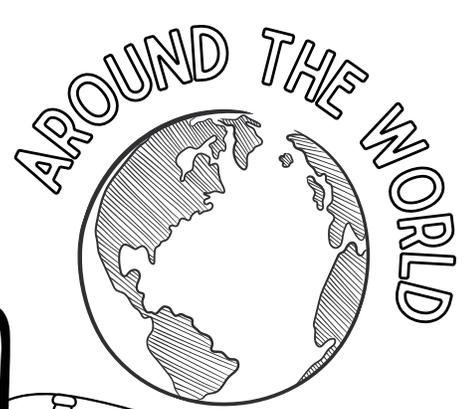


# CHRISTMAS



IN LEBANON, NATIVITIES ARE MORE COMMON THAN CHRISTMAS TREES. THEY ARE CALLED "CRIBS" AND ARE OFTEN DECORATED WITH DIFFERENT SPROUTED SEEDS SUCH AS CHICKPEAS, BROAD-BEANS, LENTILS, OATS, AND WHEAT THAT HAVE BEEN GROWN ON DAMP COTTON WOOL.



CHRISTMAS IS NOT CELEBRATED EVERYWHERE. THERE ARE MANY PLACES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE IT IS DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL TO WORSHIP JESUS. IN THESE PLACES, BELIEVERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS. AS YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, REMEMBER THOSE AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CELEBRATE AND PRAY THAT THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND PROTECTED.



IN CHINA, IT'S COMMON TO HAND OUT APPLES ON CHRISTMAS EVE. IN CHINESE, CHRISTMAS EVE MEANS "PEACEFUL NIGHT," AND THE WORD FOR APPLE IN MANDARIN IS "PÍNGGUǒ" (苹果) WHICH SOUNDS LIKE THE WORD FOR PEACE.



*Germany is the gingerbread capital of the world!*



IN MEXICO, A COMMON TRADITION IS TO PLACE "FAROLITOS" OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME TO REPRESENT 'LIGHTING THE WAY' FOR MARY AND JOSEPH TO FIND SOMEWHERE TO STAY.

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN "FAROLITO" BY CUTTING SHAPES OUT OF A PAPER SACK AND PLACING A CANDLE INSIDE. AS YOU PLACE IT OUTSIDE YOUR HOME, THINK ABOUT HOW MARY AND JOSEPH MIGHT HAVE FELT AS THEY LOOKED FOR A PLACE TO STAY. DO YOU THINK THEY WERE AFRAID OR WORRIED? TAKE TIME TO THANK GOD FOR GIVING YOU A PLACE TO STAY, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR GIVING US THE GIFT OF HIS SON, JESUS!



# 25 DAYS OF Christmas KINDNESS.

