



WINTER HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Christmas Day



This day is a traditional family day and a special day for children. People decorate fir trees with toys and candies. Children wait for Santa Claus who comes to every house and brings them presents.

Christmas is a religious holiday which symbolizes the birth of Jesus Christ. On this day people go to churches, give each other Christmas presents, eat a Christmas dinner.





CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS



Christmas tree



Santa Claus



Christmas dinner



Stockings



Greenery

Christmas tree

The first man who placed a star on the top of the tree was Martin Luther. This star represents the star appeared over the stable in which Christ was born. In Great Britain, the Christmas tree became popular while Queen Victoria ruled the country.



The most famous Christmas tree stands in Trafalgar Square. English people always decorate Christmas trees with candles, angels and small toys.

Christmas dinner



In the 19th century goose was the traditional meal at Christmas. Now the traditional Christmas food is roast turkey with vegetables.
On Christmas Day people also eat Christmas pudding, cake or mince pies.



Greenery



People in Great Britain usually decorate their houses with holly, Ivy and mistletoe. In pre-Christian times people used greenery for celebration of the Winter Solstice Festival.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



On the eve of Christmas children hang their stockings, so that Santa Claus could put presents into them: oranges, sweets, nuts and if the child didn't behave properly Santa Claus could put there a piece of coal as punishment.

Christmas carols

Christmas carols are special songs which people sing during a Christmas season. The songs are about Jesus and the time when he was born.



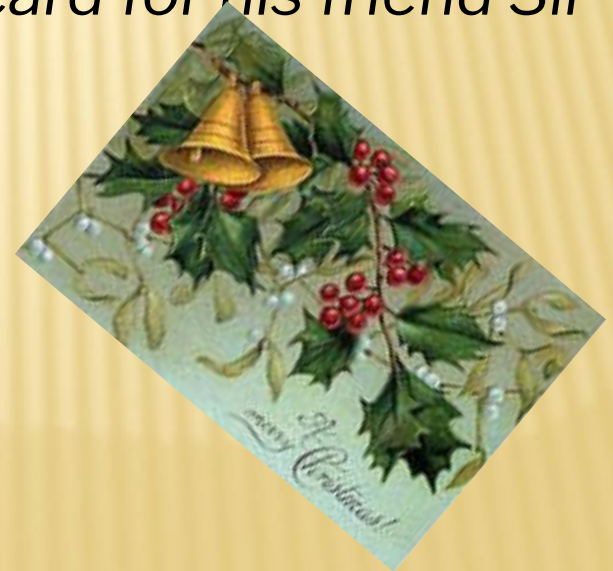
Usually children go along the streets from house to house and sing Christmas carols in front of each house. People who live in these houses give children candies, nuts, pies to thank them for carol singing.

Christmas Cards



English people send Christmas Cards to their relatives and friends.

The first Christmas card was created and sent in 1843. A man whose name was John Calcott Horsley printed the first Christmas card for his friend Sir Henry Cole.



Santa Claus



Santa Claus or Father Christmas in Britain comes into houses down the chimney at night and puts presents for the children in socks, in front of the family Christmas tree or near the fire place. Santa Claus lives at the North Pole.

Santa Claus got his name from St. Nicolas, a man who lived in the 4th century. He gave his wealth to the poor and often to children.



Boxing Day



Nowdays it is the day when people simply have rest, go shopping and visit their friends. Boxing Day is traditionally a day of many sport events.

English people celebrate Boxing Day on December 26th. It comes after Christmas Day. This is an old tradition, when in old times rich people gave their servants money or “Christmas boxes”.



New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve many people get together with their relatives and friends or go to parties. They wait for midnight to see the New Year in.



New Year's Eve is more special for Scottish people, who celebrate it with their families. At midnight Scottish people hold their hands in a large circle and sing a special song "Auld lang syne".

New Year's Celebrations



In Britain people make New Year's resolutions. They promise themselves that they will improve their behavior and give up bad habits.

In London people gather to celebrate in Trafalgar Square. When Big Ben begins to strike they all start to greet each other with 'Happy New Year'.



New Year Superstitions

- ❖ *If the first visitor at your house on New Year's Day is an unknown dark-haired man, than a year of good luck will follow.*
- ❖ *If the first visitor has red hair, it's extremely unlucky.*
- ❖ *If you cry on New Year's Day, you'll be crying all the year.*
- ❖ *If you lend anything on New Year's Day, you'll be lending all the year.*
- ❖ *If you wash your hair on New Year's Day, you'll wash away a good luck.*
- ❖ *If you sweep the floor or dust the furniture on New Year's Day, good fortune will be swept away.*

**Happy Saint
Valentine's Day**



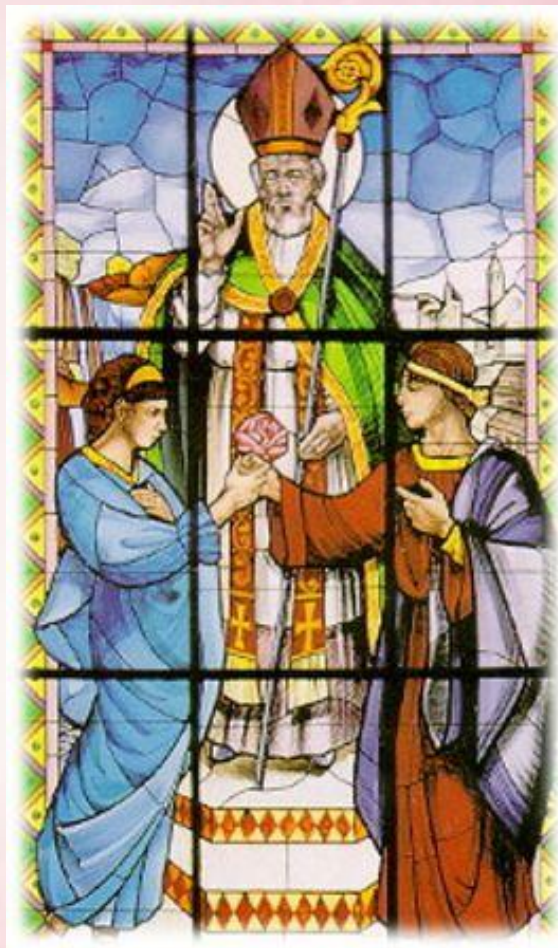
From History

He wasn't very popular because he was trying to get more and more people for his army. The men didn't want to go to the army and Claudius thought that it was because they didn't want to leave their wives and children. "If they don't get married, they will join the army," he thought and passed a law which banned marriage.



From History

Many young people felt sorry for Valentine and visited him in prison. One of them was the daughter of a prison guard. On the day of his execution Valentine wrote a note to her and signed it “Love from your Valentine”. This was on 14 February 269 AD.



From History

Since then 14 February has been the Day of Love, when people send love letters and presents to each other. They don't sign the cards with their names, but write "Guess Who" or "Your Valentine".



From History

At first this was a European tradition, but then it became popular in other countries. It came to Russia too, but a lot of people say, “If you love somebody, you should show it every day, not only one day a year”.



Symbols

Cupid

Cupid is a son of Venus, goddess of love. He could cause people to fall in love by piercing them with one of his magic arrows.



History of Pancake Day

"... as fit as a pancake for Shrove Tuesday."
William Shakespeare (*All's Well that Ends Well*)



THROWING THE PANCAKE ON SHROVE TUESDAY IN WESTMINSTER SCHOOL. WILSON'S ALMANAC

What is a pancake?

An English pancake is a thin, flat cake, made of batter and fried in a frying pan.



Caster sugar (*superfine* sugar) is sprinkled over the top and a dash of fresh lemon juice is added.

The pancake is then **rolled**. Some people put **golden syrup** or **jam** on their pancakes.



Olney's famous Pancake Day race



The most famous pancake race takes place at Olney. According to tradition, in 1445 a woman of Olney heard the shriving bell while she was making pancakes and ran to the church in her apron, still clutching her frying pan.

The Olney pancake race is now world famous. Competitors have to be local housewives and they must wear an apron and a hat or scarf.





Each contestant has a frying pan containing a hot, cooking pancake. She must toss it three times during the race that starts at the market square at 11.55 am.

The first woman to complete the 375-metre course (the record is 63 seconds set in 1967) and arrive at the church, serve her pancake to the bell ringer, and be kissed by him, is the winner. She also receives a prayer book from the vicar.



Cock Fighting



**Shrove
Tuesday used
to be a great
day for
cock-fighting
in England.**

**Cockfighting
was
introduced to
Britain by the
Romans.**





HAPPY
PANCAKE
TUESDAY!



Vocabulary:

- to symbolize – символизировать
- stable – конюшня, хлев, овчарня
- to rule – управлять, править
- holly – бот. падуб
- ivy – плющ обыкновенный
- mistletoe – бот. омела
- eve – канун, преддверие
- to behave – вести себя, поступать, держаться
- coal – уголек
- punishment – кара, наказание
- wealth – богатство
- servant – слуга, прислуга, служащий
- event – событие, соревнование
- resolution – резолюция, решение
- to lend – давать в займы, одалживать
- fortune – удача, счастье

Спасибо за внимание

Thank you for your attention