

# LA NAVIDAD

## Christmas in Spanish Speaking Countries

Christmas in Spanish speaking countries is called “Navidad”. To understand their traditions on this special holiday, you must remember that about 80% of the population in the Spanish speaking countries is catholic.

La Navidad in Hispanic countries is a holiday that revolves around the birth of “El Niño Dios” (baby Jesus) and the events that led up to his birth. Therefore, the Spanish speaking countries celebrate La Navidad in a similar way, but each has its own unique and peculiar traditions.

The purpose of this project is to explore, learn and understand some of these unique ways of celebrating Christmas.

### **These are your Tasks:**

**1. Find the meaning of the following Spanish words:**

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| - pesebre       | - El Niño Dios    |
| - pastor(es)    | - La Virgen María |
| - estrella      | - San José        |
| - oveja(s)      | - novena          |
| - vaca(s)       | - villancicos     |
| - burro(s)      | - regalos         |
| - reyes magos   | - velas (velitas) |
| - Feliz Navidad | - familia         |

**2. Read about the La Navidad in the following countries**

**a. Colombia:**

<http://www.hispanic-culture-online.com/christmas-in-colombia.html>

**b. México:**

<http://www.hispanic-culture-online.com/christmas-in-mexico.html>

**c. Cuba:**

<http://www.hispanic-culture-online.com/christmas-in-cuba.html>

- d. España: <http://www.californiamall.com/holidaytraditions/traditions-spain.htm>
3. After reading about La Navidad in the countries mentioned above, answer the following questions:
- What are the similarities amongst the Christmas celebrations? What elements are common in all of them?
  - What are the major differences?
  - What are the different names given to the “Nativity Scene”?
  - What is “Noche Buena”? What is “Dia de las Velitas”? What is “Las Posadas” What is “La Misa de Gallo” and Why is it called that way? What are the “piñatas” used for?
4. A trabajar!: as a class, design and make a **pesebre** for the Spanish classroom. Make sure to include all the important “characters”. Label all parts with the Spanish names. Below are some examples of pesebres...

