

SANTA CLAUS

Write a word in each gap to complete the text.

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Santa Claus, **1)** _____ known **2)** _____ Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, **3)** _____ simply "Santa", is a figure which was derived **4)** _____ the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas, a historical, legendary and mythological figure who **5)** _____ many Western cultures, is said **6)** _____ bring gifts to the homes of the good children **7)** _____ the late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24th or on **8)** _____ Feast Day, December 6th (Saint Nicholas Day). The legend is based **9)** _____ the tales concerning the historical figure of gift giver Saint Nicholas.

While Saint Nicholas **10)** _____ originally portrayed wearing bishop's robes, today Santa Claus is generally depicted **11)** _____ a plump, jolly, white-bearded man wearing a red coat **12)** _____ white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed red trousers, and black leather belt and boots (images of him rarely have a beard with no moustache). This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due **13)** _____ the significant influence of caricaturist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast. This image has **14)** _____ maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, and films. In the United Kingdom and Europe, he **15)** _____ often depicted in a manner identical to the American Santa Claus, but he **16)** _____ commonly called Father Christmas.