



# MEXICO Christmas



In Mexico, the coming of the Christmas season is announced by the blooming of the Flor de Nochebuena (poinsettia). According to legend, a poor peasant girl was going to church on Noche Buena (Christmas Eve). She was very sad because she didn't have a gift to present to baby Jesus, so she gathered a few weeds on her way. When she laid them in the manger, they turned a bright red. The main focus of Christmas in Mexico is Las Posadas. The Las Posadas are nine fiestas that represent Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage to Bethlehem. On the final night, Mary and Joseph reach their final destination. A big party begins. Delicious food, such as tamales, bunuelos (tortillas sprinkled with cinnamon sugar), churros, and hot chocolate, are served and a big pinata filled with candy and small gifts is broken by the children.

## MEXICAN HOLIDAY STORIES

- The Miracle of the First Poinsettia by Joanne Oppenheim
- T'was Nochebuena by Roseanne Greenfield
- [The Legend of the Poinsettia retold by Tomie dePaola](#)

## MUSIC FELIZ NAVIDAD

## RECIPE

### VEGETABLE TAMALES

## CRAFT

### PAPER TUBE POINSETTIA

