

Christmas Unwrapped

Hollywood vs. History Series

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This workbook is designed to be used with the History Channel's perennial favorite "Christmas Unwrapped: The History of Christmas" © 1997, available here: <http://www.history.com/topics/christmas> or at your local library or media store. It also runs frequently on the network during the month of December (check your local listings). You can access the answer key on our website located here: <http://www.studenthandouts.com/CurrClick/Hollywood-vs-History/Answer-Keys/Christmas-Unwrapped.htm>

Pre-viewing Activity: Word Search Puzzle

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

TERMS

Christmas
Dickens
England
festive
gifts
holiday
Jesus
Oden
Puritans
Romans
Santa
Saturnalia
solstice
Victorian
Yule

Viewing Activity: Take Notes As You Watch

Ancient Northern European Yule Traditions

Ancient Roman Celebrations of Saturnalia and Mithra

Christians and Christmas in the Fourth Century

Pagan Traditions Incorporated into Christmas

Christmas Raucousness in Old England

Puritan Christmas Reform

Christmas in Early America

Leaders and Writers Respond to Christmas Rioting

Victorian Christmas

Santa Claus

Commercialization of Christmas

Christmas in the 1950s

Christmas Today

Post-viewing Activity: Quiz

1. In ancient northern Europe, the annual winter celebration was known as _____.
2. When is the winter solstice in northern Europe? _____
3. What German god was believed to fly through the air at night observing people, deciding who would perish or prosper? _____
4. Saturn was the Roman god of _____.
5. _____ was a Roman feast that honored the children of Rome.
6. What ancient pagan god's birthday was celebrated on December 25?

7. Christmas was first called the _____.
8. What group banned Christmas in England in the 17th century? _____
9. Who wrote *Bracebridge Hall* in 1819? _____
10. What Victorian English author wrote *A Christmas Carol*? _____

Answers: Place the letter of the correct response on the corresponding line. Note that not all of the answers below will be used.

- (a) agriculture
- (b) Charles Dickens
- (c) December 21
- (d) December 25
- (e) Ebenezer Scrooge
- (f) Feast of the Nativity
- (g) hunting
- (h) Juvenalia
- (i) Mithra
- (j) Oden
- (k) Puritans
- (l) Rudolph
- (m) Victorian
- (n) Washington Irving
- (o) Yule

Post-viewing Activity: Essay Questions

1. What old Christmas tradition do you find most appealing, and why?

2. The video discusses the modern commercialization of Christmas. Do you believe that it is right, or okay, for a religious holiday to be commercialized? Explain your answer.
