

Christmas Around the World



Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus.

But every country has different Christmas traditions and they celebrate Christmas in different ways.

Around Christmas time in **Sweden**, one of the biggest celebrations is St. Lucia's Day (or St. Lucy's Day) on 13 December. The celebration comes from stories that were told by Monks who first brought Christianity to Sweden.

St Lucia was a young Christian girl who was martyred, killed for her faith, in 304. The most common story told about St Lucia is that she would secretly bring food to the persecuted Christians in Rome, who lived in hiding in the catacombs

under the city. She would wear candles on her head so she had both her hands free to carry things. Lucy means 'light' so this is a very appropriate name.

December 13 was also the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, in the old 'Julian' Calendar and a pagan festival of lights in Sweden was turned into St. Lucia's Day.

St. Lucia's Day is now celebrated by a girl dressing in a white dress with a red sash round her waist and a crown of candles on her head.



Activity:

Find out how Christmas is celebrated in some other countries. You can ask your grandparents or parents. Then talk about it at your praesidium meeting.