

CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTHDAY

Join the Sonshine Squad as they share their favorite Christmas traditions. From a **Bûche de Noël** (Yule Log) to colorful **Posadas**, **piñatas**, and **Zuccos**, each country has its own special traditions that remind us of the joy, love, and light Jesus brings to the world. Let's explore, create, and celebrate together: **Joyeux Noël! ¡Feliz Navidad! Buon Natale!**





BRIELLE BUTTERFLY'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT

In France, families celebrate with a delicious Bûche de Noël (Yule Log) cake, beautifully decorated to resemble a real log Let's make our own Yule Log craft to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — shining brightly even in the darkest night!

SUPPLIES

- toilet paper roll
- string or yarn
- brown, red, and yellow construction paper
- black crayon or marker
- scissors
- tape or glue
- glitter

DECORATE YOUR YULE LOG

1. **WRAP IT UP.** Cover the toilet paper roll with brown construction paper, then secure it with glue or tape. This will be your log!
2. **ADD THE BARK.** With a black marker, draw squiggly or wavy lines on the brown paper to resemble tree bark.
3. **MAKE IT GLOW.** Cut small flame shapes from red and yellow paper. Glue them to the top of your log to make it look like flames.
4. **TIE IT TOGETHER.** Tape or glue a short piece of string or yarn to each end of your log.
5. **SPARKLE & SHINE.** Dab a little glue under the flames, then add a little bright, sparkly glitter.



HENRY HEDGEHOG IS A *STERNSINGER*

In Germany, children known as ***Sternsinger*** **(*star singers*)** dress up as the Three Wise Men and walk through their neighborhoods, singing Christmas carols. They carry a bright star on a stick (representing the ***Star of Bethlehem***) to remind everyone that Jesus is the true Star of Christmas — a light that shines for all!

Henry's very favorite part is asking Jesus to bless each person in every home as they walk and sing, following the ***Star of Bethlehem***.

Visit **chronic-joy.org** for more resources.

Chronic Joy



LAS POSADAS & PIÑATAS

In Mexico, Christmas is filled with music, color, and JOY! One of Quiel Quetzal's favorite Christmas traditions is *Las Posadas*, a nine-day celebration commemorating Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Each evening, Quiel, his family, and his friends travel from house to house, singing Christmas carols and asking for a *posada* (a place to stay). On the final night, they are welcomed inside, and the celebration begins!



One of Quiel's favorite parts is the colorful, star-shaped *Las Posada* piñata! Quiel, his cousins, and his friends take turns wearing blindfolds and trying to break the piñata with a stick. *WHACK! WHACK! CRACK!* Suddenly, candy, fruit, and little surprises tumble out! Everyone cheers as they gather the goodies. These sweet treats remind them of God's wonderful gifts, kindness, and love!



FENDI FOX CAN'T WAIT FOR THE BIG ZUCCO!

One of Fendi Fox's favorite Christmas traditions in Sicily, Italy, is the *Zucco*, a BIG bonfire lit on Christmas Eve! Fendi also loves the *presepi viventi*, where people from his village dress up and reenact the story of Jesus' birth. In the village square, a beautiful, hand-carved nativity scene also tells the Christmas story. It's more than 100 years old!



Every Christmas, Fendi's family gathers to bake yummy food, laugh, and celebrate God's love. Fendi knows that Christmas joy grows when we share it! This Christmas, let's fill our hearts with thankfulness and spread kindness wherever we go!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION?

Write or draw the special way *your family* celebrates Christmas.

No matter where we live or how we celebrate, the heart of Christmas remains the same—***God's love shining brightly in Jesus!***

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for the joy of Christmas and for the many ways people around the world celebrate Your birth. Help us share Your love and kindness wherever we go. Fill our hearts with wonder, our homes with peace, and our words with joy. Amen.

chronic-joy.org/children

Chronic Joy