

# Boxing Day



The day after Christmas, December 26, is the holiday known as Boxing Day, but the name does not come from the sport of boxing. There are interesting stories about the history of the holiday. Some people think Boxing Day began in England early in the 10th century. An English king went outside on the day after Christmas and saw a poor man. The kind king gave the man food and money. After that, rich people began to give gifts to poor people and workers on December 26. They often put food from their Christmas dinner and some money into boxes. The name Boxing Day was given because people put the gifts in boxes.

In the United States, volunteer groups give food, money, clothing and other things to poor people on Christmas Day, but people there do not celebrate Boxing Day. However, it is still celebrated in countries such as England, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Most people in those countries like Boxing Day because they can have another holiday after Christmas Day. They can enjoy leftover Christmas food and watch sports on TV. In Canada, most people do not have to work on Boxing Day. They often go shopping because stores have special sales. Some stores open very early in the morning on that day. People stand in front of the stores while it is still dark outside and wait until they open. There are also many sports events, such as hockey games. In England, soccer games and horse races are very popular on Boxing Day.

1. Where do some people think Boxing Day started?
  - a. In Canada
  - b. In the United States
  - c. In England
  - d. In France

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2. What did people often give to poor people and workers on December 26 a long time ago?

- a. TVs
- b. Tickets to sports events
- c. New clothes
- d. Food and money

3. Why do people today like Boxing Day in countries such as England, Australia, New Zealand and Canada?

- a. They can sell things to other people.
- b. They can get money from their friends.
- c. They can have another holiday after Christmas Day.
- d. They can learn to play different sports.

4. What do many people in Canada do on Boxing Day now?

- a. They shop for special sales.
- b. They play soccer games.
- c. They ride horses.
- d. They go to work.

5. What is this story about?

- a. A special food in England.
- b. A very kind king from Canada.
- c. A new American sport.
- d. A holiday with an interesting story.