

Swedish Winter Holidays

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Holiday Celebrations

There are many different beliefs and celebrations around the world. Different groups of people celebrate winter holidays in different ways. Some examples of holiday celebrations are:

- Hanukkah
- Winter Solstice
- Christmas
- Kwanza

Different countries around the world have many different Christmas and holiday celebrations. People in Sweden, for example, have different holiday traditions than holidays in America.

Christmas Holiday traditions in Sweden	yes	no
Decorate tree	x	
Bake goods for friends	x	
Celebrate for one day		x
Decorate the home	x	

What are some of the things people in Sweden do for Christmas that you also do?

Sweden

Sweden is a country in Europe. It is between Norway and Finland.

In Sweden the word for Christmas is **Yule**.



On this map Sweden is orange.

Yule Goat

A famous Christmas symbol in Sweden is the Yule Goat.

The **Yule Goat** is a straw goat which is a symbol of Zeus' chariot goats. It is now a Christmas symbol. The most famous Yule Goat in Sweden is located in the town of Gävle.

On New Year's Eve each year they burn the goat in Gävle.



When do people burn the Yule Goat?

Dala Horse

In many cultures throughout history wooden horses have been carved as children's toys.

The **Dala Horse** is a Swedish wooden horse that is a common Christmas decoration. It is named this because they were made in Dalarna, Sweden.

Its design tells a biblical story about protection.



Julebord

JuleBord is a special Christmas meal.

It is a buffet style meal. There are many foods that hare both hot and cold. Some foods that are normally served are

- A pig's head
- Cranberries
- Gingerbread



Santa Lucia

On December 13th it is the St. Lucia celebration.

All the children dress up and sing songs celebrating light.

One girl dresses as Lucia and wears candles on her head. She is believed to bring light.



Why does St. Lucia wear candles on her head?

Glossary

Yule: Swedish word for Christmas

Yule Goat: a straw goat which is a symbol of Zeus' chariot goats. It is now a Christmas symbol in Sweden.

Dala Horse: a Swedish wooden horse that is a common Christmas decoration.

JuleBord: a special Christmas meal.

Works Referenced

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Common Core State Standards

RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

RI.3.7 Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in the text (e.g., where, when, why and how key events occur).

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