

# MYSTERIES OF SAINT NICK





# HAVE YOU HEARD OF THESE NAMES?

Have you heard any of these names before? Look at the list and discuss what you think these names might have in common.

Can you guess which country each name is from?

- Santa Claus
- Sinterklaas
- Father Christmas
- Papá Noel
- Babbo Natale
- Kris Kringle
- Saint Nick
- Mikulás
- Święty Mikołaj
- Joulupukki
- Nikolaus
- Père Noël
- St. Nicholas



# ANSWERS

Have you heard any of these names before? Look at the list and discuss what you think these names might have in common.

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*What is common among all these names is that they are different cultural interpretations or local names for the same historical figure: St. Nicholas.*

- **Santa Claus:** United States and Canada.
- **Sinterklaas:** The Netherlands and parts of Belgium.
- **Father Christmas:** United Kingdom and some Commonwealth countries.
- **Papá Noel:** Spanish-speaking countries.
- **Babbo Natale:** Italy.
- **Kris Kringle:** Originally German, but also used in some parts of North America.
- **Saint Nick:** Informal version used in various English-speaking countries.
- **Mikulás:** Hungary.
- **Święty Mikołaj:** Poland.
- **Joulupukki:** Finland.
- **Nikolaus:** Germany and Austria.
- **Père Noël:** France and French-speaking countries.
- **St. Nicholas:** The original name, widely recognized in various countries.





# LET'S TALK!

Complete the sentences so they are true about you.

On St. Nicholas Day, my favourite tradition is...

In my country, St. Nicholas Day is special because...

I remember when I first learned about St. Nicholas Day,  
I was surprised to find out that...

The best gift I received on St. Nicholas Day was...

If I could celebrate St. Nicholas Day anywhere in the world, I would  
choose...

One thing I would like to know more about St. Nicholas Day is...

St. Nicholas Day is different from other holidays because...





# GUESS THE COUNTRY AND TRADITION

Look through the photos, traditions, and countries below, and try to match them correctly. Which of these traditions were you already familiar with?

1. Stockings are hung and found filled with gifts on St. Nicholas Day, a joyful tradition of receiving presents. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. St. Nicholas arrives on a ship accompanied by his friend, Black Pete, who helps distribute gifts to children. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Shoes are left out with carrots, apples, and a letter for St. Nicholas and his horse/donkey, who travels with him from house to house. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Children find presents from St. Nicholas under their pillows, a special surprise for their good behaviour throughout the year. \_\_\_\_\_
- a) Belgium, the Netherlands.
  - b) Poland, Ukraine, Croatia, Hungary.
  - c) Some parts of the US, Canada, and Europe.
  - d) Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic.



# ANSWERS

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  2. St. Nicholas arrives on a ship accompanied by his friend, Black Pete, who helps distribute gifts to children. **a)**
  3. Shoes are left out with carrots, apples, and a letter for St. Nicholas and his horse/donkey, who travels with him from house to house. **d)**
  4. Children find presents from St. Nicholas under their pillows, a special surprise for their good behaviour throughout the year. **b)**
- a) Belgium, the Netherlands.
  - b) Poland, Ukraine, Croatia, Hungary.
  - c) Some parts of the US, Canada, and Europe.
  - d) Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic.



# VOCABULARY

Read each sentence and choose the option that best describes the meaning of the highlighted word in the context it's used.

1. This holiday, honouring the **generous** figure of St. Nicholas, is marked by different traditions around the world.

- a) Famous
- b) Wealthy
- c) Kind and giving
- d) Serious

2. St. Nicholas, known for his generosity, gradually **evolved** into the figure of Santa Claus.

- a) Physically grew
- b) Changed over time
- c) Moved to a different place
- d) Became less popular



3. This character takes part in parades and events, playing an important role in the **festivities**.

- a) Problems
- b) Celebrations
- c) Discussions
- d) Stories

4. Stockings, hung up on this day, **symbolize** warmth and the spirit of giving.

- a) Cover up
- b) Represent
- c) Hide
- d) Challenge

5. Legends about St. Nicholas often highlight his generosity and kind **deeds**.

- a) Documents
- b) Thoughts
- c) Actions
- d) Speeches

6. He was once drawn in **bishop** robes, often white, gold, or red.

- a) A type of bird
- b) A religious leader
- c) A colour
- d) A job

# ANSWERS

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# MYSTERIES OF SAINT NICK

*Read the article and check if your guesses were right*

St. Nicholas Day, celebrated on December 6th, is a day full of wonder and various customs. This holiday, honouring the generous figure of St. Nicholas, is marked by different traditions around the world.

**1.Transformation into Santa Claus.** St. Nicholas, known for his generosity, gradually evolved into the figure of Santa Claus, largely influenced by Dutch immigrants' traditions in the United States and the iconic Coca-Cola advertising campaign of the 1930s. This advertising defined the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly, red-suited character.



**2.Global celebrations.** Around the world, St. Nicholas Day is celebrated with unique local traditions. In Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the Czech Republic children leave their shoes out, hoping to find them filled with sweets and small gifts. Meanwhile, in countries like the United States and Canada, stockings are hung and found filled with presents on St. Nicholas Day. In Hungary, Poland, Ukraine and Croatia, it's a charming custom for children to find their gifts under their pillows. In the Netherlands and Belgium, the holiday includes the figure of Black Pete, a helper who accompanies St. Nicholas. This character takes part in parades and events, playing an important role in the festivities.

**3.Symbolic meanings.** The symbols associated with St. Nicholas Day are rich in meaning. Shoes left out mean children are excited and waiting for St. Nicholas. Stockings, hung up on this day, symbolize warmth and the spirit of giving. Gifts under the pillow are a fun surprise for the children.

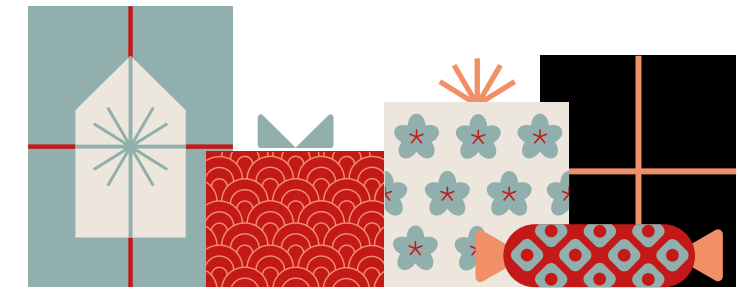
**4.Legends and miracles.** Legends about St. Nicholas often highlight his generosity and kind deeds. One popular story tells of him secretly giving gold to a poor family, which is thought to be the origin of gift-giving on this day. Beyond the well-known tales, other legends of St. Nicholas include stories of him calming storms and saving sailors. These tales showcase his role as a protector and miracle-worker.

**5.His image in art.** St. Nicholas is shown differently in art and stories. He was once drawn in bishop robes, often white, gold, or red. Nowadays, he's sometimes in green or blue, each colour meaning something good. The modern Santa Claus in a red suit became popular in the last century. These changes show how the image of St. Nicholas has evolved.





# LET'S PRACTICE



1. Read the following sentences carefully. Based on what you have learned from the text about St. Nicholas Day, decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Explain your answers.

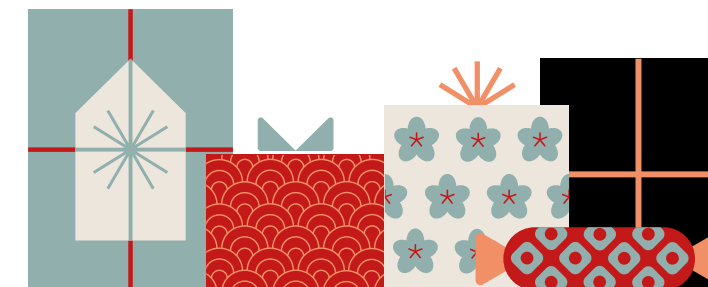
- 1. St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on December 5th. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. In Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and the Czech Republic, children eagerly leave their shoes out on St. Nicholas Day, hoping to find them filled with sweets and small gifts. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. The Coca-Cola advertising campaign in the 1950s defined the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly, red-suited character. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. In the United States and Canada, children leave their shoes out on St. Nicholas Day, hoping to find them filled with sweets and small gifts. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Stockings hung up for St. Nicholas Day symbolize cold winter nights. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Originally, St. Nicholas was always depicted in art wearing a green suit, symbolizing nature. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. One of the legends of St. Nicholas is that he was famous for bringing snow every winter. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. St. Nicholas, known for his generosity, gradually evolved into the figure of Santa Claus. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Look through the words below and try to recall where they were mentioned in the text and explain their connection to St. Nicholas or the holiday's traditions. Write a short explanation for each.

- 1. Coca-Cola  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Pillows  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Warmth  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Gold  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Storms  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Bishop  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# POSSIBLE ANSWERS



1. Read the following sentences carefully. Based on what you have learned from the text about St. Nicholas Day, decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Explain your answers.

1. St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on **December 6th**.
2. In Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and the Czech Republic, children eagerly leave their shoes out on St. Nicholas Day, hoping to find them filled with sweets and small gifts.
3. The Coca-Cola advertising campaign **in the 1930s** defined the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly, red-suited character.
4. In the United States and Canada, children **hang their stockings** on St. Nicholas Day, hoping to find them filled with sweets and small gifts.
5. Stockings hung up for St. Nicholas Day symbolize **warmth and the spirit of giving**.
6. Originally, St. Nicholas was always depicted in art wearing **traditional bishop's robes, often white, gold, or red**.
7. One of the legends tells of him **secretly giving gold to a poor family and performing miracles like calming storms and saving sailors**.
8. St. Nicholas, known for his generosity, gradually evolved into the figure of Santa Claus.

**Correct.**

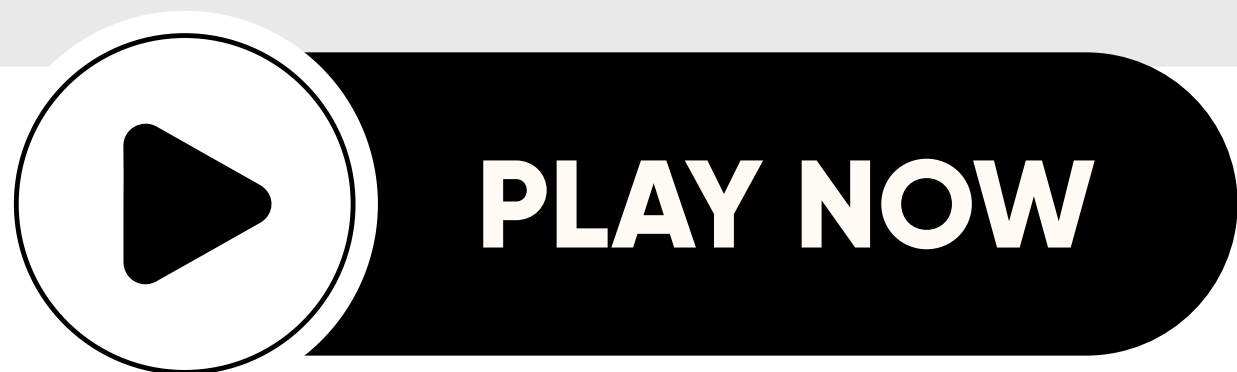
2. Look through the words below and try to recall where they were mentioned in the text and explain their connection to St. Nicholas or the holiday's traditions. Write a short explanation for each.

- 1. Coca-Cola.** This word was used in the context of the transformation of St. Nicholas into Santa Claus. The iconic Coca-Cola advertising campaign in the 1930s helped define the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly, red-suited character.
- 2. Pillows.** The word "pillows" appeared in the section about global celebrations. In Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, and Croatia, it is a tradition for children to find their St. Nicholas Day gifts hidden under their pillows.
- 3. Warmth.** "Warmth" was mentioned in the part discussing the symbolic meanings of St. Nicholas Day traditions. Stockings hung up for St. Nicholas Day symbolize warmth and the spirit of giving.
- 4. Gold.** In the legends and miracles section, "gold" refers to one of St. Nicholas's most famous legends. It is said that he secretly gave gold to a poor family, which is thought to be the origin of gift-giving on this day.
- 5. Storms.** This word was used in the legends section, where St. Nicholas is described as a protector and miracle-worker. One of the legends includes him calming storms and saving sailors.
- 6. Bishop.** In the section about St. Nicholas's image in art, he was originally depicted in bishop robes, often white, gold, or red, reflecting his historical role as a bishop.

# GAME TIME



*Answer the questions to earn points. Just click on the presents you wish to open. Each present contains some points that you can either keep for your team or give to your opponent (you will find out if the points are lucky after completing the task and making your decision). Don't forget to keep track of them.*



# SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

1. Match the words and the pictures below.

- A) inheritance
- B) less fortunate
- C) inspire



1. Match the words and the pictures below.

<p>1. As an adult, he became a bishop and was known for his generosity and kindness,</p>	<p>a) was born around 280 A.D.</p>
<p>2. Nicholas, the real life inspiration for Santa Claus,</p>	<p>b) especially towards children and the poor.</p>
<p>3. Rather than spend it all on himself,</p>	<p>c) leaving him with a large inheritance.</p>
<p>4. His parents died when Nicholas was very young,</p>	<p>d) Nicholas used the money to help those less fortunate than himself.</p>

# ANSWERS

1. Match the words and the pictures below.

- A) inheritance
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- C) inspire



1.b. 2.a. 3.d. 4.c.

1. Match the words and the pictures below.

1. As an adult, he became a bishop and was known for his generosity and kindness,

b) especially towards children and the poor.

2. Nicholas, the real life inspiration for Santa Claus,

a) was born around 280 A.D.

3. Rather than spend it all on himself,

d) Nicholas used the money to help those less fortunate than himself.

4. His parents died when Nicholas was very young,

c) leaving him with a large inheritance.

# SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

## 1. Answer the questions below according to the video.

- What position did Nicholas hold as an adult?

- 
- Name two groups of people Nicholas was especially known for helping.

- 
- How did the tradition of leaving shoes out evolve into a modern Christmas tradition?
- 

## 2. Read the famous legend about St. Nick and fill the gaps with the words below.

fire

deeds

daughter

money

gold

thank

secretly

Long ago, there lived a kind man named Nicholas. He was known for his generosity. In his town, there was a poor man who had three daughters. The man was sad because he had no 1. \_\_\_\_\_ for his daughters' weddings. Nicholas wanted to help them 2. \_\_\_\_\_. One night, he threw a bag of 3. \_\_\_\_\_ through their window. It landed in a stocking that was drying by the 4. \_\_\_\_\_. This gold helped the first daughter get married. Nicholas did this again for the second 5. \_\_\_\_\_. And then, for the third daughter, the father waited every night to 6. \_\_\_\_\_ the kind helper. When Nicholas threw the gold for the third daughter, the father caught him. Nicholas asked the father not to tell anyone about his good 7. \_\_\_\_\_.



## 3. Answer the questions below.

- What problem was the poor man facing?
- Where did the bag of gold land when Nicholas threw it?
- What did Nicholas do for each daughter?

# ANSWERS

## 1. Answer the questions below according to the video.

- What position did Nicholas hold as an adult?

**Nicholas became a bishop.**

- Name two groups of people Nicholas was especially known for helping.

**Nicholas was especially known for helping children and the poor.**

- How did the tradition of leaving shoes out evolve into a modern Christmas tradition?

**The tradition of leaving shoes out, where children would find money or candy, inspired the modern tradition of leaving out stockings for Santa.**

## 2. Read the famous legend about St. Nick and fill the gaps with the words below.

fire

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Long ago, there lived a kind man named Nicholas. He was known for his generosity. In his town, there was a poor man who had three daughters. The man was sad because he had no **1.money** for his daughters' weddings. Nicholas wanted to help them **2.secretly**. One night, he threw a bag of **3.gold** through their window. It landed in a stocking that was drying by the **4.fire**. This gold helped the first daughter get married. Nicholas did this again for the second **5.daughter**. And then, for the third daughter, the father waited every night to **6.thank** the kind helper. When Nicholas threw the gold for the third daughter, the father caught him. Nicholas asked the father not to tell anyone about his good **7.deeds**.



## 3. Answer the questions below.

- The poor man had no money for his daughters' weddings.
- The bag of gold landed in a stocking that was drying by the fire.
- Nicholas secretly gave each daughter a bag of gold to help them get married.





# GOOD DEEDS

In groups/pairs discuss/write how you would use each of the following amounts - \$1,000,000, \$200,000, \$5,000, \$1,000, \$100 for good deeds, and then present your ideas for each sum.

A large light green rectangular area with horizontal white lines, intended for students to write their ideas for using the specified amounts for good deeds.



# QUIZLET



Quizlet



*Revise the words for the next lesson. Use this Quizlet set. You can also play different games to practice or even test yourself in the Quizlet app or on the site.*

THANK YOU!

