

Christmas in Holland



For most children in The Netherlands, the 5th December is the most important day. This is when Sinterklaas (St. Nicholas) brings them their presents.

On 5th December, children leave clogs or shoes by the fireplace and sing Sinterklaas songs. They hope that Sinterklaas will come when they are asleep and deliver some presents. They also believe that they will be left some sweets if they leave a carrot in their shoe for Sinterklaas's horse.

On the morning of St. Nicholas' Day, Sinterklaas travels to a city or town in The Netherlands. He wears red bishop's robes and travels with his servants called Zwarte Pieten (Black Peters). Sinterklaas rides on the roofs on his horse and a Zwarte Piet climbs down the chimney (or through a window) and puts the presents and sweets in the children's shoes.

Some people go to church on Christmas Day and have a family meal. Many people also have a Christmas tree in their houses.

Prettig Kerstfeest means Merry Christmas in Dutch.

Read the information above and answer the questions.

1. In The Netherlands, when does Sinterklaas bring the children their presents?

2. What vegetable do children leave in their shoe for Sinterklaas's horse?

3. Who travels with Sinterklaas? _____

4. What is 'Merry Christmas' in Dutch? _____

5. What colour are Sinterklaas's robes?

a Purple

b Gold

c Blue

d Red