



Finish decorating the Christmas tree.

## CHRISTMAS WORLD

Christmas is celebrated in lots of different countries. Each one has its own weird and wonderful traditions, but can you guess which festive fact below is false? Check your answer on page 62.

**FACT 1.** In France, Santa Claus (who they call Père Noël) gives small presents to children on the night of 6<sup>th</sup> December. He also gives out presents on Christmas Eve.

**FACT 2.** In Latvia, Santa Claus is even busier. He gives out presents on each of the 12 days of Christmas, starting on Christmas Eve.

**FACT 3.** According to Greek legend, the 'Kallantzaroi' are naughty goblins who come out at Christmas time. Burning a fire in the fireplace day and night for 12 days is believed to keep them away.

**FACT 4.** In Japan, Hotei-oshō gives out gifts at Christmas. He is said to have eyes in the back of his head so he can see whether children have been good.

**FACT 5.** In Iceland, the 'Jólasveinar' are 13 elf-like creatures who get up to mischief before leaving presents in children's shoes at Christmas. They have names such as Sausage-Snatcher, Door-Slammer and Pot Licker!

**FACT 6.** In Italy, as well as being brought presents from Santa Claus, children are also given gifts by a friendly witch called 'La Befana'.

**FACT 7.** In Ukraine, a family must watch out for the first evening star to appear in the night sky. Once they spot the star, Christmas dinner feasting can begin.

**FACT 8.** Mexican children take a swing at a piñata - a bright papier-mâché shape filled with sweets - and scoop up the Christmas treats that shower down from it.

**FACT 9.** In Great Britain, children traditionally hang stockings - large socks - from their front door for Santa Claus to fill with presents.

**FACT 10.** In Australia, Santa can sometimes be seen surfing the waves on Christmas Day.

