

Advent

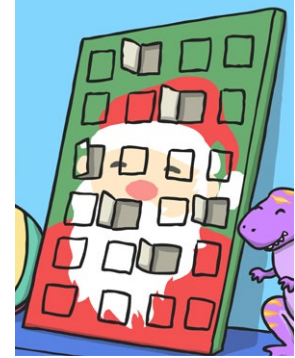


What Is Advent?

Advent is the start of the Christian year, when Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

When Is Advent?

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas, from the nearest Sunday to November 30th, to midnight on Christmas Eve.



How Do People Celebrate Advent?

People spend time with family and friends, and go to church to pray or sing. They might use Advent calendars or Advent wreaths, and sometimes they light Advent candles.

Fun Facts

Each part of the Advent wreath means something special:

- the circle of branches - God does not change
- the four candles - light of God
- the fifth centre candle (lit on Christmas Day) – the birth of Jesus

Each part of the Christingle means something special:

- a candle - Jesus, light of the world
- cocktail sticks - the four seasons
- an orange - the world
- a red ribbon - Jesus died
- sweets or dried fruit - all of God's creations



Questions

1. Which religious year is Advent the start of?

2. Which celebration does Advent come before?

3. What is lit on the Advent wreath on Christmas Day?

4. What does the Christingle orange mean?

5. How could people celebrate Advent?

6. Are you celebrating Advent?

Answers

1. Which religious year is Advent the start of?

The Christian year.

2. Which celebration does Advent come before?

Advent comes before Christmas.

3. What is lit on the Advent wreath on Christmas Day?

The fifth centre candle is lit on Christmas Day.

4. What does the Christingle orange mean?

The Christingle orange means the world.

5. How could people celebrate Advent?

Spending time with family and friends, praying at church singing hymns or Christmas carols, Advent calendars, Advent crowns, Advent wreaths, Advent candles, Christingles. (Accept any one)

6. Are you celebrating Advent?

Answers will vary: yes/no, maybe some explanation.

Advent

What Is Advent?

Advent is the start of the Christian year, when Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The word 'Advent' means something or someone important is coming. Christians believe Jesus will come again.



When Is Advent?

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas. It starts on the nearest Sunday to November 30th, and lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve.



How Do People Celebrate Advent?

Christians and many other people countdown from 1st December to Christmas Eve using an 'Advent calendar'. Each day a door is opened and a Christmas picture is there, sometimes even with a chocolate treat! Many Christians spend time with family and friends, pray, go to church and sing hymns. They celebrate with Advent crowns, Advent wreaths,

Advent candles, and Christingles. Lots of people also celebrate by singing Christmas carols.

Fun Facts

Each part of the Advent wreath means something special:

- the circle of evergreen branches - God does not change
- the four candles - light of God: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy
- the fifth centre candle lit on Christmas Day - birth of Jesus

Each part of the Christingle means something special:

- a candle - Jesus, light of the world
- cocktail sticks - the four seasons
- an orange - the world
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- sweets or dried fruit - all of God's creations



Questions

1. What is Advent the start of?

2. What do Christians believe about Jesus?

3. How long does Advent last?

4. What does the circle of evergreen branches mean in the Advent wreath?

5. When is the fifth centre candle lit?

6. What do the cocktail sticks mean on the Christingle?

7. How do your family celebrate Advent?

Answers

1. What is Advent the start of?

Advent is the start of the Christian year.

2. What do Christians believe about Jesus?

Christians believe Jesus will come again.

3. How long does Advent last?

Advent lasts for four weeks.

4. What does the circle of evergreen branches mean in the Advent wreath?

The circle of evergreen branches means God does not change.

5. When is the fifth centre candle lit?

The fifth centre candle is lit on Christmas Day.

6. What do the cocktail sticks mean on the Christingle?

The cocktail sticks on the Christingle mean the four seasons.

7. How do your family celebrate Advent?

Answers will vary.

Advent

What Is Advent?

Advent is the start of the Christian year. It is a time when Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The word 'Advent' comes from a very old word, 'Adventus', which means the arrival of something or

someone important. Christians look forward to a time when Jesus will come again. They believe that the Three Kings travelled to meet Jesus on 'Epiphany', the 6th January.

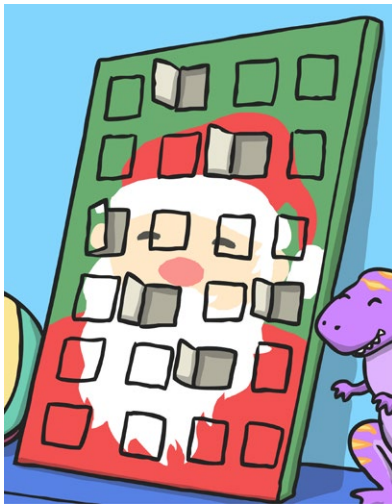


Fun Facts

- Advent began in Germany over 250 years ago.
- During advent, in some churches there are no flowers.

When Is Advent?

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas. It starts on the nearest Sunday to November 30th, and lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve.



How Do People Celebrate Advent?

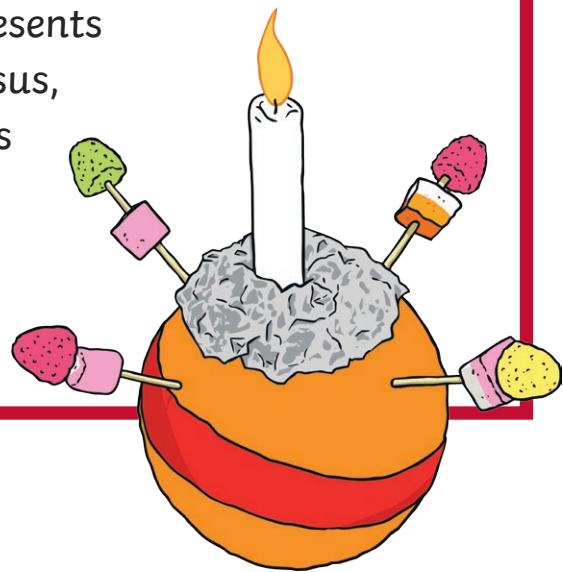
Christians and many other people enjoy the countdown from 1st December to Christmas Eve by using an 'Advent calendar'. Each day, a door is opened and a Christmas picture can be seen. Some even have a chocolate treat hidden behind each door! Advent is a time when Christians spend time with family and friends, pray, go to church and sing

hymns. They celebrate with Advent crowns, Advent wreaths,

Advent candles and Christingles. Lots of people also celebrate by singing Christmas carols.

More Fun Facts

- The Advent wreath represents special things - the circle of evergreen branches (God does not change), the four candles (the light of God: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy) and the fifth centre candle lit on Christmas Day (the birth of Jesus).
- Each part of the Christingle represents something special – a candle (Jesus, light of the world), cocktail sticks (the four seasons), an orange (the world), a red ribbon (Jesus died) and sweets or dried fruit (all of God's creations).



Questions

1. What do Christians prepare for during Advent?

2. What does the word 'Advent' mean and what does it come from?

3. Explain two Christian beliefs about Advent.

4. When does Advent start and end?

5. How many years ago did Advent begin?

6. What do all five candles in the Advent wreath mean?

7. Why do you think Christians use an orange for the Christingle?

8. Explain two things Christians might do to celebrate Advent and how you might like to celebrate.

Answers

1. What do Christians prepare for during Advent?

Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

2. What does the word 'Advent' mean and what does it come from?

The word 'Advent' comes from a very old word 'Adventus' which means the arrival of something or someone important.

3. Explain two Christian beliefs about Advent.

Christians look forward to a time when Jesus will come again. They believe that the Three Kings travelled to meet Jesus on 'Epiphany', the 6th January.

4. When does Advent start and end?

Advent begins on the nearest Sunday to November 30th, and ends at midnight on Christmas Eve.

5. How many years ago did Advent begin?

Advent began over 250 years ago.

6. What do all five candles in the Advent wreath mean?

The four candles around the circle mean the light of God: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. The fifth centre candle means Jesus, light of the world.

7. Why do you think Christians use an orange for the Christingle?

Answers will vary. Should focus on the similar shape it represents.

8. Explain two things Christians might do to celebrate Advent and how you might like to celebrate.

Christians might celebrate Advent by: using an Advent calendar, spending time with friends and family, praying, going to church, singing hymns or Christmas carols, make Advent crowns, Advent wreaths or Christingles. (Accept any two). How they might like to celebrate – answers will vary.