

## **Work with text on St. Nicolas and Santa Clause topic**

Activity focuses on reading with understanding. The text we use is about Saint Nicholas as a Santa Claus forerunner.

The first task was to sort the text by sequence. Then we read the text and discussed the various sections. For example, the story of St. Nicholas and the origins of the character of Santa Claus. Everyone learned something new in the text and was glad to know the Christmas traditions of other countries.

### **Objectives:**

- The pupil understands and can describe the difference between St. Nicholas and Santa Claus.
- The pupil becomes aware of the connection between these two characters.
- The pupil sorts the text correctly according to the story sequence.
- The pupil knows song texts by heart

### **Lesson plan:**

#### 1. Motivation

Introductory questions to raise the topic – guided discussion. A red cap can also be used as a Santa Claus attribute.

#### 2. Compilation of the text according to the story sequence.

Pupils are given a cut text to the group, which they have to compile according to the story sequence. Pupils in the group discuss how the text will proceed.

3. Read text with checking the correct alignment. In doing so, we will include the Insert method from critical thinking. The following is an explanation of new, contradictory and unclear information together in a group or in circle of pupils sitting on the carpet.

4. Each group chooses a part of the story and, according to the text, they practise a short scene - dramatization.

5. Presentation of the scene according to the sequence of the text.

6. Children are given song related to the topic and together with music played from computer they learn the text.

7. After learning the text, they can sing the song among themselves, during performance for other children or on public.

**Reflection in a circle on the carpet**

Each group will describe how they managed to sort the text and indicate what new information they learned about the topic.

**Evaluation:**

Some pupils managed to sort the text by the beginning of the paragraphs quickly, other groups read almost the entire text. Information about St. St. Nicholas as the predecessor of Santa Claus was new to most of the pupils, same as an emergence of the name Santa Claus. Most of all, however, the pupils were interested in the dramatization of the text, where each group expressed its part of the story and singing the song.

## The Christmas story of Santa Claus birth: Do you know where he is from?

- The story of Santa Claus is not that simple.
- We know he's here. He is materialized, we know how he looks like, he is unmistakable.
- If we see his magical flying sleigh with nine reindeers, we know for sure that it is him.
- But where did this magical Christmas character come from?
- Come and see a very interesting story of the birth of the child hero of Christmas, Santa Claus.



### Saint Nicholas as the forerunner of Santa Claus

The history of Santa Claus dates back to 280 AD, when a monk named Nicholas (St. Nicholas) was born in the city of Patara in present-day Turkey. Having lived a pious and honorable life, he became the main hero of many legends. And as the legend goes, he sold his property acquired by inheritance and lived "still on the road". During his journeys he helped poor and sick children.

He also became the patron saint of three poor sisters who had been sold into slavery and prostitution by their father. He gave them a dowry so that they could get married. In addition to helping children, he also contributed to helping sailors. Today we commemorate his day of death, which is dated December 6. During this day we walk dressed up not only as Nicholas, but also as a devil and an angel.

It took several centuries for the news of St. Nicholas to spread. It all began in 1773, when a New York newspaper reported that Dutch families had gathered to commemorate Nicholas' death. And it is to St. Nicholas that the shortened nickname Sinter Class is associated. It was created by shortening the original Dutch version of Sint Niklaas. But famous personalities of their time, such as Washington Irving, were also behind the strengthening of the story. It was him who portrayed Sinter Classe as the patron saint of New York in his literary work.

In 1820, American newspapers began to publish advertising for Christmas shopping, in the 40s even sellers received a separate section. It was there that the paintings of Santa Claus began to be portrayed. In 1841, Philadelphia's trade experienced a huge boom. Thousands of children came to visit the life-size model of Santa Claus present here.

In the early 90s, the Santa Claus character tried was used by Salvation Army to raise money to pay for Christmas meals for the needy. Therefore, they put on to those unemployed men Santa costumes, in which they tried to collect the money. This collection turned into a tradition, and since then, on the US streets every year the dressed Santas from the Salvation Army ring the bells and ask for money for collection.