December: The Month of Holidays

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IN December, many different holidays and special events are celebrated. From December 16th to the 24th this year, the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, is celebrated. This holiday is eight days and eights nights long and the dates change each year. It includes events such as lighting a nine or eight branched menorah where one candle is lit each night of Hanukkah. Also, during this time, people play dreidel and eat oil based foods. Hanukkah celebrates a victory of the Jews over Greek Syrians. Another special day, which is not necessarily a holiday, is the winter solstice on December 21. This day marks the first day of winter and is the shortest day of the year. Possibly the most widely known holiday in December is Christmas. Christmas is celebrated every December 25th coming after Christmas Eve on December 24th. This is a Christian holiday but is enjoyed by Christians and non-Christians alike. It is greatly renowned in different ways around the world but is mainly for the birth and life of Jesus Christ. Kwanzaa is another holiday in December. This year, Kwanzaa starts on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday and is sometimes thought of as a substitute for Christmas for people who do not celebrate Christmas. It began in 1966, made to celebrate African-American heritage and is a time for family values. Lastly is the day before the new year, New Year’s Eve! New Year’s Eve is celebrated every December 31st. This is the oldest of all holidays of the new year and is a day of preparing for the new year. Happy Holidays!