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Santa Claus

Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas or simply "Santa", is an old man who, in many brings gifts to the homes of the good children during the late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24. Santa Claus lives at the NORTH POLE, with a large number of magical elves, and nine (originally eight) flying reindeer.



Christmas Stockings



Many families will hang large brightly colored Christmas stockings over the fireplace or on the walls of their homes during Christmastime in the hopes that Santa Claus will fill them with toys, treats, and goodies.



History of the Christmas Tree

The tradition of having an evergreen tree become a symbol of Christmas goes back past recorded written history. The Druids in ancient England & Gaul and the Romans in Europe both used evergreen branches to decorate their homes and public buildings to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Over the years, these traditions were adopted by Christians, who incorporated them as part of their Christmas holiday celebration.



Mistletoe

Mistletoe was often hung over the entrances to homes of the pagans in Scandinavian countries to keep out evil spirits. An old Scandinavian myth tells of the seemingly invulnerable god, Balder, who was struck down by a dart made from mistletoe. The tears of this mother, Frigga, became the white berries of the mistletoe, and it was decreed that the plant must never again be used as a weapon.



Christmas Gifts

The idea of presenting people you love with gifts is as old as the human race. The idea of exchanging gifts at Christmas time originated with the birth of Jesus, when three wise men traveled to deliver gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the newborn baby. Shepherds in the fields also came to give gifts to the newborn baby Jesus.



Christmas Carols

Christmas carols and caroling in the old world was a mix of singing and dancing and was practiced for all festivals throughout the year. When Christmas was firmly established to be celebrated on December 25th, many of the existing carols (or songs) were sung on that day and new ones written to celebrate Christmas.



Christmas Dinner

The traditional Christmas meal is roast turkey and Christmas pudding



Sources of Information

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