TITOLO: Why Christmas is 25 December.

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CATEGORIA

☐ Scuola primaria

TAGS: Christmas, History, Santa Claus,

DATA PUBBLICAZIONE: 1 December 2014

TESTO:

Christmas is a time for holidays. However, it is much more than just not going to school. Christmas Day is December 25 though we refer to the entire period of this time of year as Christmas time.

December 25 is more than just Christmas Day. This time of year has special meaning in several cultures. Not only in ancient Egypt where the 25th is the date when the goddess of fertility, Isis, gave birth to a son, but also the Babylonians believed that the son of the Queen of Heaven was also born on December 25. Ancient Arabs had the birth of the moon on December 24. The ancient Romans celebrated the winter solstice considering it to be the sun's birthday. It is believed that Christians chose December 25th as the day Jesus, the world's light, was born because people of other religions already considered the day as being special. So, the coming of the sun became the coming of the son.

These days, gifts are left by Santa Claus aka (also known as) Father Christmas. He has lots of names and many are based on St. Nicholas, whose day is celebrated on December 6, and who was famous for giving gifts.

Santa Claus has different names: in Belgium and France he is known as Père Noel. In Poland as Święty Mikołaj (Saint Nicholas). In Germany he is Weihnachtsmann (Christmas Man) and in Italy he is Babbo Natale (Father Christmas), whereas in Chile he is known as Viejo Pescuero (Old Man Christmas) and in China as Dun Che Lao Ren (Christmas Old Man).

Perhaps you can ask your pupils if they know of any more names for him and when he comes to visit.