



Christmas in Germany





“The Advent”



- In Germany we start celebrating Christmas sometimes as early as at the end of November.
- The four Sundays before the 24th of December are the first, the second, the third and the fourth “Advent”.
- Each Sunday we light one more candle.





Calendar

- On the first of December, all the children get a little calendar.
- The calendar is made of paper and it has 24 little doors.
- Each day the children can open one door.
- Behind the doors are little pictures or chocolate.



“Sankt Nikolaus”



- The sixth of December is called the day of “Sankt Nikolaus”.
- On the evening of the fifth of December, the children clean their shoes and put them outside the door over night.
- At night, “Sankt Nikolaus” comes with his donkey.
- If the child was good, he puts lots of chocolate and nuts in the shoe.
- If the child was bad in the last year, he puts a birch in the shoes.



Christmas Food



- In December, the children bake lots of little cakes, biscuits and gingerbread.



- We also eat a cake which is called “Stollen”.





Christmas Tree



- On the 23rd. of December we put a Christmas Tree in our living room.
- The Christmas Tree is decorated with little glass spheres in different colours and with gingerbread and little figures of angels or reindeers and with candles.





24th of December

- The 24th of December is the most important day for the children.
- The whole day, we are not allowed to go into the living room, where the Christmas Tree is.
- In the afternoon or early evening, most families go to church.
- After church, the children have to wait for Santa Claus.





- Santa Claus puts the presents under the Christmas Tree.
- In some families, the children have to say a poem or sing a song to Santa Claus before they can have the present.
- After that, we have a big meal with the whole family.

