

Seize Missing Traditions

People around the world celebrate Christmas in lots of ways. Families who are poor usually can't afford presents or big meals that feed a lot of people. But sponsored kids go to Christmas parties at their Compassion centers, where they get presents and a special meal!

Here are some fun traditions from countries where sponsors help kids. But each one has a word missing. Can you find out which word from the word bank belongs in each blank space? Answers are on the website if you get stuck.

word bank



calendar



feathers



firecrackers



prizes



shoes



straw



Haiti

Kids wash their shoes, fill them with _____ and put them under the Christmas tree or outside their front doors. They hope that Tonton Nwèl (Santa Claus) will empty their shoes and put presents inside.

Mexico

In the city of Oaxaca, artists carve giant radishes into sculptures — including Nativity scenes! The event is called The Night of the Radishes, or Noche de Rábanos in Spanish. The best radish carvers win _____.

Indonesia

Most Christmas trees in Indonesia are made of plastic. But on the island of Bali, some people make artsy trees using chicken _____ as branches.

Ethiopia

Ethiopians follow a different _____ than the one North Americans use. So they celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7. Presents are not part of most people's traditions. To enjoy the holiday, people spend time with family and friends, and dress in special clothes to go to church.

Brazil

Some families serve Christmas dinner at midnight on Christmas Eve. Kids eat first so they can go to bed and await a visit from Papai Noel (Santa Claus). They leave their _____ out in the open, hoping that Papai Noel will fill them with sweets.

El Salvador

There's no "silent night" in El Salvador during the Christmas season! The streets are filled with people setting off _____ to celebrate.

United States

Fill in your family's traditions: _____

