

Christmas in Germany



A big part of the Christmas celebrations in Germany is Advent. Several different types of Advent calendars are used in German homes. As well as the traditional one made of card that is used in many countries, there are ones made out of a wreath of fir tree branches with 24 decorated boxes or bags hanging from it. Each box or bag has a little present in it.

Sometimes wooden frames, covered with coloured plastic sheets and with electric candles inside, are put in windows to make the house look pretty from the outside.

Santa Claus or Father Christmas brings the presents on December 24th. December 6th is St. Nicholas' Day and "der Nikolaus" brings some small gifts, such as sweets and chocolate, to the children. He comes in the night between the 5th and the 6th and puts the presents into the shoes of the children, who usually place them by their doors on the previous evening. Christmas Eve is the main day when people in Germany exchange presents with their families.

In German Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Frohe Weihnachten'.

Carp or Goose are often served for the main Christmas meal. Stollen is a popular fruited yeast bread that is eaten at Christmas.

Read the information above and answer the questions.

1. What is the traditional Advent calendar made out of? _____
2. When does Santa Claus bring the presents in Germany?

3. When is St. Nicholas' Day? _____
4. Where does St. Nicholas put the presents?
 - a In stockings
 - b Under the tree
 - c In shoes
 - d In black sacks
5. What is 'Merry Christmas' in German? _____
6. What is 'Stollen'? _____