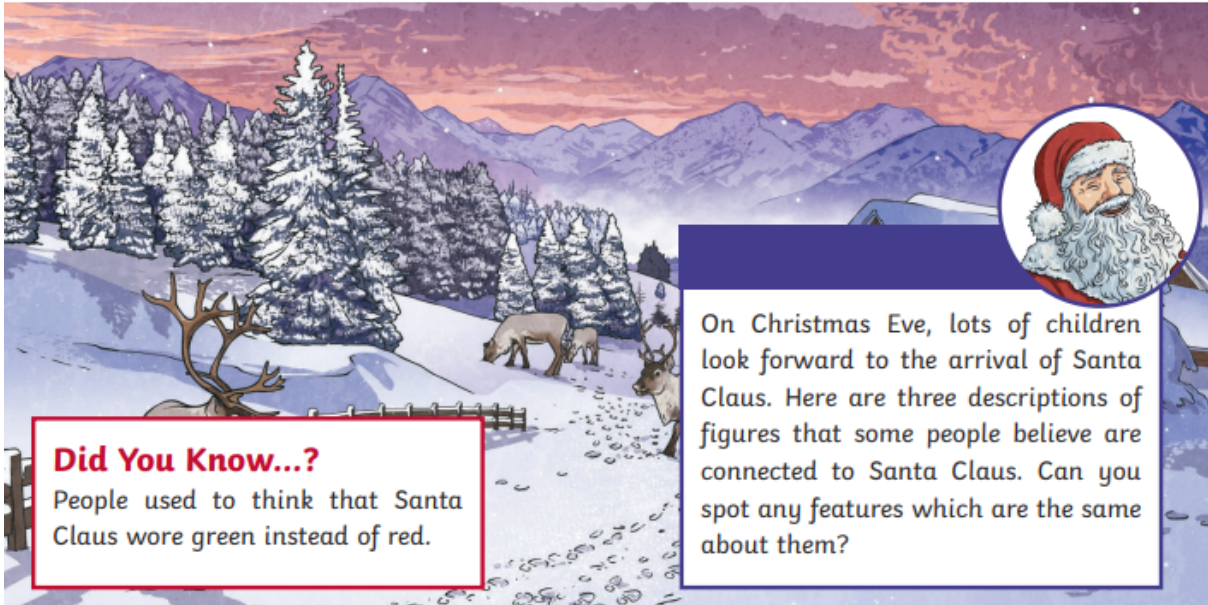


The History of Santa Claus



Did You Know...?

People used to think that Santa Claus wore green instead of red.

On Christmas Eve, lots of children look forward to the arrival of Santa Claus. Here are three descriptions of figures that some people believe are connected to Santa Claus. Can you spot any features which are the same about them?

Santa Claus

Many people think that Santa Claus lives somewhere very cold and quiet. He is also thought to own a workshop which is run by elves. Some Christmas stories say that the elves work really hard to make toys for well-behaved children to open on Christmas Day.

Nobody knows for sure how Santa Claus delivers so many presents in only one night. Some people think that his sleigh has a really powerful engine. Other people think that he can teleport!



Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas is thought to have been born over 1500 years ago. He had lots of money and used it to help people. Many pictures of Saint Nicholas show him wearing red.

One story of Saint Nicholas tells the tale of him giving money to three sisters who truly needed it. He gave them each a bag of gold. Saint Nicholas delivered two of the bags of gold through an open window at night. Not wanting to be seen, he dropped the third bag of gold down their chimney. It is said that this bag of gold landed in a pair of stockings which were drying by the fire.

Did You Know...?

Santa Claus is known as Weihnachtsmann in Germany.

Odin

Odin is a powerful god from Norse mythology. Odin is said to be the god of many things, including wisdom and poetry.

One tale of Odin describes him moving through the air on his chariot which was being pulled along by an eight-legged horse. The story also says that Odin left gifts in well-behaved children's shoes.



Wherever you believe Santa Claus originally came from, don't forget to look out of your window for him on Christmas Eve. Will you be able to work out how he manages to move so quickly?

Did You Know...?

Père Noël is said to leave presents in children's shoes in France.

Questions

1. Where do many people believe that Santa Claus lives? Tick one.

- somewhere cold and quiet
- somewhere warm and sunny
- somewhere cold and noisy
- somewhere warm and quiet

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence. One has been done for you.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Santa Claus gives presents to... | three sisters. |
| Saint Nicholas gave gold to... | elves. |
| Odin left gifts in... | well-behaved children. |
| Santa Claus's workshop is run by... | children's shoes. |

3. In which country is Santa Claus known as Weihnachtsmann? Tick one.

- England
- France
- Germany
- Finland

4. How many legs did Odin's horse have? Tick one.

- six
- seven
- eight
- nine

5. Before being red, what colour did people think that Santa Claus's clothes were?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Nobody knows for sure how _____ delivers so many
_____ in only one night.

7. Read the section on **Santa Claus**.

How do you think Santa Claus delivers all of the presents so quickly?
