How to play

1 · Quiz night in four rounds

Teams of two to four. The quiz master reads ten questions from one category, teams write answers, then swap sheets and mark while the key is read out. Four rounds, forty questions, about an hour. One point each; a tie-break is the nearest guess to "how many bells ring in Japan?" (108).

2 · Pass the card

Shuffle the cards face down in the middle of the table. Each player draws one and reads it to the player on their left. A right answer keeps the card; a wrong one goes to the bottom of the pile. First to seven cards wins. Good for dinner tables and car journeys.

3 · Categories race

Sort the cards into four piles. Teams choose a category each turn; a correct answer earns the right to choose the next category, a wrong one passes the choice to the other team. First team to collect three cards from every category wins.

4 · Stocking stuffer

Slip a card into each cracker, place setting or advent pocket. Whoever answers correctly at the table wins the right to open the next gift, pick the film or skip the washing up.

Quiz master notes

- Cards carry no answers: keep the key pages to yourself.
- Accept equivalent wording: "Grandfather Frost" is as good as "Ded Moroz". Where a question has a famous alternative answer, the key says so.
- Difficulty is mixed inside each category, so a weak round for one team evens out.
- Printing: cards on plain paper or light cardstock, cut on the dashed lines; the key and score sheet on plain paper.

Question cards 001–008

NO. 001 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In which country did decorating a Christmas tree indoors become a custom, in the 1500s?

NO. 002 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

What plant do people traditionally kiss under?

NO. 003 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

What is the ring of evergreen branches hung on a front door called?

NO. 004 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

On which December date is St. Nicholas Day celebrated in much of Europe?

NO. 005 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

What do Dutch children put out for Sinterklaas instead of a stocking?

NO. 006 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In which country were Christmas crackers invented, in the 1840s?

NO. 007 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Besides a joke and a small toy, what is found inside a Christmas cracker?

NO. 008 CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

How many days of Christmas are counted in the famous carol?