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Level 3

Scientists find a bone from Santa Claus

10th December, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they have found a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The real name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian holy man who lived in the 4th century in what is now Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many miracles, which is why the Christian church made him a saint. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could possibly be looking at remains from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he secretly gave presents to poor people. This is the story behind today's Santa Claus.

Santa Claus has other names. His name can be shortened to Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a legendary character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children on the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly-behaved children get a piece of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled through the air by his flying reindeer. Santa Claus is usually seen as an over-weight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a white fur collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can track his Christmas Eve journey online.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/education-42239197>
<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/is-this-father-christmass-pelvic-bone-quite-possibly/120672.htm>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus

WARM-UPS

1. SANTA CLAUS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Santa Claus. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

scientists / universities / bone / holy / miracles / saint / children / presents / poor / name / legendary / character / well-behaved / beard / the North Pole / workshop

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SANTA: Students A **strongly** believe Santa is a good thing to have in the world; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. CHRISTMAS: How can we make Christmas better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What happens now?	How could it be better?
The true meaning		
Presents		
Food		
Places of worship		
Charity		
Peace		

5. BONE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "bone". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. PRESENTS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best presents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a book
- chocolates
- perfume / cologne
- an iTunes card
- a watch
- movie tickets
- a pen
- socks

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. scientists | a. Was the property of someone. |
| 2. belonged | b. A period of one hundred years. |
| 3. holy | c. People who study or have expert knowledge of things like biology, physics, chemistry, etc. |
| 4. century | d. A person who a church decided did something amazingly special and great, usually after their death. |
| 5. miracles | e. An amazing and great event that no one can explain or no one can do. |
| 6. saint | f. A person's body after his/her death. |
| 7. remains | g. Strongly connected to God or to a religious reason. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 8. shortened | h. An act of traveling from one place to another. |
| 9. legendary | i. Brings and gives something (e.g. a letter, parcel, Amazon order, etc.) to someone. |
| 10. well-behaved | j. A large deer that lives in the far north and snowy areas of Europe and North America. They are famous for pulling Santa Claus through the sky at Christmas. |
| 11. delivers | k. Made or became shorter. |
| 12. reindeer | l. Of, described, or based on a popular story from the past. |
| 13. fur | m. The short, fine, soft hair that covers some animals. Companies sometimes use this to make coats. |
| 14. journey | n. Acting in a way that other people think is good and polite. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Scientists from Oxford University found the body of Santa Claus. **T / F**
- b. Santa Claus came from a real saint called Nicholas. **T / F**
- c. St Nicholas lived in an area where Finland is now. **T / F**
- d. St Nicholas is the saint of students. **T / F**
- e. Another name for Santa Claus is Father Christmas. **T / F**
- f. If children do not behave, Santa brings them coal. **T / F**
- g. Santa Claus always wears a white leather belt. **T / F**
- h. Santa Claus lives in the South Pole in his toy-making workshop. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. believe | a. gifts |
| 2. holy | b. mythical |
| 3. miracles | c. body |
| 4. remains | d. religious |
| 5. presents | e. follow |
| 6. shortened | f. sky |
| 7. legendary | g. think |
| 8. air | h. reduced |
| 9. track | i. trip |
| 10. journey | j. wonders |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. they have found a bone | a. behind today's Santa Claus |
| 2. a Christian holy man who | b. created many miracles |
| 3. There are stories that he | c. has a toy-making workshop |
| 4. he secretly gave | d. of well-behaved children |
| 5. This is the story | e. that belonged to Santa Claus |
| 6. His name can | f. a white fur collar and cuffs |
| 7. brings presents to the homes | g. be shortened to Santa |
| 8. Badly-behaved children | h. presents to poor people |
| 9. He wears a red coat with | i. get a piece of coal |
| 10. in the North Pole, where he | j. lived in the 4th century |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Scientists from Oxford University in the UK (1) _____ they have found a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The (2) _____ name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian holy man who lived in the 4th (3) _____ in what is now Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many (4) _____, which is why the Christian church made him a (5) _____. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could (6) _____ be looking at remains from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he (7) _____ gave presents to poor people. This is the story (8) _____ today's Santa Claus.

century
saint
behind
believe
miracles
secretly
real
possibly

Santa Claus has other names. His name can be (9) _____ to Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a (10) _____ character who brings presents to the homes of well-(11) _____ children on the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly-behaved children get a (12) _____ of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is (13) _____ through the air by his flying reindeer. Santa Claus is usually (14) _____ as an over-weight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a white (15) _____ collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can (16) _____ his Christmas Eve journey online.

fur
shortened
track
behaved
legendary
seen
pulled
piece

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

- 1) Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they _____ bone
 - a. have fond a
 - b. have fund a
 - c. have found a
 - d. have founder
- 2) He was a Christian holy man who lived in the 4th century in _____ Turkey
 - a. what is know
 - b. what is known
 - c. what is now
 - d. what is not
- 3) he created many miracles, which is why the Christian church _____ saint
 - a. made him a
 - b. made him one
 - c. made him that
 - d. made him be
- 4) This bone suggests that we could possibly be looking at remains from _____
 - a. St Nicholas itself
 - b. St Nicholas themself
 - c. St Nicholas his self
 - d. St Nicholas himself
- 5) he secretly gave presents to poor people. This is the story _____ Santa Claus
 - a. beyond today's
 - b. behest today's
 - c. behind today's
 - d. before today's
- 6) Santa Claus has other names. His name can _____ Santa
 - a. be short and to
 - b. be shortened to
 - c. be short end to
 - d. be short add to
- 7) He is a legendary character who brings presents to the homes of _____ children
 - a. well-behaved
 - b. well be-halved
 - c. well behavior
 - d. well-behaves
- 8) Badly-behaved children get _____ coal
 - a. a piece of
 - b. up piece of
 - c. app ease of
 - d. appease of
- 9) He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled through the air _____ reindeer
 - a. buy his flying
 - b. by his flying
 - c. by his fly in
 - d. buy his fly in
- 10) He lives in the North Pole, where he has a _____ workshop
 - a. toy make in
 - b. toy may king
 - c. toy-make king
 - d. toy-making

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they (1) _____ bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The real name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian (2) _____ lived in the 4th century in (3) _____ Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many miracles, which is why the Christian church made (4) _____. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could possibly (5) _____ remains from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories (6) _____ gave presents to poor people. This is the story behind today's Santa Claus.

Santa Claus has other names. His name can (7) _____ Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a legendary character who brings presents to (8) _____ well-behaved children on the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly-behaved children get (9) _____ coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled through the air (10) _____ reindeer. Santa Claus is usually seen as an over-weight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a (11) _____ and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today (12) _____ Christmas Eve journey online.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

1. What university are the scientists from?
2. What century did St Nicholas live in?
3. Why did the Christian church make Nicholas a saint?
4. Who is St Nicholas the saint of?
5. According to stories, who did St Nicholas give presents to?
6. What is another two-word name for Santa Claus?
7. What present do Badly-behaved children get?
8. What does Santa Claus use to deliver his presents?
9. Where does Santa Claus live?
10. What can children track on Christmas Eve?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

- 1) What university are the scientists from?
 - a) Helsinki University
 - b) Jerusalem University
 - c) Oxford University
 - d) Cambridge University
- 2) What century did St Nicholas live in?
 - a) the 4th century
 - b) the 6th century
 - c) the 8th century
 - d) the 10th century
- 3) Why did the Christian church make Nicholas a saint?
 - a) he created many miracles
 - b) for making toys
 - c) he invented a religion
 - d) he loved children
- 4) Who is St Nicholas the saint of?
 - a) teachers and parents
 - b) children and students
 - c) children and parents
 - d) students and teachers
- 5) According to stories, who did St Nicholas give presents to?
 - a) badly-behaved children
 - b) other saints
 - c) his friends
 - d) poor people
- 6) What is another two-word name for Santa Claus?
 - a) Father Claus
 - b) Father Christmas
 - c) Mister Christmas
 - d) Saint Christmas
- 7) What present do badly-behaved children get?
 - a) coal
 - b) cheese
 - c) a stone
 - d) water
- 8) What does Santa Claus use to deliver his presents?
 - a) the post office
 - b) a carriage
 - c) a sleigh
 - d) a donkey
- 9) Where does Santa Claus live?
 - a) the South Pole
 - b) the Holy Land
 - c) Siberia
 - d) the North Pole
- 10) What can children track on Christmas Eve?
 - a) Santa's journey
 - b) their pocket money
 - c) snow
 - d) a news story

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Role A – Movie Tickets

You think movie tickets would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): chocolates, an iTunes card or a watch.

Role B – Chocolates

You think chocolates would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): movie tickets, an iTunes card or a watch.

Role C – An iTunes Card

You think an iTunes card would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): chocolates, movie tickets or a watch.

Role D – A Watch

You think a watch would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): chocolates, an iTunes card or movie tickets.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'bone' and 'Christmas'.

bone	Christmas

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• believe• 4th• miracles• suggests• students• behind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• other• character• coal• air• fur• track
---	--

SANTA CLAUS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Santa Claus in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SANTA CLAUS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'saint'?
3. What do you know of Oxford University?
4. What do you think of Santa Claus?
5. Should parents make children believe in Santa Claus?
6. How big is this news?
7. What do you know about saints?
8. What would it be like to be an archaeologist?
9. What would a saint of children do?
10. Have you ever given or received a secret present?

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SANTA CLAUS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'bone'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Which is the better name – Santa Claus or Father Christmas?
15. Why is Santa usually seen as white?
16. Were you a well-behaved child?
17. What's the best present you've ever received?
18. What do you think of the clothes that Santa wears?
19. Would you like to visit Santa's toy-making workshop?
20. What questions would you like to ask Santa Claus?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they have (1) _____ a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The (2) _____ name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian holy man who lived (3) _____ the 4th century in what is now Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many (4) _____, which is why the Christian church made him a saint. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could (5) _____ be looking at remains from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he secretly gave presents to poor people. This is the story (6) _____ today's Santa Claus.

Santa Claus has (7) _____ names. His name can be shortened to Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a (8) _____ character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children on the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly-behaved children get a (9) _____ of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is (10) _____ through the air by his flying reindeer. Santa Claus is usually seen as an over-weight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a white (11) _____ collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can (12) _____ his Christmas Eve journey online.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) finding | (b) found | (c) founded | (d) funded |
| 2. | (a) realism | (b) real | (c) really | (d) reality |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) at | (c) to | (d) in |
| 4. | (a) miraculous | (b) miracles | (c) miracle | (d) miraculously |
| 5. | (a) possible | (b) possibilities | (c) possibility | (d) possibly |
| 6. | (a) in front of | (b) next to | (c) behind | (d) above |
| 7. | (a) other | (b) the other | (c) another | (d) others |
| 8. | (a) legend | (b) legends | (c) legendary | (d) legendarily |
| 9. | (a) drop | (b) serving | (c) slice | (d) piece |
| 10. | (a) pulled | (b) pushed | (c) dragged | (d) hauled |
| 11. | (a) fur | (b) for | (c) fir | (d) far |
| 12. | (a) track | (b) trick | (c) truck | (d) trek |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Paragraph 1

1. dongbele to Santa Claus
2. lived in the 4th utrecyn
3. he created many Isaericm
4. the Christian chhcur
5. looking at ianrsme
6. he rsceelty gave presents

Paragraph 2

7. His name can be htrdenose to Santa
8. He is a anelerdgy character
9. well-dvaheeb children
10. He idelrsve the presents on a sleigh
11. a smiling man with a white arebd
12. a black tlrehae belt

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Father Christmas. He is a legendary character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children on the
- () name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian holy man who lived in the 4th century in what is now
- () coat with a white fur collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North
- () church made him a saint. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An
- (**1**) Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they have found a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The real
- () presents to poor people. This is the story behind today's Santa Claus.
- (**8**) Santa Claus has other names. His name can be shortened to Santa. In many countries, he is called
- () evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly-behaved children get a piece
- () archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could possibly be looking at remains from
- () St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he secretly gave
- () of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled through the air by his flying
- () Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can track his Christmas Eve journey online.
- () Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many miracles, which is why the Christian
- () reindeer. Santa Claus is usually seen as an over-weight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

1. belonged found to a Santa bone Claus that They .
2. holy lived 4th Christian who the A man in century .
3. he that are many There stories miracles created .
4. that There are stories secretly gave presents he .
5. story the is This Claus Santa today's behind .
6. to His can shortened Santa name be .
7. of well-behaved He children the to presents homes brings .
8. delivers presents a He the on sleigh .
9. a with fur wears coat white He red a collar .
10. Eve Christmas his track can today Children journey .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Scientists from Oxford University in the UK *believe* / *beliefs* they have found a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The *really* / *real* name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian *holy* / *holly* man who lived in the 4th century in *that* / *what* is now Turkey. He *dried* / *died* in the year 343. There are stories that he created many *miracles* / *miraculous*, which is why the Christian church made him a saint. The scientists said the bone is from *which* / *when* St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could possibly be looking at *remains* / *remain* from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he *secrets* / *secretly* gave presents to poor people. This is the story *behind* / *before* today's Santa Claus.

Santa Claus has *other* / *another* names. His name can be *shorter* / *shortened* to Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a *legendary* / *legend* character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children *on* / *in* the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly *behavior* / *behaved* children get a piece of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled *though* / *through* the air by his flying reindeer. Santa Claus is usually *seen* / *seeing* as an over-weight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a white *fur* / *for* collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black *boot* / *boots*. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can *truck* / *track* his Christmas Eve journey online.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Sc__nt__sts fr_m __xf_rd __n_v_rs_ty __n th__ _K b_l__v__
th_y h_v__f__nd __b_n__ th_t b_l_ng_d_t__ S_nt__ Cl__s.
Th_r__l_n_m__ _f S_nt__ Cl__s __s St N_ch_l_s. H_w_s __
Chr_st__n h_ly m_n wh__l_v_d __n th__ 4th c_nt_ry __n
wh_t __s n_w T_rk_y. H__d__d __n th__ y__r 343. Th_r__
_r__st_r__s th_t h__cr__t_d m_ny m_r_cl_s, wh_ch __s
why th__ Chr_st__n ch_rch m_d__h_m__ _s__nt. Th__
sc__nt__sts s__d th__ b_n__ _s fr_m wh_n St N_ch_l_s
l_v_d. __n __rch__l_g_st s__d: "Th_s b_n__...s_gg_sts
th_t w__c__ld p_ss_bly b__l__k_ng __t r_m__ns fr_m St
N_ch_l_s h_ms_lf." St N_ch_l_s __s th__ s__nt __f
ch_ldr_n __nd st_d_n_t_s. Th_r__ _r__st_r__s th_t h__
s_cr_tly g_v__pr_s_n_t_s t__p__r p__pl__. Th_s __s th__
st_ry b_h_nd t_d_y's S_nt__ Cl__s.

S_nt__ Cl__s h_s __th_r n_m_s. H_s n_m__c_n b__
sh_rt_n_d t__S_nt__. __n m_ny c__ntr__s, h__ _s c_ll_d
F_th_r Chr_stm_s. H__ _s __l_g_nd_ry ch_r_ct_r wh__
br_ngs pr_s_n_t_s t__th__ h_m_s __f w_ll-b_h_v_d ch_ldr_n
__n th__ _v_n_ng __f th__ 24th __f D_c_mb_r (Chr_stm_s
_v__). B_dly b_h_v_d ch_ldr_n g_t __p__c__ _f c__l. H__
d_l_v_rs th__pr_s_n_t_s __n __sl__gh, wh_ch __s p_ll_d
thr__gh th__ __r by h_s fly_ng r__nd__r. S_nt__ Cl__s __s
__s__lly s__n __s __n __v_r-w__ght, h_ppy, sm_l_ng m_n
w_th __wh_t b__rd. H_w__rs __r_d c__t w_th __wh_t
_f_r c_ll_r __nd c_ffs, r_d tr__s_rs, __bl_ck l__th_r b_l_t
__nd bl_ck b__ts. H__l_v_s __n th__ N_rth P_l__, wh_r__h__
h_s __t_y-m_k_ng w_rksh_p. Ch_ldr_n t_d_y c_n tr_ck
h_s Chr_stm_s __v__j__rn_y __nl_n__.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

scientists from oxford university in the uk believe they have found a bone that belonged to santa claus the real name of santa claus is st nicholas he was a christian holy man who lived in the 4th century in what is now turkey he died in the year 343 there are stories that he created many miracles which is why the christian church made him a saint the scientists said the bone is from when st nicholas lived an archaeologist said "this bone...suggests that we could possibly be looking at remains from st nicholas himself" st nicholas is the saint of children and students there are stories that he secretly gave presents to poor people this is the story behind today's santa claus

santa claus has other names his name can be shortened to santa in many countries he is called father christmas he is a legendary character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children on the evening of the 24th of december (christmas eve) Badly-behaved children get a piece of coal he delivers the presents on a sleigh which is pulled through the air by his flying reindeer santa claus is usually seen as an over-weight happy smiling man with a white beard he wears a red coat with a white fur collar and cuffs red trousers a black leather belt and black boots he lives in the north pole where he has a toy-making workshop children today can track his christmas eve journey online

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171210-st-nicholas.html>

Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they have found a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The real name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian holy man who lived in the 4th century in what is now Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many miracles, which is why the Christian church made him a saint. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone ... suggests that we could possibly be looking at remains from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he secretly gave presents to poor people. This is the story behind today's Santa Claus. Santa Claus has other names. His name can be shortened to Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a legendary character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children on the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly behaved children get a piece of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled through the air by his flying reindeer. Santa Claus is usually seen as an overweight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a white fur collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can track his Christmas Eve journey online.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SANTA CLAUS: Make a poster about Santa Claus. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. A GOOD CHARACTER: Write a magazine article about Santa Claus being a good character for children. Include imaginary interviews with people who believe this and with people who do not believe it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on Santa Claus. Ask him/her three questions about him. Give him/her three of your ideas on how Santa Claus should help children more. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. a 3. g 4. b 5. e 6. d 7. f
8. k 9. l 10. n 11. i 12. j 13. m 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F b T c F d T e T f T g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. believe | a. think |
| 2. holy | b. religious |
| 3. miracles | c. wonders |
| 4. remains | d. body |
| 5. presents | e. gifts |
| 6. shortened | f. reduced |
| 7. legendary | g. mythical |
| 8. air | h. sky |
| 9. track | i. follow |
| 10. journey | j. trip |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Oxford University
2. The 4th century
3. He created many miracles
4. Children and students
5. Poor people
6. Father Christmas
7. Coal
8. A sleigh
9. The North Pole
10. Santa's journey

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)