Christmas
Facts

1.   **Christmas Tree Origins**: The tradition of decorating Christmas trees originated in 16th-century Germany. It became popular in the United States in the 19th century.
2. **Jingle Bells Mystery**: "Jingle Bells" was originally written for Thanksgiving, not Christmas. It was composed by James Lord Pierpont in 1857 for a children's Thanksgiving program.
3. **The Real St. Nicholas**: The modern image of Santa Claus is based on the Dutch legend of Sinterklaas, who was inspired by the historical figure Saint Nicholas, a generous bishop known for gift-giving.
4.   **Christmas Cards Beginnings**: The first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned in London in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, a civil servant who was too busy to write individual holiday greetings.
5. **The Poinsettia Legend**: The poinsettia is named after Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who introduced the plant to the U.S. in the early 19th century.

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1.   **Candy Canes' Symbolism**: The original candy cane was created in 1670 by a German choirmaster to keep children quiet during Christmas services. The shape represents a shepherd's crook.

2. **Rudolph's Late Entry**: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created by Robert L. May in 1939 for a promotional Christmas giveaway by Montgomery Ward.

3. **The First Nativity Scene**: St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 in Italy. He wanted to emphasize the true meaning of Christmas.

4.   **Christmas Stocking Tradition**: The tradition of hanging stockings by the fireplace comes from the legend of Saint Nicholas, who is said to have thrown gold coins down a chimney to help three sisters.

5.   **Christmas Day Origins**: December 25th was not widely celebrated as the day of Jesus' birth until the 4th century when Pope Julius I officially declared it as such.

CHRISTMAS EVERYDAY CLUB

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