

Christmas Time



CLICK THE LOUDSPEAKER AND LISTEN. 

Christmas is the holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. It is on 25th December. Before Christmas there is a period of three-week expectancy called **Advent**.

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON 25th DECEMBER?

A lot of people wonder why Christmas is celebrated on 25th December and why Christmas lasts for two days in Poland. The oldest known author who has written about the date of Christ's birth is Roman Hipolit. In 204, in the comment on the Book of Daniel (4,23,3) he wrote:

The first coming of our incarnated Lord, who was born in Bethlehem, was on the eighth day before the January calenda, that is on 25th December.

There are different explanations of choosing 25th December for Christmas. The most popular interpretation is that Christians have chosen the date as a symbolic one. This day was close to Winter Solstice. After the solstice days become longer and longer and there's more light every day. Jesus Christ is the Light who has come on the earth to free people from darkness, sin and death.



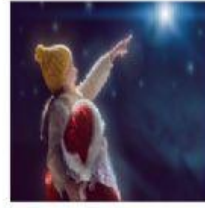
THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

The meaning of Christmas Eve and Christmas Time is that Jesus Christ has come on the earth as a Human Being to reconcile people with God, bring peace and show how much God loves each person. This is why people spend this time in the family circle. Christmas show such values as openness, love, peace and reconciliation.

It's Christmas Eve on 24th December evening. At this time Polish people have the very sumptuous and ceremonial Christmas Eve Supper in the circle of family and relatives. The supper should consist of twelve dishes and there shouldn't be any meat, mostly fish. This is a very special time. At first, everybody prays and then a father reads a passage from the Gospel according to Luke about the birth of Jesus Christ. Later on people share „oplatek” (an unleavened white wafer) with each other, say wishes and kiss. Sharing „oplatek” is the symbol of reconciliation, forgiveness and love. Then the Supper starts and lasts for a few hours. During this time St. Nicolas brings presents for children or they find them under the Christmas tree. It's time for singing carols too. Another tradition is an empty place setting on the table for an unexpected guest. After the Supper, at midnight Catholics go to church for Shepherd's Mass. Next Day, on 25th December it's Christmas and on 26th December is the second day of Christmas Time. On this day the death of St. Stephan is commemorated who is mentioned as the first martyr for faith.



LOOK AT THE PICTURES WHICH SHOW POLISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS. MATCH THE WORDS AND PHRASES BELOW WITH THE CORRECT PICTURES. DRAG THEM UNDER THE PICTURES.



Family singing carols

Looking out the first star - the symbol of Bethlehem Star

Christmas Crib

Carol singers

Krakow Christmas Crib

Presents from St. Nicolas



Decorating houses with lights
Christmas Wreath

Christmas headdress

Nativity play

Christmas tree tuning



Candles Christmas Eve Shepherd Mass at midnight
Empty place setting on the table for an unexpected guest

Christmas Eve Supper on 24th December
Sharing „oplatek" and giving wishes

Christmas postcards

POLISH CHRISTMAS EVE DISHES

CLICK THE NAME OF EACH DISH UNDER THE PICTURE, LISTEN AND REPEAT.



Borscht with dumplings



Pierogi (dumplings) with cabbage and mushrooms



Carp



Herring



Herring salad



Vegetable salad



Noodles with poppy seeds



Kutia (poppy seeds,



Mushroom soup



Sour cabbage and mushrooms



Dried fruits compote



Fish and vegetables

wheat seeds and delicacies)



Poppy seed cake



Fruit cake



Cake with nuts



Cheese cake



Gingerbreads



Gingerbread cake



Silesian Christmas dessert soup
(gingerbread and delicacies)



Christmas cookies

Now write down Christmas traditions that you cultivate at your home. What dishes do you prepare for Christmas?
