

Traditions from Around the World:

Birthday Celebrations from Denmark

In Denmark a flag is flown outside a window to designate that someone who lives in this house is having a birthday.

Presents are placed around the child's bed while they are sleeping so they will see them immediately upon awakening.

If a man or a woman has not been married, by the age of 30, he will be called a "pepper man" ("pebermand") and she will be a "pepper maid" ("peberma"). Friends give the person a peppermill or a pepper shaker to mark the occasion!

In Denmark, the celebration of "round" birthdays such as 20, 30, 40, etc. can boast an impressive guest list of sometimes hundreds of people. Guests can expect to be seated at a dinner table for at least six hours as speeches, songs, and sketches by friends and relatives serve as fillers between courses.

Fill out the Venn Diagram to show the differences and similarities between your customs and the ones you just read about in Denmark. Write at least three differences and three similarities.

