

Name _____

Yes, There is a Santa Claus!

The United States has been called a melting pot because of the many different peoples that have come together to create our culture. This melting pot process is also true of our modern day Santa Claus. Originally, the Dutch colonists who settled in New Amsterdam brought Santa to American. But, other influences came into play as well. The Dutch, who settled in Pennsylvania, brought with them the tradition of the Christ Child, or Christkindl, who brought gifts for the children on Christmas Eve. The tiny child was thought to enter through the keyhole! Children left straw out for the mule that the Christkindl rode. Cookies, breads, nuts and candies were left for the Christkindl himself. As the settlers continued to flood to America, the English influence changed the Christkindl to Kris Kringle. Then, in the mid 1800's, Kris Kringle became the same figure as Saint Nicholas. And the familiar St. Nick became Santa Claus.

Children in Holland believe that if they put their shoes by the front door on Dec. 6th, a bearded saint riding a white horse, carrying a basket of gifts for good children and birch rods for naughty children, would leave these items in the children's shoes.

In 1809, Washington Irving wrote about the Jolly Chubby fellow, riding through the air in a sleigh and drawn by reindeer. Then, December 1822, Dr. Clement C. Moore published his poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas". He talked about a "Sleigh full of toys", "the stocking...hung by the chimney with care" and the "sleigh & 8 tiny reindeer". This is when the red, fur trimmed coat was added, as Santa's outfit. We know Dr. Moore's poem today as "Twas the Night Before Christmas". It was Thomas Nast, who finally created a new Santa Clause that remained in the American culture. The Santa that is round, has white hair and beard, and wears a red suit with white trim.

The original St. Nicholas was said to be the Christian Bishop of the city of Myra in Asia Minor. He liked children, was a generous man and gave gifts to them around the time of Christmas.

Name _____

Santa Claus

Answer these Questions.

- 1. What is the Pennsylvania Dutch name for the Christ child?**

- 2. When did Kris Kringle become the same as Saint Nicholas?**

- 3. How did the Christkindl get into the house?**

- 4. Why is the United States called a melting pot?**

- 5. Give two other names for Santa Claus.**

- 6. What did the children in Holland do on December 6th?**

- 7. What did Washington Irving call Santa Claus?**

- 8. What did Washington Irving say about the sleigh, which Santa Claus rode in?**

- 9. What fact did Dr. Clement C. Moore add to the character of St. Nicholas?**

- 10. How many reindeer did Dr. Clement C. Moore say Santa had?
Name them.**

Fun Project!

Name of students in your group:

Pretend that you are given the same task that was given to Thomas Nast---create a new and modern Santa Claus that will remain in the American culture. On this page list the characteristics that you think he or she should have? Make a drawing to illustrate your concept.

When you have finished your drawing of A NEW AND MODERN SANTA CLAUS write a paragraph explaining the following:

What cultural theme or trend does this new Santa show? What period of art is he reflecting? What style have you used?

Name _____

Yes, there is a Santa!

KWL

KNOW	WANT TO KNOW	LEARNED
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.

Holiday Recipes

Gingerbread

The easiest thing to do is purchase a Betty Crocker or other brand Gingerbread cake and cookie mix and make it according to the directions on the back of the box.

Hot Lemon Sauce (one recipe for each Gingerbread Cake)

1/2 cup sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup cold water

3/4 cup boiling water

3 tablespoons lemon juice

1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 tablespoons butter

Combine sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Gradually stir in cold water. Gradually stir in boiling water and cook for 3 minutes, or until smooth, clear and thickened slightly. Stir in remaining ingredients. Make 1 1/2 cups.

Wassail (Serve hot or cold)

Any spiced fruit punch will do.