

Advent

Article 30

You have the
right to practice
your own
religion.



What is Advent?

Advent is a Christian festival that begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.



Think: Why are Christians preparing?

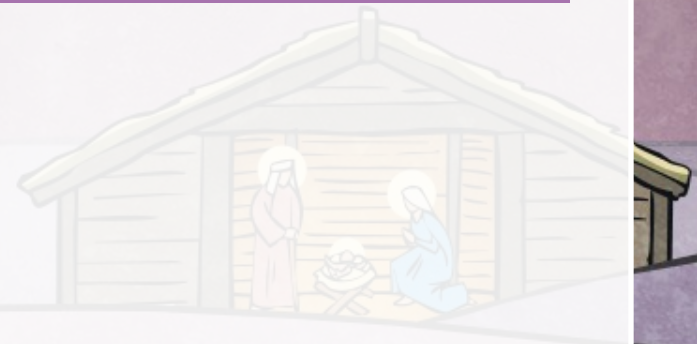
What Does Advent Mean?

Advent is a Latin word that means 'coming'.

In the context of Christmas, it refers to the coming or arrival of Jesus. Preparing for the arrival of Jesus is an important time for Christians.

Think:

What, if anything, does the time of Advent mean to you?



How Is Advent Celebrated?

Advent traditionally begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. In churches, an advent wreath is lit. There are five candles, four on the wreath and one in the middle. On the first Sunday, one candle is lit and on the second Sunday, two candles are lit. This carries on until on Christmas Day, all five candles are lit.

Each candle has a different meaning:

1st Sunday
hope

2nd Sunday
love

3rd Sunday
joy

4th Sunday
peace

On Christmas day, the fifth candle is lit which Christians believe represents the coming of Jesus, who for them, is the light in the darkness.

How Is Advent Celebrated?

Some Advent candles have the dates in December up to Christmas Day written down the side.

People burn a little of the candle each day to count down to Christmas Day.



Can you think of any other ways people count down to Christmas Day?

Advent Facts

Advent calendars originated in Germany in the late 1800s. Religious families would hang small pictures of Biblical stories up on their walls, one for each day of Advent.

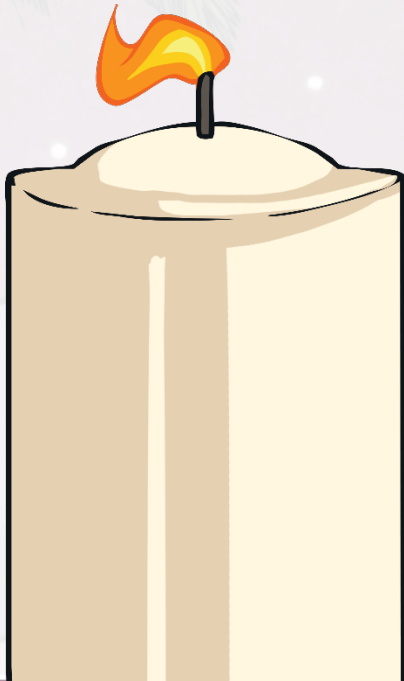
Today during Advent, churches cover altars with a purple cloth. This is because in Jesus's time purple was the colour of kings.



Advent Around the World

On 6th December, in Germany, it is said that Saint Niklaus will put sweets inside your shoes.

In Finland, families have ice or snow lanterns burning in their gardens.



In Küssnacht, Switzerland, there is a procession called *Klausjagen*. People wear large bishop's hats lighted with a candle in honour of St. Nicholas.



Hopefully, the sweets are discovered before the shoes are worn!

What Does Advent Mean to You?

Advent means different things for different people.



What preparations take place in your home during Advent?

Do you think it is an important time?

School Reflection

This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself.
Let us remember

That as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school
Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.
May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,
A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.