

2022湖南高三下学期人教版高中英语高考模拟

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The spirit of Christmas isn't always so cheerful. Here are four unusual and a little scary Christmas traditions from around the world.

1. Guatemala: Burning devils

In order to make houses free from bad spirits for the New Year, Guatemalans do a full house clean in December. The dirt and dust is gathered from every home and each neighborhood creates a large amount of garbage. A devil statue is built and placed on top of the dirt, and burned. The bad luck is said to burn up with the devil.

2. South Africa: Don't eat Santa's cookies

To keep kids from stealing on Santa's cookies, parents tell children a story about a boy named Danny who ate all of Santa's cookies and really angered his grandmother. She killed him and now his ghosts visits houses during Christmas time.

3. Iceland: Fear the Yule Cat

Children who don't receive new clothes by Christmas Eve will be eaten by the Yule Cat, a large and angry cat, which is said to hide in the snow. The strange tradition comes from farmers who used the myth to encourage their workers to finish making the autumn wool before Christmas.

4. Ukraine: A spooky tree

If you find yourself in Ukraine around the holidays, you may be wondering: Is it Christmas or Halloween? Trees here are decorated with artificial(人工的) spider webs and decorative spiders. The unusual tradition comes from a story where a spider wove a web around the tree of a poor family. When morning came, the white strands(线) turned to precious metals and the family became rich. The webs today show good fortune for the next year.

21. To celebrate the New Year, what will people do in Guatemala?

- A. Clean their houses
- B. Show their respects to the devil statue
- C. Buy a devil statue
- D. Move to new houses

22. Which country has a tradition that might cause kids' fear of eating Santa's cookies?

- A. Guatemala
- B. South Africa
- C. Iceland
- D. Ukraine

23. What can we infer about Christmas in Iceland?

- A. The Yule Cat usually hides in the grass before Christmas