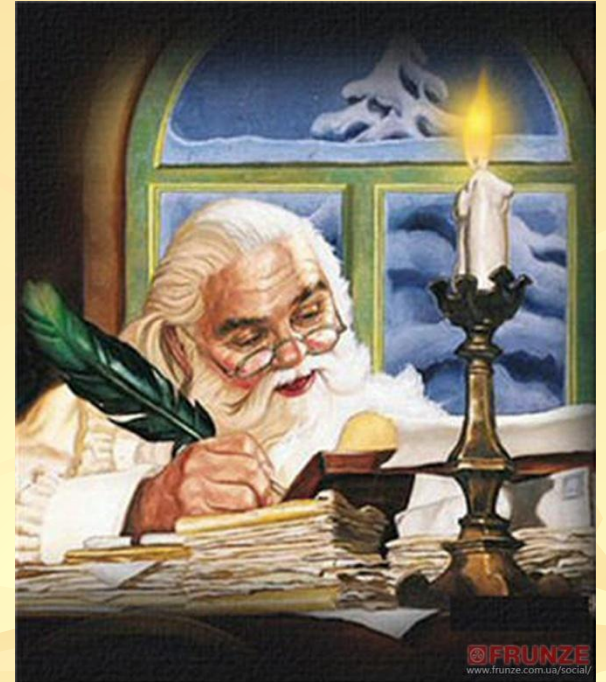


Santa Claus or Saint Nicolas



A legend or a real man?

Words and word combinations.

Saint Nicholas	seɪnt 'nɪk(ə)ləs	Святой Николай
saint	seɪnt	святой
commemoration	kəˌmemə'reɪʃ(ə)n	празднование
worship	'wɜːʃɪp	поклоняться, почитать
a wealthy man	ə 'welθɪ mæn	состоятельный человек
to devote	dɪ'veʊt	посвящать
a priest	priːst	священник
a Bishop	'bɪʃəp	епископ
preach	pri:tʃ	проповедовать
pray	preɪ	молиться
adult	ə'dʌlt	взрослый
an angel of heaven	ən'eɪndʒ(ə)l əv'hæv(ə)n	небесный ангел

obedient	ə'bi:diənt	послушный
easy to get on with	'i:zi tə get ɔn wið	уживчивый
saint patron	seɪnt 'peɪtr(ə)n	покровитель
twig	'twɪɡ	ветвь
socks	sɒks	носки
humility	hju:'mɪləti	смирение
meeekness	'mi:kneəs	кротость
obedience	ə'bi:diəns	послушание
prepare	prɪ'peə	подготавливать
glorify	'ɡlɔ:rifaɪ	прославлять
fireplace	'faɪəpleɪs	камин
Orthodox	'ɔ:θədɒks	православный
Catholic	'kæθ(ə)lɪk	католический
a whip	(h)wɪp	кну́т

When do people celebrate St. Nicolas Day?

Who was St. Nicolas?

On December the 6th, Catholics honor the memory of St. Nicholas, the patron of travelers and children.

St. Nicholas day has religious roots and traditions of the celebration developed over the centuries

In Europe, Nicholas has long been one of the most revered saints, and people asked him to help in various situations : from journeys to a happy marriage.



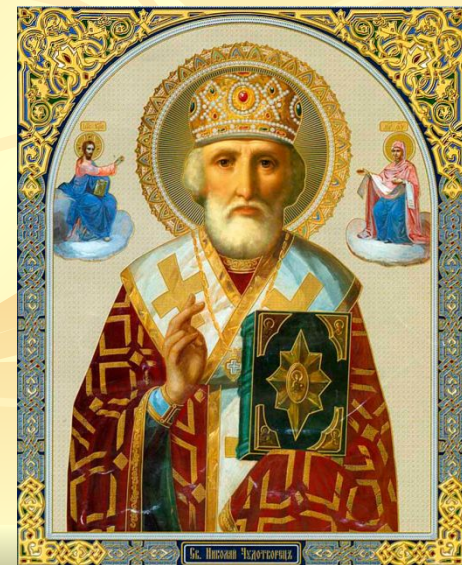


English Christmas Holiday in Europe begins with St. Nicholas' Day – on the 6th of December. St. Nicholas' commemoration takes place twice a year: in December and in May.

It's not by coincidence, as the dates of St. Nicholas' commemoration are coincided with the beginning of the important time for farmers.

Having decided to devote his life to God, Nicholas became a priest and later a Bishop of the Lycian city of Myra.

During the persecution of Christians, Nicholas was imprisoned, where he spent eight years. Being in prison despite the tortures, he continued preaching Christianity.



What traditions are connected with St. Nicolas Day?

Where does St. Nicolas put gifts?

Lots of good deeds made Nicholas for the poor citizens, remaining anonymous and confusing the whole city.

He quietly and secretly brought toys and warm clothes for children, medicine for the sick into their houses.



Few people know about the fact that St. Nicolas inspired the appearance of Santa Claus.





In France, on the holiday eve, children as well as adults, become obedient and easy to get on with.

Because the one, who behaves himself badly will not get a gift from St. Nicholas, but a whip!

Most of all St Nicolas and the holiday is worshiped in Lotharingia, as Nicholas is thought to be the saint patron of the region.



In the small town of Saint-Nicolas-de-Port a theatrical festival is held every year and in the main streets you can see an unusual procession with Saint Nicholas at the head.

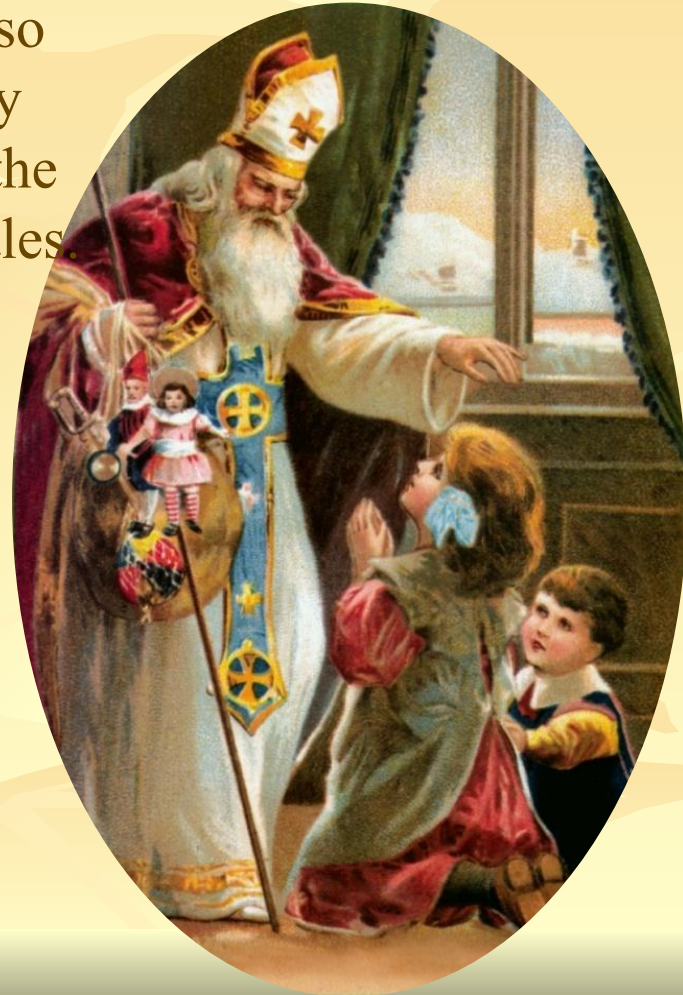
What countries commemorate St. Nicolas on the 6th of December and what countries on the 19th of December?



In Germany the celebration also has been very interesting in the form of fairy tales

Children are waiting for the holiday with special preparing: they hang special socks in which they will find a gift, or an ordinary twig.

It all depends on whether a child is obedient, and gets good marks. That is why on the eve of the holiday, parents can see long-awaited meekness, humility and obedience in their dear children.

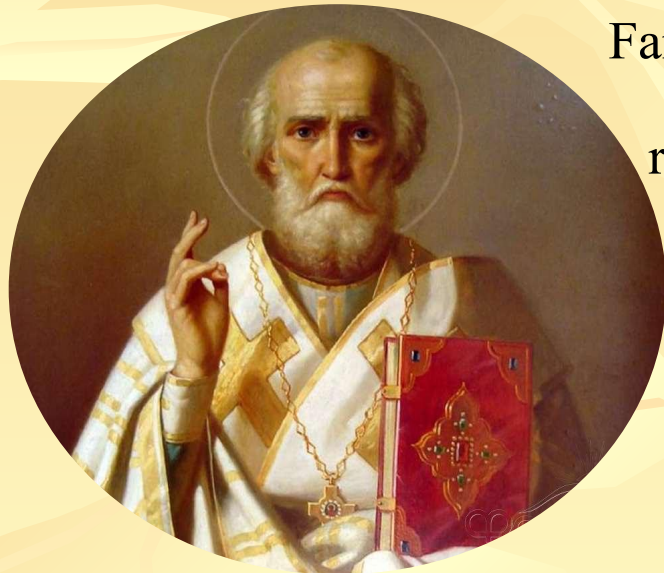


What is the difference between St. Nicolas and Santa Claus?

What is in common between St. Nicolas and Santa Claus?

What is St. Nicolas famous for?

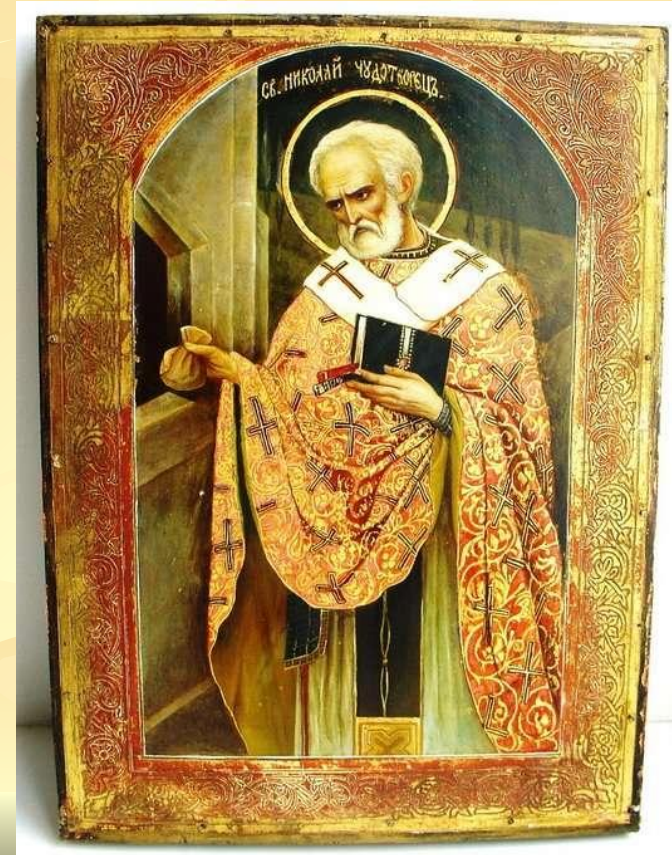
Santa Claus - the Saint of Christians



Famous as God's assistant, he helps anyone with requests for assistance.

Nicholas is considered to be the Saint patron of sailors, they pray to him in the whirlwind and the storm.

He also prays for the healing diseases, helping in different misfortunes, saving from sadness and despair, compassion the defenseless. The Day of Saint Nicholas memory is celebrated twice a year : the twenty-second of may and the nineteenth of December.



The prototype of Santa Claus is a Christian Saint Nicholas, known for his charity work. He helped secretly to poor people with children, giving gifts, presents, necessary things .



It is considered that Santa Claus rides a sleigh pulled by reindeer.

In various traditions Santa Claus appears accompanied by other characters, good or evil.

The first image of Santa Claus was drawn in 1862 cartoonist Thomas Nast. For twenty-four years he painted the cover of the magazine "Harper's Weekly". The artist put him at the North Pole.

In 1930 the company Coca-Cola came up with a cunning publicity stunt. An artist from Chicago has portrayed Santa Claus in red and white. Thus was born the modern image of Santa Claus, this jolly old man who distributes gifts.





He has got definitely white beard , red jacket, pants and a hat with white fur frills. He enters houses through the chimney and leaves presents under the tree. If you want Santa got into your house and leave presents, don't forget to leave him milk and cookies.

Santa Claus — father Christmas, North American fairy tale character who gives gifts to children on Christmas. The name Santa Claus represents the distortion of the Dutch transcription of the name of St. Nicholas.



There is no consensus about what kind of place should be considered the home of Santa Claus: Lapland or around the North Pole.

1. Who was St. Nicolas?

2. What is the difference between St. Nicolas and Santa Claus?

3. What is in common between St. Nicolas and Santa Claus?

4. When do people celebrate St. Nicolas Day?

5. What countries commemorate St. Nicolas on the 6th of December and what countries on the 19th of December?

6. What traditions are connected with St. Nicolas Day?

7. What is St. Nicolas famous for?

8. Where does St. Nicolas put gifts?