



We often think that we know a lot about Christmas but do we really?  
Read on to learn some fun facts about some Christmas traditions.

### **The Royal Christmas Message**

The Royal Christmas Message is broadcast across the United Kingdom and is an important part of Christmas Day for many people. Queen Elizabeth II delivered 67 messages during her long reign, the first of which was transmitted in 1952. The year 2022 saw His Majesty the King Charles III follow in his mother's footsteps with his first Christmas address.

Queen Elizabeth II became Queen following the death of her father in 1952 and read her first Christmas message that same year.

In 1932, King George V read the first King's Speech on the BBC radio. It was thought to be a good way for the world to hear the King.



His son, King George VI (Queen Elizabeth II's father) continued reading the Royal Christmas Message when he became King and by 1957 it was on television as well as being on the radio.

## Fascinating Christmas Facts

### Christmas Number Ones

The very first pop music single to be at number one on Christmas Day was Al Martino's song 'Here in My Heart' in 1952.

The Beatles reached Christmas number one three years in a row during the 1960s and St Winifred's School Choir got to number one singing 'There's No One Quite Like Grandma' in 1980.

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

In 2015, the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS choir sang 'A Bridge Over You' which stopped Justin Bieber from being number one with 'Love Yourself'. All of the profits made from the NHS choir's single were given to charity. Justin Bieber posted on social media, "Just heard the news. Amazing. That is what Christmas is all about! Very cool!"

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 since Bing Crosby sang it in 1942.



# Questions

1. When is The Royal Christmas Message read? Tick one.

- ☐ Christmas Eve
- ☐ Christmas Day
- ☐ Boxing Day
- ☐ New Year's Day

2. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that the Christmas message is special for some people.

*The Royal Christmas Message is broadcast across the United Kingdom and is an important part of Christmas Day for many people.*

3. Draw **four** lines and match each date to the event that happened.

1980 •	• Elvis Presley was at number one for Christmas.
1952 •	• St Winifred's School Choir were at number one for Christmas.
1962 •	• Al Martino was at number one for Christmas.
2015 •	• The Lewisham and Greenwich NHS choir sang 'A Bridge Over You'.

4. What happened to the Royal Christmas Message in 1957? Tick one.

- ☐ The speech was just on the television.
- ☐ The speech was on both the television and the radio.
- ☐ No one read the speech that year.
- ☐ The speech was moved.

5. Why did King George V read the King's Speech on the BBC radio?

---



## Fascinating Christmas Facts

6. Look at the section called **Christmas Number Ones**.

Find and copy one word that has a similar meaning to 'defeated'.

---

7. Why do you think that Justin Bieber said that it was amazing when he was stopped from being number one?

---

---

---