

# Christmas in Mexico

Look at where Mexico is!



Look at the flag of Mexico. What colors do you see?



The most common language in Mexico is Spanish. “Merry Christmas” in Spanish is “Feliz Navidad.”

## **How do they celebrate Christmas in Mexico?**

Christmas in Mexico is celebrated from December 12 to January 6. The Mexican celebration of Christmas is called *las posadas* and begins on December 16. Families begin the nine-day observance of *las posadas* by reenacting Mary and Joseph's nine-day journey to Bethlehem in search of shelter in a posada, or inn. For the first eight evenings of the *las posadas*, two costumed children carry statues of Mary and Joseph as they lead a procession of family members, neighbors, and friends from house to house. They sing a song asking for shelter for weary travelers. Eventually, they are told that there is room and are welcomed in. The children go into the house and say their prayers of thanks. Then, they have a party with food, games, and fireworks.



## The Poinsettia and Christmas in Mexico



The poinsettia, also known as the Christmas star and Christmas flower, has become a symbol of Christmas. This winter flower's association with Christmas comes from a Mexican legend. The story goes that a small child, wanting to bring a gift to the Christ Child on Christmas Eve and with no means to a grander gift, gathered weeds from the side of the road to place in the Christ Child's manger at a church. The congregation witnessed a miracle as the weeds turned into brilliant red and green flowers. The Mexican people view the poinsettia as a symbol of the Holy Star of Bethlehem--the star that led the Three Wise Men to Jesus in Bethlehem. The tiny bright yellow flowers in the center are encompassed with bright red leaves that resemble stars.

# Make a Poinsettia!

Print the leaves and petals on the following pages and assemble a poinsettia flower as shown.





