



Fascinating Christmas Facts

We often think we know a lot about Christmas but how much do we actually know? Read on to learn some interesting facts about Christmas traditions.

The Queen's Speech

The Royal Christmas Message, which is also known as The Queen's Speech, is a familiar part of Christmas Day for many people.

In 1922, King George V was asked if he would broadcast a Christmas message on the BBC's new radio service. The King refused as he felt the radio was just for entertainment. In 1932, the King was asked again and this time he accepted. His wife Queen Mary, and the Prime Minister encouraged the King, saying it was a good way to be heard by people all over the world.



Did You Know...?

The Royal Message delivered in 1932 was written by author Rudyard Kipling, who wrote *The Jungle Book*.

George VI continued reading the Royal Christmas Message when he became King. By 1957, it was broadcast on television as well as on the radio.

The message looks back over the past year and includes a personal comment from the king or queen at the time.

Queen Elizabeth II has read the Royal Christmas Message since she was crowned in 1953.

Christmas Number Ones

The singles pop music charts have been around since 1952, with Al Martino getting to number one with his song 'Here in My Heart' in that year.



The Beatles achieved Christmas number one three years in a row during the 1960s and St. Winifred's School Choir got to number one singing about their grandma in 1980!

Cliff Richard has had four number ones on Christmas Day. In 1962, he was overtaken by Elvis Presley's popular song 'Return to Sender'.



Did You Know...?

Only six Christmas number ones actually have the word 'Christmas' in the title. This doesn't include Slade's song, 'Merry Xmas Everybody' from 1973.

'X Factor' winners were often number one for Christmas but charity choirs have been successful in recent years. In 2015, the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS choir sang 'A Bridge Over You' which kept Justin Bieber from being number one. All of the profits made from the NHS choir's single were given to a few different charities. Justin Bieber tweeted, "Just heard the news. Amazing. That is what

Christmas is all about! Very cool!"

White Christmas

Bing Crosby's 'White Christmas' is the highest-earning Christmas song of all time. Written by Irving Berlin, it has sold more than 100 million copies worldwide since Bing Crosby sang it in 1942.

Questions

1. When was King George V first asked to read the Royal Christmas Message? Tick one.

- 1932
 1902
 1922

2. Why did the King initially refuse to read the message?

- He didn't like Christmas.
 He thought that it was too early.
 He thought that radio was only for entertainment.

3. Find and copy one word which means to persuade someone to do something.

4. What does the king or queen say in their Royal Christmas Message?

5. Who wrote the 1932 Royal Christmas Message? Tick one.

- King George V
 The Queen
 Rudyard Kipling

6. Who has read the Royal Christmas Message since 1953?

7. Tick true or false for the following statements.

	True	False
The Beatles had four Christmas number ones in a row.		
Al Martino reached number one with 'Here in My Heart'.		
Elvis Presley had a Christmas number one in 1962.		
St. Winifred's School Choir sang about their grandad.		