

Christmas

Christmas is a joyful religious [] when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. To people all over the world, Christmas is a season of giving and receiving presents. In Scandinavian and other European countries, Father Christmas, or Saint Nicholas, comes [] houses in the night and leaves gifts for the children. Saint Nicholas is represented as a kindly man with a red cloak and long white beard. He visited houses and left gifts, bringing people happiness in the coldest months of the year. Another character, the God Odin, [] on a magical flying horse across the sky in the winter to reward people with gifts. These different legends [] across the ages to make the present-day Santa Claus.

Although Santa Claus has origins in Norse and pre-Christian mythology, he took shape in the United States. Americans gave Santa Claus a white beard, [] him in a red suit and made him a cheery old gentleman with red cheeks and a twinkle in his eye. American children believe that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole with his wife. All year he lists the names of children, both those who have been good and those who have been bad. He decides what presents to give to the good children. Santa Claus supposedly gets his list of toys from the millions of children who write to him at the North Pole.