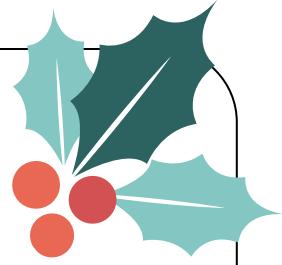


FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTMAS (December 25)



origins: Early celebrations are derived from older (probably pagan) festivals which celebrated the winter solstice.

celebrations: For a lot of people, Christmas is the most beautiful period of the year and it is usually celebrated with family and loved ones. There are many traditions surrounding this holiday. In the weeks before, people decorate their Christmas tree with tinsel and baubles. The fireplace is ornamented with flowers such as holly or poinsettia, and stockings are hung on the mantel of the fireplace for each family member. On Christmas Eve, traditional dishes such as Christmas pudding and the Yule log are served, and lots of eggnog is drunk. People known as carolers visit homes and sing beautiful christmas carols. Santa (or Father Christmas) in the UK brings presents to children early in the morning on Christmas Day, sliding down the chimney and leaving them under the tree. poinsetta = bôžična zvezda / Yule Log: čokoladna torta



St. Patrick's Day (March 17)

origins: Celebrates the life of a Christian Bishop who travelled to Ireland and spread Christianity there.

celebrations: It used to be a very important religious holiday, but nowadays it is primarily celebrated in the United States by people of Irish origin. Parades are organised in many cities across the world. People often wear the colour green and symbols depicting shamrocks, Ireland's national plant and what the aforementioned Bishop used to explain Christianity to the Irish Celts. . People attend parties and hang out with their friends in pubs,
shamrock = 3 peresna deťka

EASTER (_____)



origins: Pagan celebration of the spring equinox, usually linked to fertility.

celebrations: It is Christianity's most important religious holiday. Traditionally, British people decorate Easter eggs and are visited by the Easter bunny. Due to its pagan origins, this animal is often associated with Easter.



Bonfire night (November 5)

origins:

From 1605, when an assassination failed on the king.

celebrations: On the night of November 5, people set off fireworks to serve as a reminder of what could have happened. Large straw are lit in main squares of towns and cities. Children often carry puppets made of straw that look like one of the conspirators, and throw them into the fire during the night.

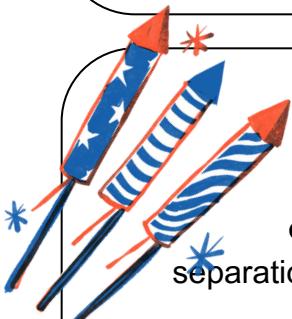
THANKSGIVING (_____)



origins:

An American (US) celebration. The first one was celebrated in 1621.

celebrations: While houses are still decorated, the focus on Thanksgiving is on the _____ when family members usually gather. The traditional dish that is always served is _____, accompanied by foods such as mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, etc. _____ pie is almost always served as dessert. During the meal, it is customary for each family member to say what they are _____ for. Thanksgiving weekend is one of the busiest travel seasons in the US, but it is nothing compared to the day following Thanksgiving. It's called black Friday and is famous for the many deals businesses offer at this time.



Independence Day (July 4th)

origins: Celebrates the passage of a declaration announcing the political separation of the 13 North American colonies from Great Britain (in 1776).

celebrations: