

V8.1 – The Big Bang Theory: Why Sheldon does not celebrate Christmas

Part 1 – Topic Speaking: Holidays

Directions: Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. What holidays are celebrated in Korea?
2. What is your favorite holiday to celebrate?
3. Have you ever experienced a different holiday while in another country?
4. Do you find holidays relaxing or stressful?
5. Discuss what you did during your last holiday?
6. Discuss what you will do during the next holiday?
7. What are some unique holidays or festivals around the world that you have heard of?
8. What is your best memory from a holiday when you were a child?
9. What are popular tourist destinations during Korean holidays?
10. What are some of the traditions associated with each holiday? Gifts, food, activities, etc.

Part 2A - Vocabulary Review:

Directions: Discuss the meaning with a partner. Next, review as a class.

| Vocabulary | * | Definition or Translation |
|-----------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1. celebrate | 2 | |
| 2. ancient | 2 | |
| 3. gather round | 4 | |
| 4. era | 5 | |
| 5. approached | 5 | |
| 6. intended | 5 | |
| 7. guard | 5 | |
| 8. generous | 13 | |
| 9. reciprocity | 13 | |
| 10. obligation | 13 | |

*NOTE: the number indicates where the vocabulary is located in the script.

Part 2B - Vocabulary Speaking:

Directions: Choose 5 vocabulary words and create a question. Next, discuss your questions with a partner.

| Word | Question |
|-----------|---|
| Ex: tough | What is the <i>toughest</i> course you have ever taken? |
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |

Part 3 – Script & Video

Directions: Complete Back2Back Reading (see Script below), then watch the video.

Part 4 - Comprehension Questions:

Directions: Discuss with a partner then review as a class.

1. Why does Sheldon not celebrate Christmas?

2. Why did pagans bring evergreen boughs into their homes?

3. What did Penny get for Leonard and Sheldon?

4. What did Sheldon believe that the foundation of gift-giving is?

5. What did Sheldon do to Howard during Hanukkah?

6. Why did Sheldon refuse to believe that he does not have to give anything to Penny?

7. Why did Penny say sorry?

8. What does Sheldon need from Howard?

Part 5 – Writing:

Directions: In 2 to 3 sentences, write your opinion about the video.

A – Back2Back Reading

Directions: Read 'odd' numbers +
Listen & fill in 'even' numbers



The Big Bang Theory - Why does Sheldon not celebrate Christmas

1. **Penny:** Hey, Sheldon, are you and Leonard putting up a Christmas tree?
2. **Sheldon:** No, because we don't _____ the _____ pagan festival of Saturnalia.
3. **Penny:** Saturnalia?
4. **Howard:** _____, kids, it's time for Sheldon's beloved Christmas special.
5. **Sheldon:** In the pre-Christian era, as the winter solstice approached and the plants died, pagans brought evergreen boughs into their homes as an act of sympathetic magic, intended to guard the life essences of the plants until spring. This custom was later appropriated by Northern Europeans and eventually it becomes the so-called Christmas tree.
6. **Howard:** And that, Charlie Brown, is what _____ is all about.
7. **Penny:** Okay, well, thank you for that, but I got you and Leonard a few silly neighbor gifts, so I'll just put them under my tree.
9. **Sheldon:** Wait! You bought me a present?
10. **Penny:** Uh-huh.
11. **Sheldon:** Why would you do such a thing?
12. **Penny:** I don't know. 'Cause _____ Christmas?

13. **Sheldon:** Oh, Penny. I know you think you're being generous, but the foundation of gift-giving is reciprocity. You haven't given me a gift, you've given me an obligation.
14. **Howard:** Don't feel bad, Penny, it's a _____.
My first Hanukkah with Sheldon, he _____ at me for eight nights.
15. **Penny:** Now, honey, it's okay. You don't have to get me anything in return.
16. **Sheldon:** Of course I do. The _____ of the custom is that I now have to go out and _____ for you a gift of _____ and representing the same _____ level of friendship as that represented by the gift you've given me. _____ suicide rates skyrocket this time of year.
17. **Penny:** Okay, you know what? Forget it. I'm not giving you a present.
18. **Sheldon:** No, it's too late. I see it. That elf _____ says 'To Sheldon'. The die has been _____, the moving finger has _____, Hannibal has crossed the Alps.
19. **Howard:** I know. It's funny when it's not happening to us.
20. **Penny:** Sheldon, I am very, very sorry.
21. **Sheldon:** No. No, I brought this on myself by being such an endearing and important part of your life. I'm going to need a ride to the mall.
22. **Howard:** It's _____ to us.

B – Back2Back Reading

Directions: Read 'even' numbers +
Listen & fill in 'odd' numbers



The Big Bang Theory - Why does Sheldon not celebrate Christmas

1. **Penny:** Hey, Sheldon, are you and Leonard _____ up a Christmas tree?
2. **Sheldon:** No, because we don't celebrate the ancient pagan festival of Saturnalia.
3. **Penny:** Saturnalia?
4. **Howard:** Gather round, kids, it's time for Sheldon's beloved Christmas special.
5. **Sheldon:** In the pre-Christian era, as the winter solstice _____ and the plants died, pagans brought evergreen boughs into their homes as an act of _____ magic, _____ guard the life essences of the plants until spring. This custom was later _____ by Northern Europeans and eventually it becomes the _____ Christmas tree.
6. **Howard:** And that, Charlie Brown, is what boredom is all about.
7. **Penny:** Okay, well, thank you for that, but I got you and Leonard a few silly _____ gifts, so I'll just put them under my tree.
9. **Sheldon:** Wait! You _____ me a present?
10. **Penny:** Uh-huh.
11. **Sheldon:** Why would you do such a _____?
12. **Penny:** I don't know. 'Cause it's Christmas?

13. **Sheldon:** Oh, Penny. I know you think you're being _____, but the _____ of gift-giving is _____. You haven't given me a gift, you've given me an _____.
14. **Howard:** Don't feel bad, Penny, it's a classic rookie mistake. My first Hanukkah with Sheldon, he yelled at me for eight nights.
15. **Penny:** Now, honey, it's okay. You don't have to get me anything _____.
16. **Sheldon:** Of course I do. The essence of the custom is that I now have to go out and purchase for you a gift of commensurate value and representing the same perceived level of friendship as that represented by the gift you've given me. It's no wonder suicide rates skyrocket this time of year.
17. **Penny:** Okay, you know what? _____ it. I'm not giving you a present.
18. **Sheldon:** No, it's too late. I see it. That elf sticker says 'To Sheldon'. The die has been cast, the moving finger has writ, Hannibal has crossed the Alps.
19. **Howard:** I know. It's _____ when it's not _____ to us.
20. **Penny:** Sheldon, I am very, very sorry.
21. **Sheldon:** No. No, I _____ this on myself by being such an _____ and important part of your life. I'm going to _____ _____ to the mall.
22. **Howard:** It's happening to us.

V8.1 - ANSWER KEY



The Big Bang Theory - Why Sheldon does not celebrate Christmas

1. **Penny:** Hey, Sheldon, are you and Leonard putting up a Christmas tree?
2. **Sheldon:** No, because we don't celebrate the ancient pagan festival of Saturnalia.
3. **Penny:** Saturnalia?
4. **Howard:** Gather round, kids, it's time for Sheldon's beloved Christmas special.
5. **Sheldon:** In the pre-Christian era, as the winter solstice approached and the plants died, pagans brought evergreen boughs into their homes as an act of sympathetic magic, intended to guard the life essences of the plants until spring. This custom was later appropriated by Northern Europeans and eventually it becomes the so-called Christmas tree.
6. **Howard:** And that, Charlie Brown, is what boredom is all about.
7. **Penny:** Okay, well, thank you for that, but I got you and Leonard a few silly neighbor gifts, so I'll just put them under my tree.
9. **Sheldon:** Wait! You bought me a present?
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13. **Sheldon:** Oh, Penny. I know you think you're being generous, but the foundation of gift-giving is reciprocity. You haven't given me a gift, you've given me an obligation.
14. **Howard:** Don't feel bad, Penny, it's a classic rookie mistake. My first Hanukkah with Sheldon, he yelled at me for eight nights.
15. **Penny:** Now, honey, it's okay. You don't have to get me anything in return.
16. **Sheldon:** Of course I do. The essence of the custom is that I now have to go out and purchase for you a gift of commensurate value and representing the same perceived level of friendship as that represented by the gift you've given me. It's no wonder suicide rates skyrocket this time of year.
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20. **Penny:** Sheldon, I am very, very sorry.
21. **Sheldon:** No. No, I brought this on myself by being such an endearing and important part of your life. I'm going to need a ride to the mall.
22. **Howard:** It's happening to us.

Part 4 - Comprehension Questions & Answer

| QUESTIONS & ANSWERS | |
|---|--|
| 1. Why does Sheldon not celebrate Christmas? (line 1-2) | Sheldon does not celebrate Christmas because it is an ancient pagan festival of Saturnalia. He doesn't believe in religious holidays. |
| 2. Why did pagans bring evergreen boughs into their homes? (line 1-5) | The pagans brought evergreen boughs into their homes as an act of sympathetic magic, intended to guard the life essences of the plants. (to keep the plants spirit alive over the winter months) |
| 3. What did Penny get for Leonard and Sheldon? (line 7-10) | Penny got Leonard and Sheldon a few silly neighbor gifts. |
| 4. What does Sheldon believe that the foundation of gift-giving is? (line 9-13) | Sheldon believes that the foundation of gift-giving is reciprocity. |
| 5. What did Sheldon do to Howard during Hanukkah? (line 13-15) | Sheldon yelled at Howard for 8 nights during Hanukkah. |
| 6. Why did Sheldon refuse to believe that he does not have to give anything to Penny? (line 15-16) | Sheldon refused to believe that he does not have to give anything to Penny because gift giving requires reciprocity. If Penny gives him a gift, he must give Penny a gift. |
| 7. Why did Penny say sorry? (line 17-21) | Penny feels sorry because she decided to give gifts for the event he does not celebrate. |
| 8. What does Sheldon need from Howard? (line 21-22) | Sheldon needs a ride to the mall from Howard. |