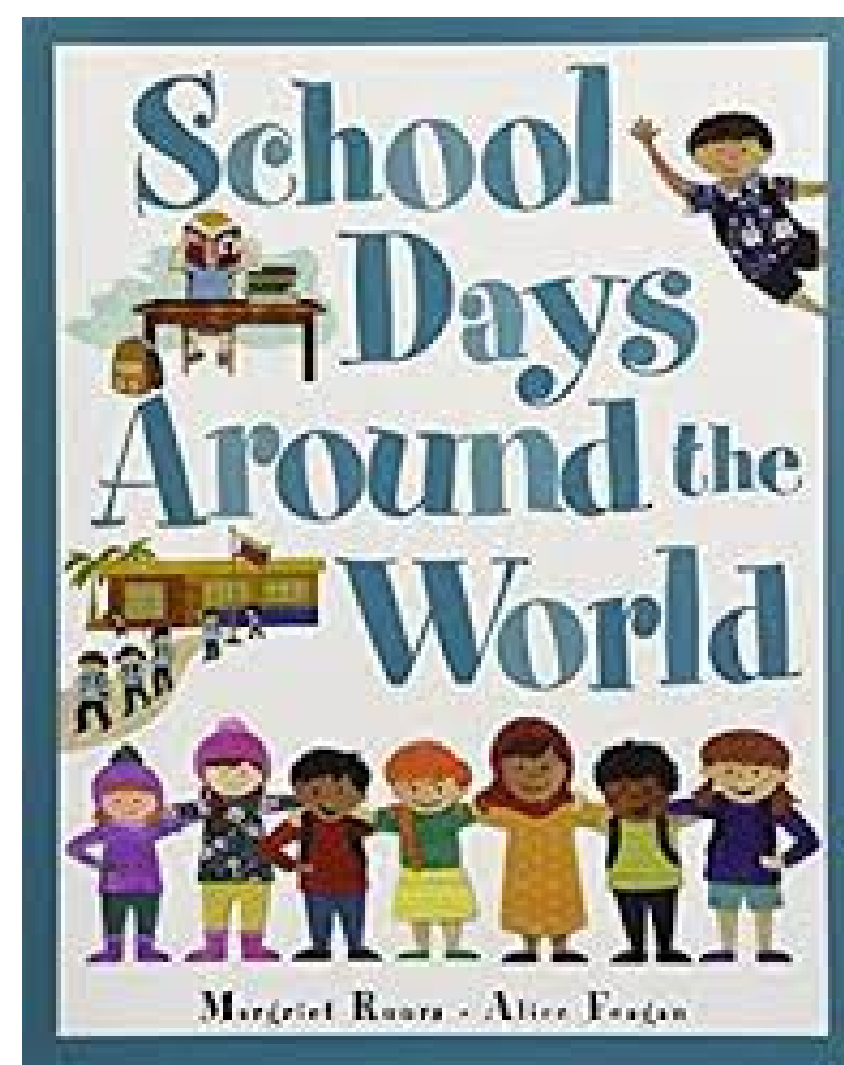
3



Learn more about some kids in Brazil with Mission's ABCs

This is a free PDF download at WorldRenewal.org/sponsor-a-child-brazil. Find it under the resources at the bottom of the page

4



Learn more about School around the World

"School Days around the World" by Margriet Ruurs is a great resource, as well as lots of fun YouTube videos.

Children's Day

Around the World

Like Mother's Day, most countries have some kind of Children's Days. For some, like Brazil, it is a huge deal. For others, like the USA, it doesn't really exist

In Brazil, Children's Day is October 12 and a really big deal. Birthdays, on the other hand, depend on if your family has the finances, time, and energy to celebrate

Many of the places that celebrate Children's Day are the same ones that don't celebrate birthdays as much, especially if there is a lot of poverty and parents can't afford to celebrate individual children

In Haiti, Children's Day is June 10, and many people use it to bring awareness that children have rights as well as adults

Children's Day is celebrated differently by culture, and on different dates. Most include local parties, programs, and parades with lots of candies and presents for children

In Kenya, they celebrate World (or Universal) Children's Day on November 20. There is also the Day of the African Child on June 16, to bring awareness of the needs of children

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they celebrate on November 20, the official World Children's Day

In Tanzania, it is similar to Kenya, and they do not traditionally celebrate birthdays at all, or just significant ones (1 year and "becoming an adult")

In India, Children's Day is November 14th. That is the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India, who loved children

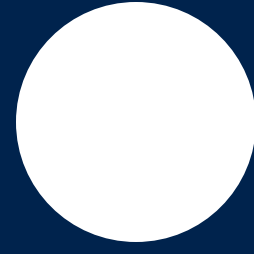
In Uganda, they celebrate World (or Universal) Children's Day on November 20, and the Day of the African Child on June 16, to bring awareness of the needs of children

Children's Day

A Basic History

1

October
12, 1924



Brazil's Children's Day (Dia Das Crianças)

At the third South American Congress of Children, they planned and set the day for the first Dia Das Crianças. It was around this time that many countries were working on better serving children, passing child labor laws, and creating a day to celebrate and promote the importance of children's rights.

2

June 1,
1925



International Children's Day

INTERNATIONAL children's day was first proclaimed in Geneva during the World Conference on Child Welfare. June 1st also became the International Day for Protection of Children in 1954 to protect children's rights, end child labor and guarantee access to education. Most Communist and post-Communist countries use this day.

3

Nov. 20,
1959



World (or Universal) Children's Day

This was to celebrate the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1959 (Perhaps in response to June 1st being celebrated by Communist countries). It is a day recognized around the world to advocate for children's rights and improve children's welfare.

4

Now



Celebrating Kids is a Big Deal

Many families in many countries do not traditionally celebrate birthdays, or cannot afford to. Many work hard to celebrate the child's first year and the year their culture deems them an "adult." Children's Day has been a way for many communities to celebrate children even when their parents might not be able to individually provide them a birthday celebration, and to draw attention to children's rights and value.

Children's Day y

Connected to Missions

1



Send your missionaries and/or missionaries birthday cards on their birthday

Remember, it does take a while for mail to arrive most places, or you might have to wait until someone travels there personally to deliver it. If you don't know their birthday, ask about their Children's Day!

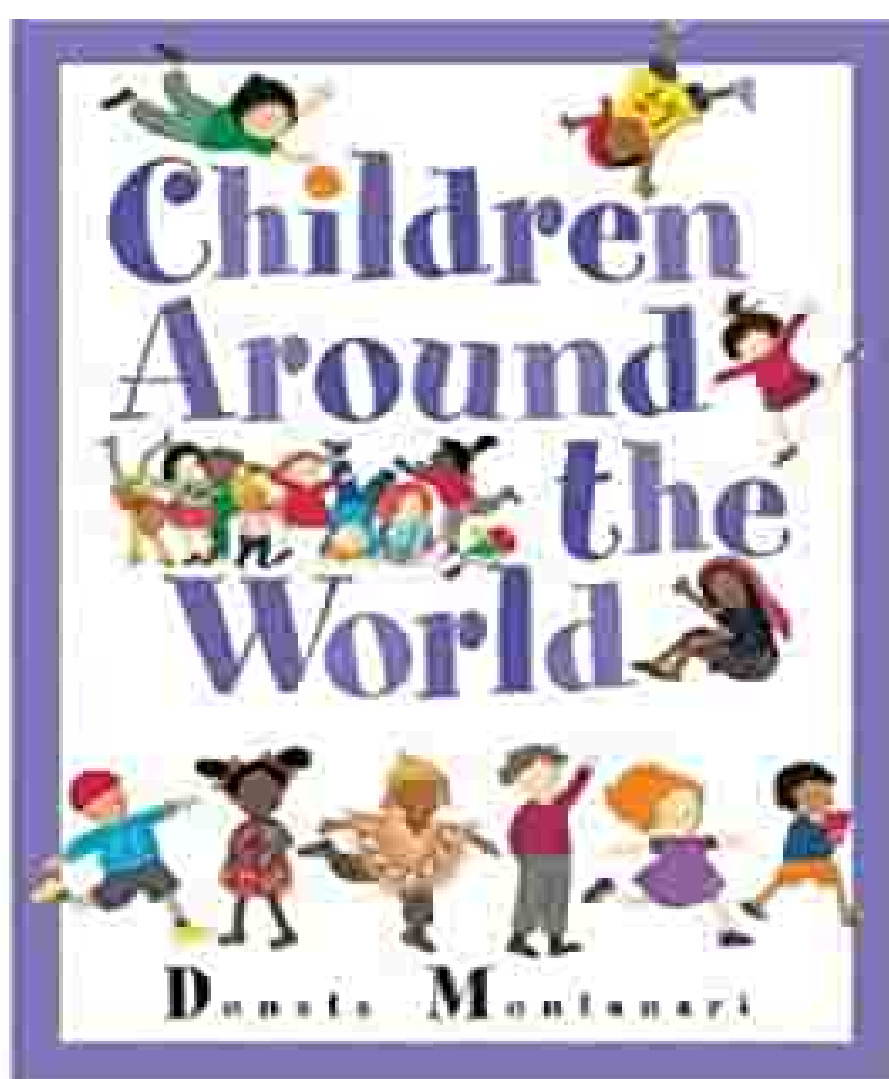
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Instead of Birthday presents, ask for people to give to a missionary family or ministry

Or you could ask for people to donate so that your sponsored child could have a birthday celebration!

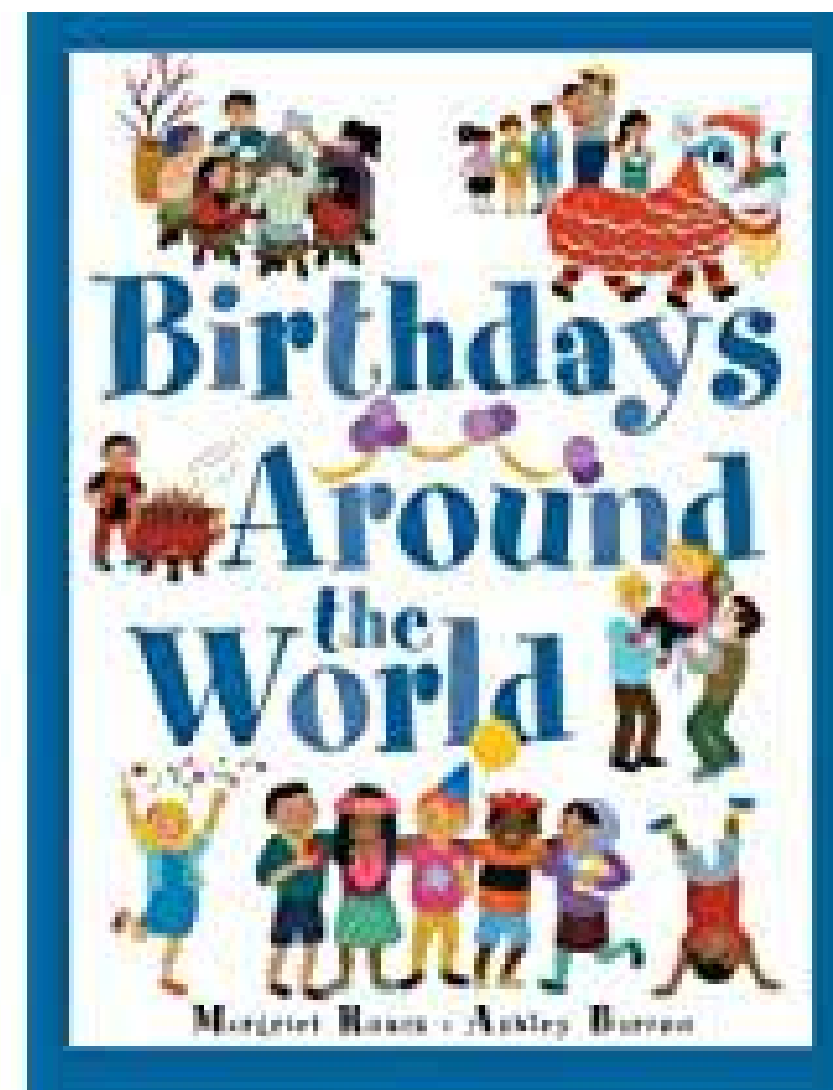
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Learn more about Children around the World

"Children around the World" by Donata Montanari is a great resource, as well a lots of fun YouTube videos.

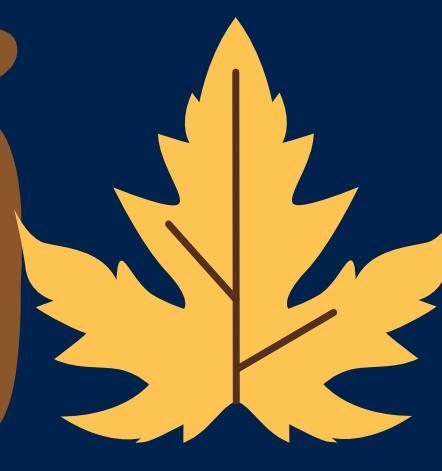
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Learn more about Birthdays around the World

"Birthdays around the World" by Margriet Ruurs is a great resource, as well as lots of fun YouTube videos.

Thanksgiving



Around the World

While no other country has the same story of Thanksgiving as the USA, many places celebrate gratitude and harvest on other days and in other ways

In Brazil, many people enjoy the idea of Thanksgiving, so around the same time, many people celebrate "Acao de Gracas" (action of gratitude)

Thanksgiving is typically celebrated in the USA by a big meal together with family. Turkey and Pumpkin pie are common, as well as green beans, mashed potatoes, cornbread, and stuffing

In Haiti, they do not celebrate Thanksgiving, but work to be thankful in the face of many problems and difficulties

Sukkot is the harvest festival God commanded the Israelite people to celebrate in the Old Testament. It's a week long, where they are to build and stay in booths. It is normally in October

In Kenya, they don't really celebrate Thanksgiving, but when they get together for special meals, that is normally when they have meat called "Nyama choma"

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, it is okay to celebrate Thanksgiving, as it is a secular holiday, but many do not as it is more of a Western influence

In Tanzania, they don't celebrate Thanksgiving, but for special meals together they have roast beef or goat

In India, in the southern part, during Janaury many people celebrate Pongal, a four-day harvest festival that celebrates the harvest of crops like rice, turmeric, and sugarcane.

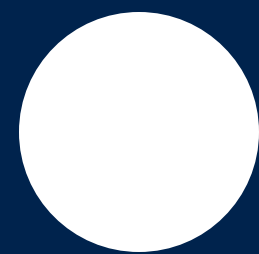
In Uganda, they don't celebrate Thanksgiving, but for special meals they often have seasoned chicken wrapped in smoked banana leaves

Thanksgiving

A Basic History

1

Before
1600s



Various Harvest Festivals around the World

The Jews celebrated Sukkot, as God directed in the Old Testament, and many harvest festivals were celebrated in many cultures (they are well documented in China and India).

2

1621



Pilgrims celebrated in Plymouth, Mass.

This is the history that the USA celebration of Thanksgiving stems from. Many people had died of starvation the previous year, and so when the pilgrims recieved help from the Native Americans nearby, and had enough food the next harvest, they celebrated.

3

1863



President Lincoln delares it an official holiday

Thanksgiving was not widely celebrated in the USA before this time, and as it was during the Civil War, America needed something to remember and celebrate that could help unify them. in 1876 college football championships were first played on Thanksgiving, and 1924 was Macy's first parade. 1941 President Roosevelt set the official date as the 4th Thursday of November.

4

Now



Thanksgiving is a Big Deal

Thanksgiving in the USA is the biggest travel day of the year. Everyone wants to be with their families. About 50 million turkeys are eaten on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has become more commercialized, with Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) becoming the biggest retail day of the year (amd then Cyber Monday). Giving Tuesday (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) has become a time to give to worthy causes.

Thanksgiving

Connected to Missions

1



Write thank you letters to your missionaries or others who are often overlooked

While Thanksgiving is not celebrated around the world, gratitude certainly is!

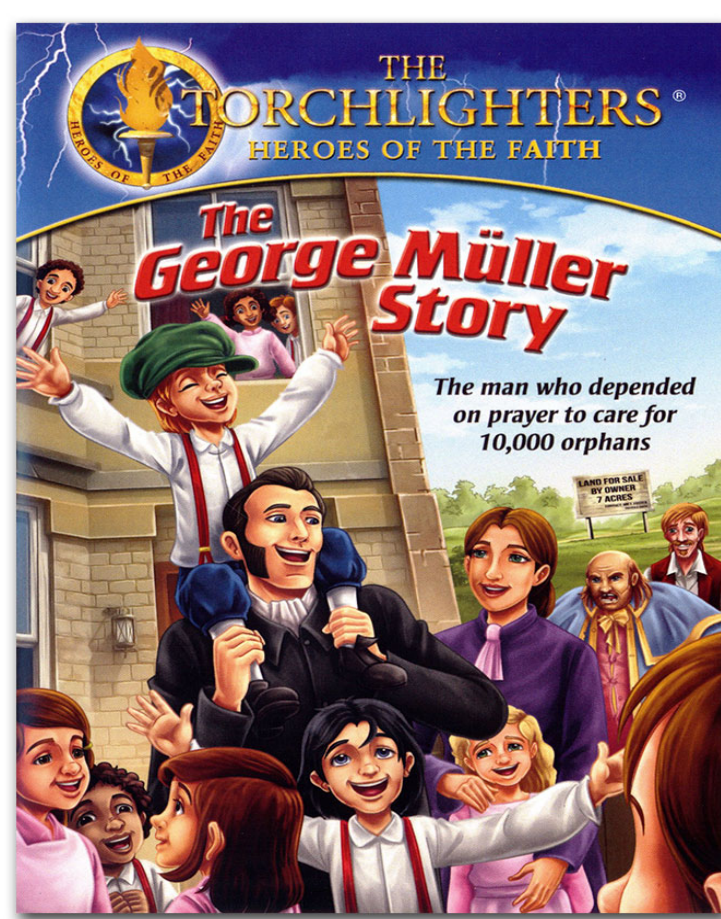
2



Use the 25 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great Thanksgiving ideas, with videos, Bible verses, songs, and printable resources.

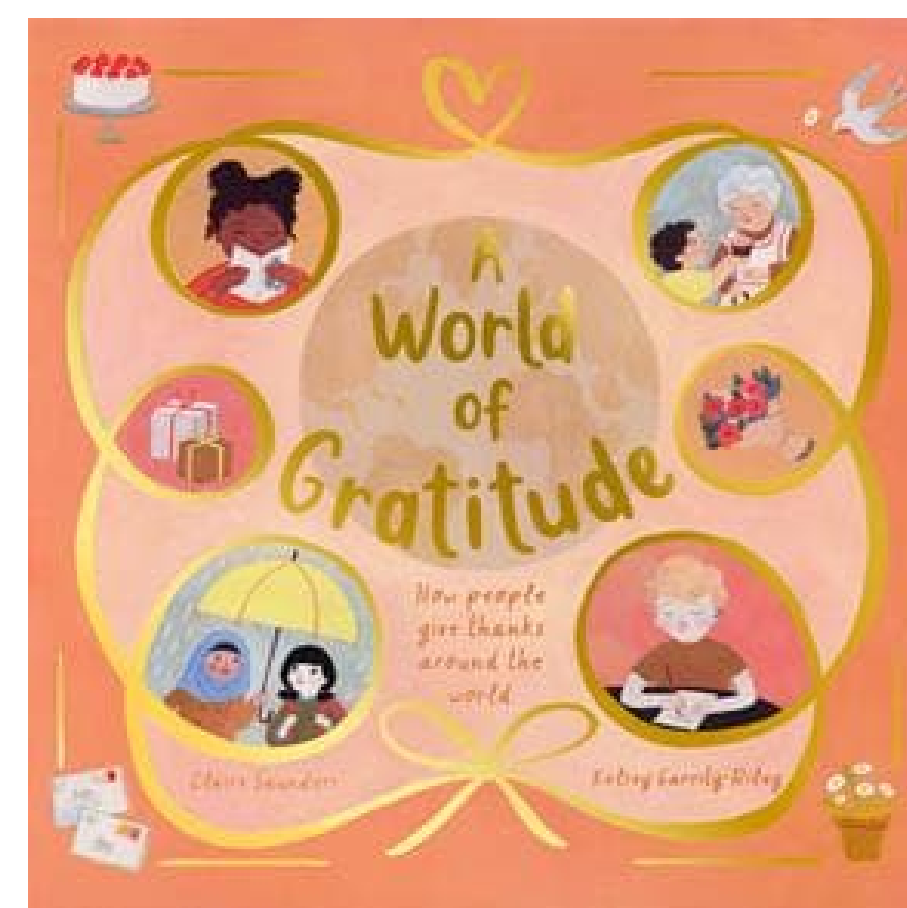
3



Learn about George Müller, the man who said Thank you for the food before the food arrived

This is a great book, as well as free video on YouTube channel Vision Video "The Torchlighters: The George Müller Story | Full Episode | Stephen Daltry | Alison Pettitt"

4



Learn more about how people say Thank You around the World

"World of Gratitude" by Claire Saunders and Kelsey Garry-Riley helps you discover how different cultures and communities show gratitude. You can even learn to say "thank you" in over 50 different languages.

Christmas

Around the World

Christmas is the most celebrated and universally recognized holiday worldwide. It is December 25th in most countries. Traditions vary from country to country

In Brazil, Christmas is less about presents and more about food. Many start the celebration Christmas Eve, and go to Midnight Mass

Christmas, like Easter, can be celebrated as a Christian holiday or a secular holiday, or a mixture of both. Many people celebrate Advent to prepare for the time of Christmas

In Haiti, many people go to a Christmas Eve service that starts about 11pm. At midnight they sing the traditional song "Minuit Chrétien"

Also like Easter, Orthodox Christmas is normally on January 7 instead of December 25 because they use a different calendar. The 12 days of Christmas (after Christmas) lead to January 6th: Epiphany or Kings day

In Kenya, many churches hold night vigils, or 'Keshu', on Christmas Eve. They often sing Christmas hymns and carols, and some have nativity plays

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they do not celebrate Christmas, as it is a Christian holiday

In Tanzania, families will fatten up a cow or goat to eat for Christmas, and many kids hope for new clothes, rather than toys, for Christmas

In India, Nativity scenes are called "Christmas cribs", and Kerala plum cake is served in place of fruitcake. Many Hindu's don't celebrate, but the holiday has become secularized enough that many do

In Uganda, Sekukkulu, the birth of Jesus Christ, begins on 24 December with a "watch night" service. They normally have a lunch feast with family

Christmas

A Basic History

1

Around
0AD

Jesus was born in Bethlehem

You can read the accounts in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. The early church celebrated Christ's death and resurrection more than His birth, but many cultures celebrated a winter solstice, or a time of light during the coldest, darkest part of winter.

2

400s



Pope Julius 1 choose December 25 to celebrate Jesus' birth

It was first called the Feast of the Nativity, and worked well since most cultures already had some kind of celebration in place. By the middle ages, Christmas had been embraced, but was more of a drunken revelry of the solstice than the Christian holiday we think of today. In fact, many Christians stopped celebrating it by the 1600-1700s.

3

1870



Christmas officially becomes a US federal holiday

With Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and a new focus on caring for children in the 1800s, decorating trees, sending holiday cards, gift-giving (and Santa) quickly became new traditions for Christmas, brought to the USA by different European immigrants.

4

Now



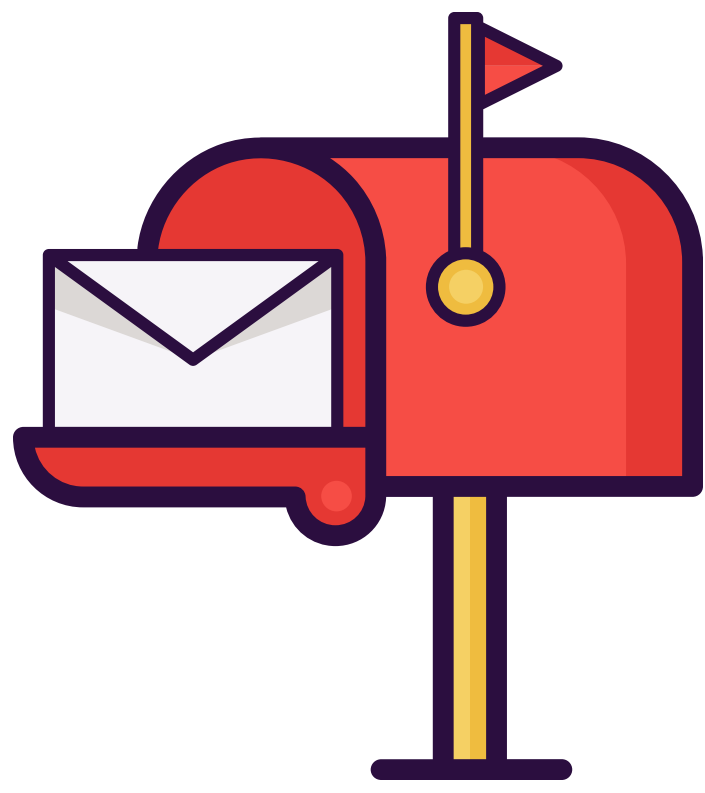
Christmas is a Big Deal

Christmas is the most celebrated and universally recognized holiday worldwide. The most money of any holiday is spent on Christmas (about 900 billion dollars). Most people connect it as a Christian holiday, but celebrate it as a time of gift-giving and family time, often leaving the whole "Jesus part" out.

Christmas

Connected to Missions

1



Send Christmas cards to your missionaries and sponsored children!

Ask them how they celebrate Christmas and what it means to them. Tell them how you celebrate, and what it means to you!

2



Use Christmas Gift Catalogs from missions organizations to give presents around the World

Some of your missionaries may be able to receive packages in the mail as well, but it is important to check first, before sending it!

3



Use the 10 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great Christmas ideas, with videos, Bible Verses, songs, and printable resources. They also have Advent for Kids ideas. WorldRenewal.org/kids-holidays also has an Advent/Lent free PDF

4



Learn more about St. Nicholas, the man who became Santa Claus

"The Story of St. Nicholas: More than Reindeer and a Red Suit" by Voice of the Martyrs is an easy and great way to share about someone who was persecuted for his faith.