



The History of Santa Claus

Santa Claus is a kind, jolly man. Each year on Christmas Eve, he gives gifts to children all around the world.

Did Santa Claus Always Look the Way He Does Today?

Today, Santa Claus is well known for his red suit and white beard. Many years ago, he used to wear a long, green cloak. He also had a wreath made from holly and ivy on his head. The first Christmas cards showing Santa in his red suit were made during the Victorian times.



People love to dress up as Santa Claus. Each year, lots of people all over the world dress up as Santa.

What Is Santa Claus Called in Different Countries?

There are lots of names for the person who brings gifts at Christmas. In Russia, children call him Ded Moroz which means Grandfather Frost. In Germany, they call him Weihnachtsmann which means Christmas Man. In Italy, they call him Babbo Natale which means Father Christmas.

Do All Children Leave Stockings for Santa Claus to Fill?

In some countries, children leave shoes or boots for Santa Claus to fill with presents instead of leaving stockings.



Who Was Saint Nicholas?

A long time ago, people believe that Santa Claus was known as Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas left gifts at night while people were sleeping. This was to surprise them in the morning.

1. What colour was Santa Claus's outfit in the past? Tick one.

- black
- green
- blue

2. What was the wreath made from that Santa wore on his head? Tick one.

- fur and pine cones
- tinsel and stars
- holly and ivy

3. Draw three lines to match each country to the person who brings gifts at Christmas.

Germany

Italy

Russia

Babbo Natale

Ded Moroz

Weihnachtsmann

4. What do some children leave for Santa instead of stockings?

5. What did Saint Nicholas leave for people at night?
