

Father Christmas

Around the World



United Kingdom



Father Christmas

He is considered to be the same as '*Santa Claus*'. Traditionally he is thought to land his sleigh and reindeer on the roof and come down the chimney to leave gifts for well behaved children, usually these are left under the tree or in stockings.



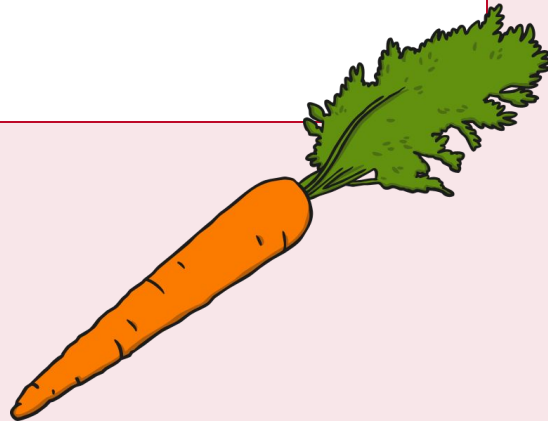
France



Le Père Noël

'Father Christmas'

Children leave their shoes by the fireplace filled with carrots for Père Noël's donkey Gui. If the children have been good, he will leave them presents. Traditionally, these gifts are small enough to fit into their shoes.



Norway



Julenissen

'Christmas Pixie'

Thought to be the spirit of the house or farm, he does not come down the chimney but through the front door delivering gifts to the household.

A similar spirit also visits homes in Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

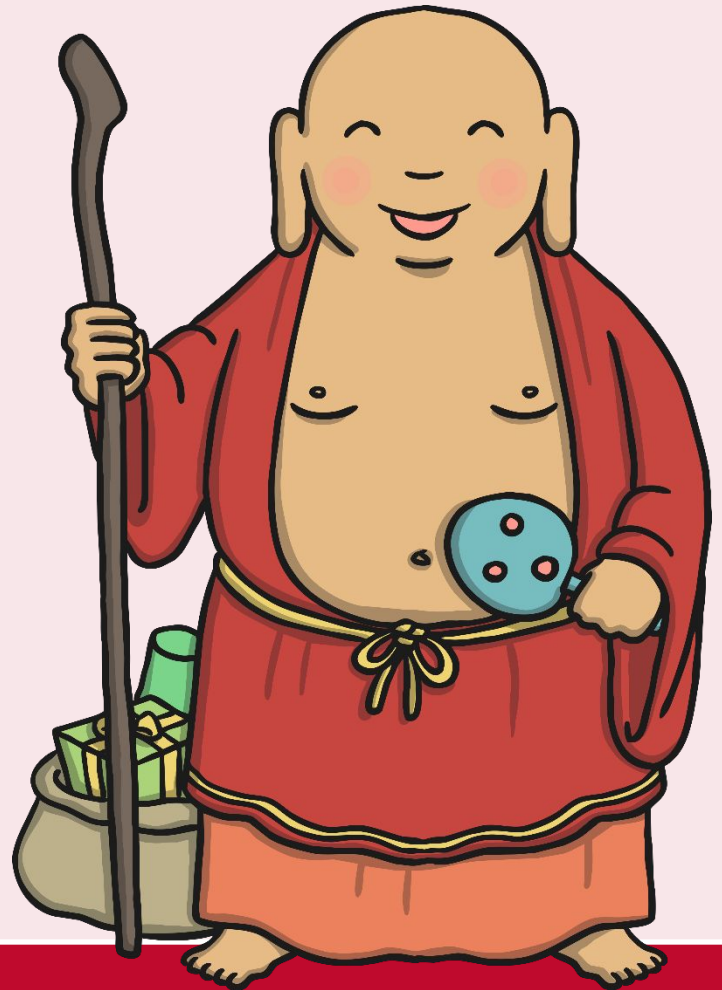


Japan



Hoteiosho

Hoteiosho is a Buddhist monk who acts like Father Christmas. He brings presents to each house for children. Some think he has eyes in the back of his head!



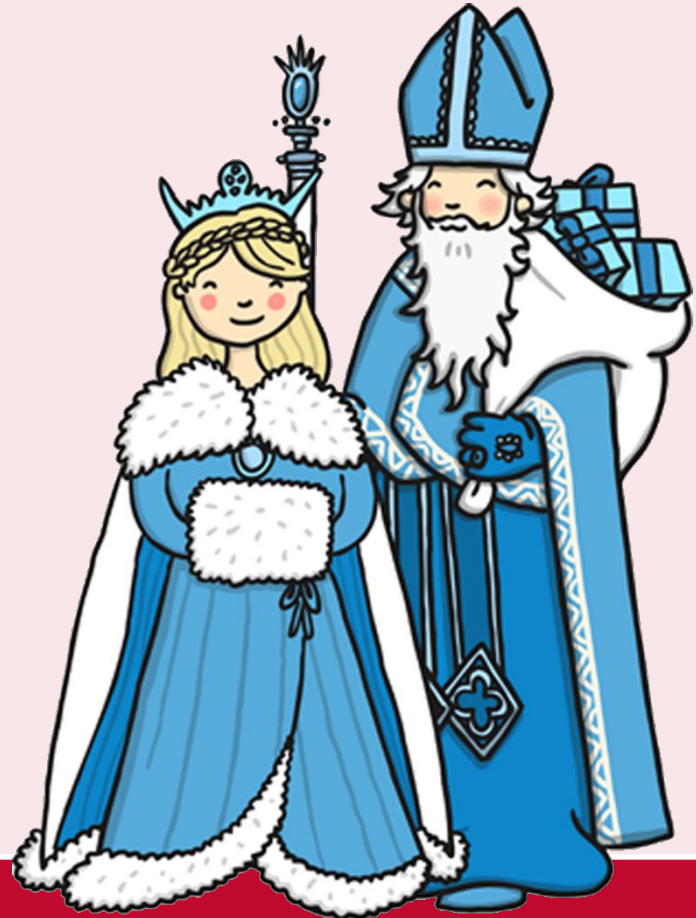
Russia



Ded Moroz

'Old Man Frost' or 'Father Frost'

De Moroz brings his presents in person to children at New Years Eve celebrations. Snegurochka is his granddaughter and helper. He is the only traditional Christmas figure with a female helper.



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