

# Grade 6/Week 2

## German Traditions in December



**Objective:** To learn some traditions celebrated by the people of Germany and experience the music of this wonderful country.

**Directions:** Read the information below and then click on the link to listen to the German songs. You do NOT need to turn anything in this week. Enjoy!

Do you recognize any of these famous German people?

Albert Einstein

Angela Merkel

Heidi Klum

Steffi Graf

Ferdinand Porsche

Bruce Willis

Have you heard of these famous composers/musicians?

J.S. Bach, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms, Clara Schumann, Ann Sophie Mutter

What are some traditions of the German people? On December 5th, the children shine and polish their boots and place them outside their bedroom door hoping “Knecht Ruprecht” will pay a visit. He leaves various goodies like chocolate, nuts, fruits or gummy bears inside the boots! The morning of December 6th, the children quickly jump from their beds to see if their boots are in fact full! What a fun tradition!!

Germany also loves to celebrate with festive markets throughout the country! This tradition dates back to the 15th century and there are over 2,500 markets celebrating the season across Germany!

I am sure you would like to see some of the wonderfully decorated markets, so I have included a few pictures just for you!



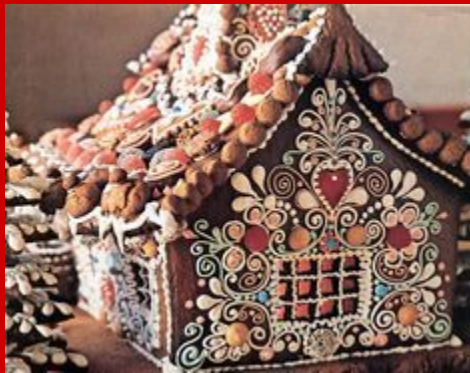
**Doesn't this look like a fun place to visit??**





What celebration does not include delicious food? The main meal in this season often includes duck, goose, rabbit or a roast with apple and sausage stuffing, red cabbage, and potato dumplings. Sounds delectable, doesn't it?

And for dessert, Christmas Stollen, gingerbread, (Lebkuchen), chocolate treats, and "Platzchen" or Christmas Cookies. Did you know that Germany originated the first gingerbread houses in the 16th century. This delicious house became popular with the story of Hansel & Gretel by the Brothers Grimm. After the story, the gingerbread houses became a prominent part of the traditions of the winter season.



**Now it's time to "Dafur Gradestehen"  
Or Face the Music!**

A famous song from Germany at this time of year is "O Tannenbaum" which means fir tree.



Listen to this famous song sung by the world famous tenor Andre Bocelli. He sings the song in three languages. Can you identify the languages?

### O Tannenbaum- Bocelli

What struck you about the performance of this song?

The next song we will listen to is a song about the snow. It is entitled “ Schneeflockchen, Weissrockchen.

The beginning lyrics are:

Little Snowflake, Little White Skirt\*,

When will you snow ?

You live in the clouds

Your way\*\* is so far.

Come sit at my window

You lovely Star,

Paint flowers & leaves

We are fond of you.

Listen to the song and imagine little snowflakes falling over the earth. How are the lyrics depicted through the music?

(114) Schneeflöckchen, Weißbröckchen zum Mitsingen mit Text - YouTube

And now for some German fun!!  
Rudolphe in German



Auf Wiedersehen!!

