

Saint Nicholas Day

Учень 1

Slide 3

St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children. His generous spirit and love for youth have led the way to the popular tradition of the gift-giving celebrated throughout the world. Born into a wealthy family and orphaned young, St. Nicholas gave his inheritance to the poor, then dedicated his life to serving God.

Учень 2

Slide 4

The best known story of St. Nicholas is one where he secretly threw bags of gold down a chimney in order to help a poor family's daughters be able to marry rather than be sold into slavery.

Учень 3

Slide 5

Another story of St. Nicholas is that he was once traveling by sea to the Holy Land to see where Jesus had lived and died. While sailing, a strong storm caused the waters to become dangerous, and the sailors were frightened. St. Nicholas prayed for the seas to calm, and it calmed down. It is due to this story that St. Nicholas is considered a patron of sailors and those traveling by sea.

Slide 7

Saint Nicholas Day Around the World

- Учень 4
- Oranges are traditionally given to children in Holland, supposedly coming from Sinterklaas. These oranges often came in three, symbolizing the three bags of gold St. Nicholas gave in the legend where he helped three girls avoid slavery.
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- Учень 5
- In the Netherlands, the day of St. Nicholas is celebrated on the evening of December 5 when people who were dressed up as Sinterklaas give presents to children.
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- Учень 6

- In Eastern Europe, children leave their shoes by the windowsill on the evening of December 5 and would go to sleep hoping to wake up to shoes filled with gifts.
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- Учень 7
- In France, it has been a practice that the whole family awaits the arrival of the Saint while listening to stories about St. Nicholas told by the grandparents.
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- Учень 8
- Bakeries bake spiced gingerbread biscuits in the shape of a saint, in celebration of St. Nicholas Day.
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- Учень 9
- In Central Europe, children place a boot called the Nikolaus boot outside the front door on the night of December 5. If the children are good and polite during the year, they wake up to a boot filled with sweets and goodies. If they are not, they wake up to a boot with a stick.
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- Учень 10
- In Malta, the feast day of the saint is celebrated during the last Sunday of June, in some Slavic countries - on December 19, and in Portugal, it is celebrated with a series of festivities from November 29 to December 7.
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- Учень 11
- It was the Dutch who brought the legend of St. Nicholas to America where he became part of the Christmas holiday over the centuries, and is now the Santa Claus we know today.