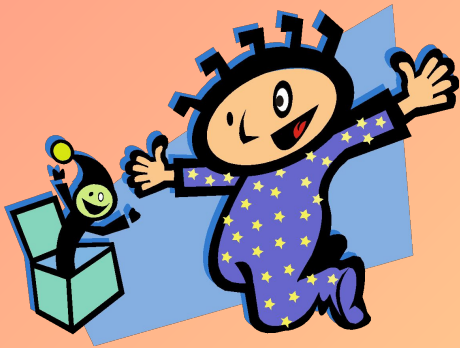




Christmas in Great Britain



Чабанова С.Н



Christmas - fairy tale for the adult and children

Christmas - most joyful holiday in Great Britain, which is marked on the 25 of December, and to prepare for it begin long before its approach. It is necessary to decorate the house, to send congratulations to the relatives and friends, and, main to buy gifts. It is a family holiday, when the close people are going to behind a Christmas table, exchange gifts, wish to each other happiness, sing Christmas songs. The Christmas transforms everything around into a fairy tale.



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History of Christmas

The Christmas is a Christian holiday devoted to Birth of the Christ - Myth, sent by the God for rescue of the world. His celebrating is based on bible events described in a New Precept. The apostle of an Onion tells that after birth Christ the Angels were to the shepherds and have informed them this joyful message. The shepherds at once have set off to city Vyphleem and have found in a shed St. Maria, of the husband of the carpenter Иосифа, and Baby laying in a day nursery. From Gospel from Matfey we learn about three волхвах, which have followed the wonderful star which has appeared in the sky per Day of Christmas Мессии, and have brought to the Baby gift - gold, incense and смирну.

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Preparation for Christmas

The large role British allocate to gifts. One holiday manages them. British very much liking to give gifts to all native and close. In eve of Christmas in spacious and empty per usual days shops - *ажитаж*: first, it is necessary to have time to buy a heap of gifts and to be reserved by meal - 24, 25, and sometimes and December 26 the majority of shops is closed. Secondly, it is impossible to miss a case to buy something for a long time desired with the discount. The red labels "Sale" occur right at the beginning of December, and to middle of month they paste over all doors and show-windows of shops.

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In all shops, including grocery, huge quantity of different Christmas toys: small Santa Claus, bells, silver half moons, spheres with wishes. The best New Year's gift in England is a visit to the house first minutes of New year blackhair the man with a slice coal for traditional English fireplace and mistletoe , symbolizing longevity. In midnight the men are sent to the neighbours, that by first to cross their threshold. Why only man? Alas, it is considered, that if same the woman will make, it foretells failure to all family.



Christmas tree

It is necessary to admire, with what imagination the offices, shops and streets are decorated to Christmas of a house. In festival of paints two traditional colours - red and green dominate. Green trees are decorated by red ribbons, lanterns and bells, are constant attributes of Christmas. On tops of the trees it is possible to see the Christmas Angel or star. Very much often houses are decorated by Boughs of Holly. The glossy bright red berries and dark green acute carved leaves of this plant are well entered in a general christmas palette. In door apertures hang up Mistletoe, tied up ribbons. It especially is pleasant in love, as on custom the people of the opposite floor which has casually appeared under Mistletoe , are obliged to kiss each other!



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Christmas tree legends

According to an ancient a traveling holy man called St. Boniface was passing through a forest one December, when he came across a group of people who were having some kind of pagan religious ceremony. St. Boniface was horrified that a small boy was going to be offered up as a human sacrifice to one of their pagan gods. He was just about to be put on a roaring fire when St. Boniface rushed in and snatched the little boy away. Then, picking up an axe, he chopped down a huge oak tree which stood nearby. As it fell to the ground, a tiny young fir appeared out of the ground in the space where the mighty oak had stood. “From now on”, said St. Boniface, “this little tree will be a holy symbol. It’s the sign of everlasting life because its leaves are still green when everything else seemed dead around it. Moreover, it will always point upwards to heaven. From this day, this little tree shall be called the Christmas tree”.



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Santa Claus

Santa Claus, which prototype is sacred Nickolai, bishop of city the Worlds in IV century, in east church the patron travelling, first of all of seamen, almost has not changed after several centuries - everything as is always ready to deliver pleasure to the kids! The young Englishmen and Americans consider, that Santa so they come in a sledge on a deer only to obedient kids and, having lowered through a pipe above a fireplace, leaves by gifts under tree and in sock. Therefore on roofs of some houses in USA it is possible to see figure of Santa Claus in a sledge and famous baby dear Rudolph. Sometimes Santa beforehand invite in the visitors ' to December 25.



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Celebratory table

The morning of December 25 noisy begins with opening of gifts. Then there comes time of traditional celebratory dinner. In England there is a cheerful custom: before that how to sit down a table the people clap an original cracker " Christmas Cracker ". She contains a small souvenir and comic message. For a table usually prepare the turkey or goose, there are every possible vegetables. At the end of dinner submit a Christmas cake or Christmas pudding. This day everyone owner tries as it is possible better to show the culinary abilities, that is why, according to the poet Jeck Drelutsky, " the Christmas is a time for good eating ". The most desired visitor the one who comes in the visitors and brings ancient Celt an entertainment - thin and round porridge лепешки. Their form is connected with language by a cult of the sun. Same лепешки the Scots in Christmas bake and give out to each member of family early in morning, with dawn. However is it is possible only at supper, and within day it is necessary to carry with itself. The heavy test, is especial for children. Has broken or eaten slice - not to avoid punishment, but if the good boy has saved лепешку untouched -, next year he or she will wait good.

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