

German Christmas Flip-book Notes

Page 1 – THESIS

“The German Christmas season includes five major holidays in just over a month. It’s the most important time of the year in Germany.”

Page 2 – SAINT MARTIN’S DAY (NOV. 11)

History (why celebrated):

- Catholics honor *St. Martin*
(a generous Roman dedicated to God)
- Protestants honor *Martin Luther*
(the man whose work broke from the Catholic church in 1517)

Celebrated by...

- singing songs
 - making lanterns
 - small gifts
 - eating candy
 - lantern walk/march
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Page 3 – ADVENT

WHEN: 4 Sundays before Christmas through Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)

WHAT: 1. Adventskranz (wreath) – four candles, lit one per Sunday

2. Adventskalender (calendar) – 24 doors/pieces, opened one per day Dec. 1-24

Note: Many Germans make their own instead of buying these.

3. Christkindlmarkt (market) – Open-air market with booths selling gifts, decorations, food, etc.

Page 4 – SAINT NICHOLAS DAY (Nov. 5-6)

Real St. Nicholas *Bishop in Asia in the first century

* kind to and gave gifts to children

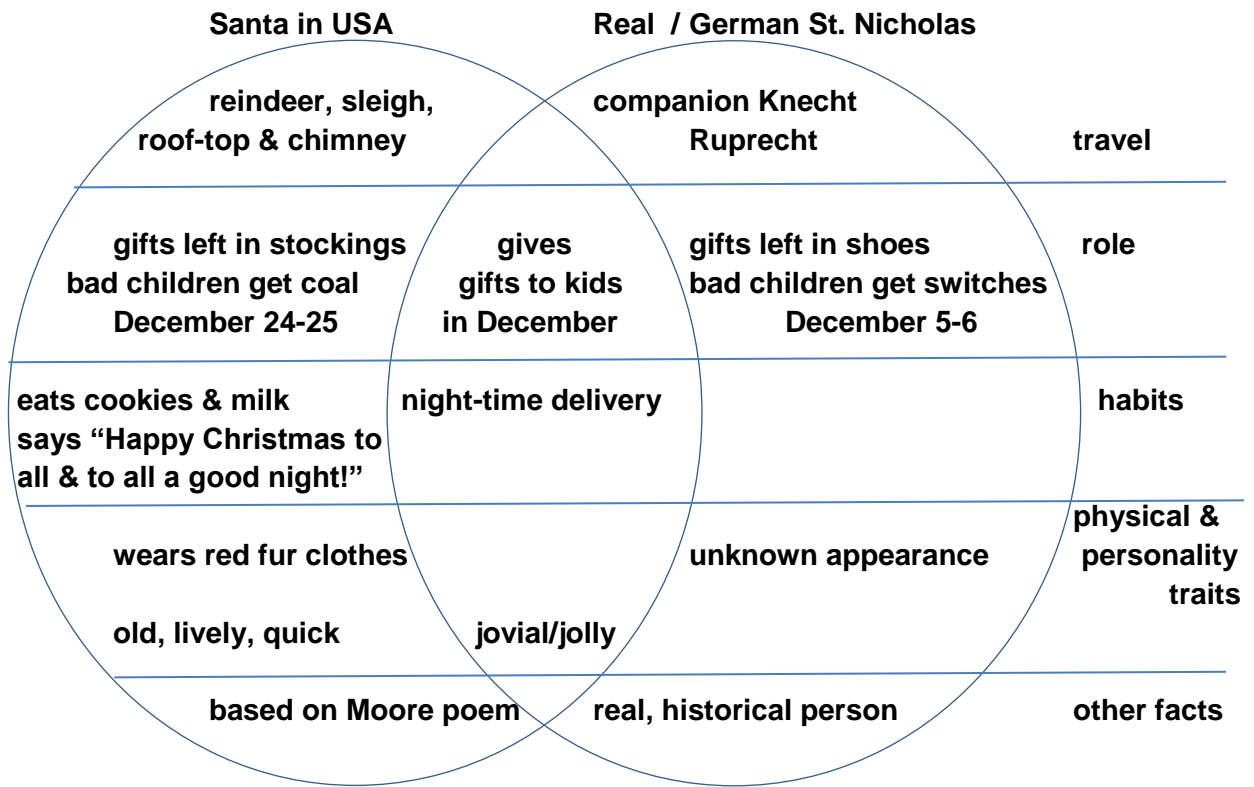
Legend of German St. Nicholas

*delivers gifts to good kids on Nov. 5 (evening)

*travels with Knecht Ruprecht who gives bad kids switches.

Celebrated by...

- Children leave out their shoes on Nov. 5.
- On Nov. 6, they hope to find gifts or candy in those shoes.



Page 5 - CHRISTMAS TREES



Evergreens used because they don't die in winter.

Germans use(d) apples, communion wafers and cookies in the shape of religious figures which led to today's use of ornaments.

Weihnachts-Pyramiden are wooden constructions with tiers, candles, carved figurines with a fan on top that spins with the candle smoke. Originally called "poor man's Christmas tree," they're quite ornate.

Christmas trees were almost only in Germany until the 1800s when German immigrants brought the idea to the U.S., plus Americans & Europeans followed the trend from Britain's Queen Victoria.

Weihnachten

Celebrated How?	Celebrated Why?	Celebrated with?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Parents decorate trees➤ Sing carols➤ Presents on December 24➤ Read Christmas story➤ Go to church mass/service➤ Feasting	Christmas honors the birth of Jesus whose sacrifice Christians believe made it possible for man to have a relationship with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Wunderkerzen</i> – sparklers▪ Christmas trees or pyramids▪ family▪ gifts▪ cookies▪ Christmas story▪ Spätzle (noodle dumplings)▪ Königspasteten (meat-filled pastries)▪ Kartoffelsalat (potato salad)▪ Bayerisches Blaukraut (Bavarian red cabbage)▪ Marzipan▪ Lebkuchen▪ Stollen - fruitcake