

Did You Know Holiday Fun Facts

Here are some unusual and fun facts about the holiday season. Use these images and text to encourage engagement with your friends, family and VIPs.

Encourage engagement by asking open-ended questions such as "If you were in space, what holiday song would you play?" with post #1.

Do not use the images posted with the document. Download the higher quality items from the Media Center in JEU.

1. "Jingle Bells" was the first song played in space.

The crew of NASA's *Gemini 6A* space flight played "Jingle Bells" on December 16, 1965, making it the first song played in space.



Holiday Trivia

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2. If you received all the gifts in the song "Twelve Days of Christmas" you would receive 364 items!



Holiday Trivia

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3. The Statue of Liberty is officially the largest Christmas present in the world.

It was given to the US by France in 1886. It stands over 150 feet tall and weighs 225 tons.



Holiday Trivia

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4. We know Thomas Edison created the light bulb, but he was also involved with creating the first Christmas lights.

According to the Library of Congress, Edison created the light strand in 1880 and hung it outside his Menlo Park, NJ lab during Christmas. His partner, Johnson, in 1882, became the first to wrap a strand of hand-wired red, white, and blue bulbs around a Christmas tree.

Holiday Trivia

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5. The Christmas Tree in Rockefeller Center is decorated each year with over 25,000 lights!

This is a far cry from the first tree left there in 1931 with no lights or ornaments or decorations. Two years later, the Christmas tree was erected and fully decorated.



Holiday Trivia

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6. An unusual Christmas classic, ***Home Alone*** is the highest-grossing Christmas movie in the US of all time!

This 1990's film launch child star Macaulay Culkin into fame and made this movie an almost-instant classic. It is a seasonal and traditional favorite for families around the world.



Holiday Trivia

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7. Looking for a home-grown tree this year? Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states!

Yes, you can shop local-grown for a tree. However, 98% of American trees today grow on farms, mostly in California, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.



Holiday Trivia

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8. Turkey is for Thanksgiving and believe it or not, spiral-cut ham is the top choice for the Christmas table.



Holiday Trivia

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9. We still love the personal touch. Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.



Holiday Trivia

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10. Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the US until June of 1870.

Alabama was first to recognize it in 1836 and Oklahoma was the last to declare it a holiday in 1907.



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