SNOWMAN MAZE!! *******

## CHLEbRATIONS <br> IN <br> DECEMBER


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## CELEBRATIONS

## Hanukkah - November 29December 6

Known as the "Festival of Lights", it is a Jewish holiday. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights. Families say prayers and then light candles in an eight-branched candelabra called a menorah. Most families also serve special holiday foods, sing songs, play games, and give gifts including Hanukkah gelt (chocolate coins).

## Bodhi Day - December 8

This is the Day of Enlightenment celebrating the day that the historical Buddha experienced enlightenment, while sitting under a tree. This date is celebrated by Buddhists across much of south-east Asia, including India, China, and Vietnam.

## Aboriginal Spirituality - MidDecember

The Elder's hair holds and shields the elderly people who share the teachings, the beliefs, the history, and the culture with the children who are gathered in the warmth of the firelight. (Coast Salish)

## Jainism - December 14

Maunajiyaras is a day of fasting, silence, and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants (Jinas, enlightened masters), and Siddhas (liberated souls).

## Yule - December

Yule, which marks the New Year in the AngloSaxon and northern traditions of Wicca (type of Paganism), is the celebration of the birth of the God as the Winter-born King, symbolized by the rebirth of the life-generating and lifesustaining sun. It is a time for ritually shedding the impurities of the past year, and for contemplating avenues of spiritual development in the year ahead.

## Shinto - December 21

Tohji-taisai, the Grand Ceremony of the Winter Solstice, celebrates the joy of the ending of the yin period of the sun, when it declines in strength, and the beginning of its growing power or yang period. The sun is of central importance in Japan, expressing the presence of Amaterasu Omikami, the Kami of the Sun.

## HumanLight - December 23

A humanist holiday, HumanLight: it is designed to celebrate and express the positive human values of reason, compassion, humanity and hope.

## Christmas - December 25

Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. It is also a cultural holiday that is celebrated in different ways in many countries around the world. Some families celebrate Christmas on Christmas Day, while other families celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve (December 24). Some families like to decorate their homes with Christmas lights and put up a Christmas tree. Some children like to write a letter to Santa. Some families like to decorate gingerbread houses.

## Boxing Day - December 26

Originating in the UK, Boxing Day is the day after Christmas Day. It started as a day to give gratitude for services rendered. In Britain, it was a custom for tradespeople to collect "Christmas boxes" of money or presents on the first weekday after Christmas as thanks for good service throughout the year.

## Kwanzaa- December 26, 2021 January 1, 2022

Kwanzaa is celebrated by many North Americans of West African descent in recognition of their African heritage. The candles of a seven-branched candelabrum representing attributes such as unity, selfdetermination, responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith, are successively lit over the seven days of the festival.

## Hogmanay - December 31

The Scots word for the last day of the year is synonymous with the celebration of New Year. Hogmanay's origins go back to the celebration of the winter solstice among the Vikings with parties in late December. It normally lasts three days.

## New Year's Eve - December 31

The last day of the Gregorian year is celebrated in the evening with social gatherings and festivities that go past midnight into New Year's Day, January 1.


