Приложение к слайдам презентации.

Christmas in Britain .

1. History of Christmas Festival

Christmas is the main public holiday in Britain. This Christian Holy day is held on the 25th of December in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ.   
 People usually spend time with their families. They often see it as a time of merry-making and present – giving, wishing each other a merry Christmas and happy new year.

On Christmas Eve some people go to a special church service called Midnight Mass at 12 o’clock at night.  
2. The Christmas Tree

People put presents under Christmas trees decorated with coloured balls, fairy lights, tinsel and baubles. The Christmas Tree became popular in England in 1841 when Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert brought a Christmas tree from his native Germany and put it Windsor Castle . Every year people of Norway send aChristmas Tree to London. It stands in Trafalgar Square, in front of the National Gallery and is beautifully decorated.

3. Mistletoe, Holly

Along with a tree, evergreens: holly and misteltoe, are used to decorate the house at Christmas. Holly, with its dark green spiky leaves and red berries, was also believed to have magical powers and the ability to drive demons away. Mistletoe is believed to cure diseases, protect the house from ghosts and bring good luck.

4.Carols

At Christmas time groups of people sing carols both indoors or outdoors. A Carol is a religious song. They sing it to collect money for poor and homeless people. Some carols , for example “Silent Night” is very well-known.

5. Christmas Stocking Santa Claus

'Father Christmas' (or 'Santa Claus') has become the human face of Christmas. He is an old man wearing a red coat, with a long white beard and a bag of toys. People think of him as a happy man, who says “Ho, ho, ho’

He lives near the North Pole, where he spends most of the year in his workshop making toys for children with the help of elves. On Christmas Eve he piles all of the toys onto his sleigh and rides across the sky with his 9 reindeer .The most famous one is Rudolf.

Night time on Christmas Eve is a very exciting time for young children. It is the time when Santa or Father Christmas comes. Children put stockings at the end of their bed or by the chimney or hang it by the fireplace. They say that Santa comes into houses down the chimney at midnight and fills the stockings with presents. Traditionally on Christmas Eve mince pies and sherry (or milk) are left out for Santa and nowadays carrots are left for his reindeer.

6.Yule log

Yule is an old word for the winter festival dating back in Celtic Times. It is traditional to light a special “Yule log “ on Christmas Eve and keep it burning through the 12 nights of Christmas. For Christians the Yule log is symbolic because it gives warmth for infant Christ.

7. Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards are a part of Christmas celebrations. The tradition of sending Christmas cards appeared in 1846. People send them to congratulate their relatives and friends. The cards often show pictures of the birth of Christ, Santa Claus, Christmas Tree, Robin a bird with red breast or the scenes of old-fashioned CHRISTMAS. In the middle of the 19th century the Post Office dressed its postman in bright red coats. People called them “robin postmen” and almost all the early cards showed a robin.

*8. Christmas dinner*

The traditional meal consists of turkey served with potatoes and vegetables. This is usually followed by Christmas pudding. If the pudding is made at home, Some people like to hide a coin in the Christmas pudding and make a wish, whoever gets the piece of pudding with the coin in on Christmas day is especially lucky and their "pudding wish" will come true! Other traditional food include mince pies and Christmas cake.

*9. Boxing Day*

In England Boxing Day celebrated on December 26th, is traditionally a time to give presents to tradesmen, servants, and friends.

In the UK Boxing Day is still a public holiday, some shops and supermarkets open nowadays, but banks and most offices remain closed.