Las Posadas

Name: ..... **Date:** .....

Read the text. Look at the Spanish words in brown.



Nine nights

Las Posadas is a Christmas tradition in Mexico. It is more than 400 years old. The first night is December 16, and the last night is December 24. Each night, the guests walk to the house of a different family.

la noche = the night · **nueve** = nine



The song at the door

At the house, the guests form two groups. One group goes into the house, and one group stays outside. The people outside sing and ask for a room. The people inside sing the answer. Then the door opens, and all the guests go in.

la canción = the song · **la puerta** = the door

The piñata

After the song, the children break a piñata. The Christmas piñata is a star with seven points. Long ago, its base was a clay pot. Today, most piñatas are made of paper. One child wears a blindfold and hits the piñata with a stick. The other children sing “Dale, dale, dale”.

la olla = the pot · **¡Dale!** = Hit it!



Ponche

Ponche is a hot fruit punch. People make it from tejocotes, guavas, plums and oranges. They add brown sugar and cinnamon. Families serve it at Christmas and on New Year's Eve.

el ponche = the punch · **la canela** = cinnamon



A room for the night

The word posada means “inn”. An inn is a house with rooms for travelers. People act out an old story. In the story, Mary and Joseph make a long trip to Bethlehem, and they look for a room.

la posada = the inn · **el viaje** = the trip



Farolitos

On the walk, the first person carries a candle in a paper lantern. In New Mexico, in the United States, people make farolitos. A farolito is a paper bag with sand and a small candle in it. People put rows of farolitos along walls and paths.

el farolito = the little lantern · **la bolsa** = the bag



Fruit, peanuts and candy

A Christmas piñata has fruit and candy in it. There are oranges, pieces of sugar cane and small fruits called tejocotes. At the end, each child gets a small bag of candy and peanuts. No child goes home empty-handed.

la naranja = the orange · **los cacahuates** = the peanuts



Tamales and carols

After the piñata, there is a meal. Many families eat tamales. A tamale is corn dough with a filling. The cook wraps it in a corn husk and steams it. Then the guests sing Christmas carols. Their Spanish name is villancicos.

el tamal = the tamale · **el villancico** = the Christmas carol