Christmas in Germany

Name: ..... **Date:** .....

Read the text. Look at the German words in brown.



Advent

Christmas in Germany starts four Sundays before December 25. This time is Advent. Many families put an Advent wreath on the table. The wreath has four candles. Each Sunday, the family lights one more candle.

der Adventskranz = the Advent wreath · **die Kerze** = the candle



St. Nicholas Day

On the evening of December 5, children clean their boots. They put the boots outside the door. In the night, St. Nicholas puts sweets, nuts and fruit in the boots. December 6 is St. Nicholas Day.

der Nikolaus = St. Nicholas · **der Stiefel** = the boot



Christmas Eve

The most important day is Christmas Eve, on December 24. Many families decorate the Christmas tree on this day. In the evening, the family opens the presents. In the south of Germany, many children say that the Christ Child brings the presents. In the north, many children say that Santa Claus brings them.

der Heiligabend = Christmas Eve · **der Weihnachtsbaum** = the Christmas tree · **das Christkind** = the Christ Child · **der Weihnachtsmann** = Santa Claus



Two Christmas Days

Germany has two Christmas holidays: December 25 and December 26. On these days, many families visit the grandparents. People say “Frohe Weihnachten!” to each other. This means “Merry Christmas!”

Frohe Weihnachten! = Merry Christmas!



The Advent calendar

Many children have an Advent calendar. The calendar has 24 small doors. Each morning from December 1, the child opens one door. Behind the door, the child finds a picture or a small chocolate.

der Adventskalender = the Advent calendar



The Christmas market

In December, many towns have a Christmas market. People buy toys, candles and decorations at small wooden stalls. They eat gingerbread and hot roasted chestnuts. The Christmas market in Dresden started in 1434. It is one of the oldest Christmas markets in Germany.

der Weihnachtsmarkt = the Christmas market · **der Lebkuchen** = the gingerbread



Christmas food

Before Christmas, families bake Christmas cookies together. Stollen is a sweet bread with dried fruit. It comes from Dresden. Some families eat sausages and potato salad on Christmas Eve. Other families eat goose on December 25.

die Plätzchen = the Christmas cookies · **der Stollen** = the Christmas bread