



All About Advent



What is Advent?

Advent is the start of the Christian year.

It is a time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

It is also a time for Christians to look forward to a time when Jesus will come again.



When is Advent?

Advent is the 4 weeks before Christmas.

It starts on the nearest Sunday to November 30th.

Advent lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve.



How is Advent Celebrated?

Churches display an Advent crown or Advent wreath during Advent.

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches.

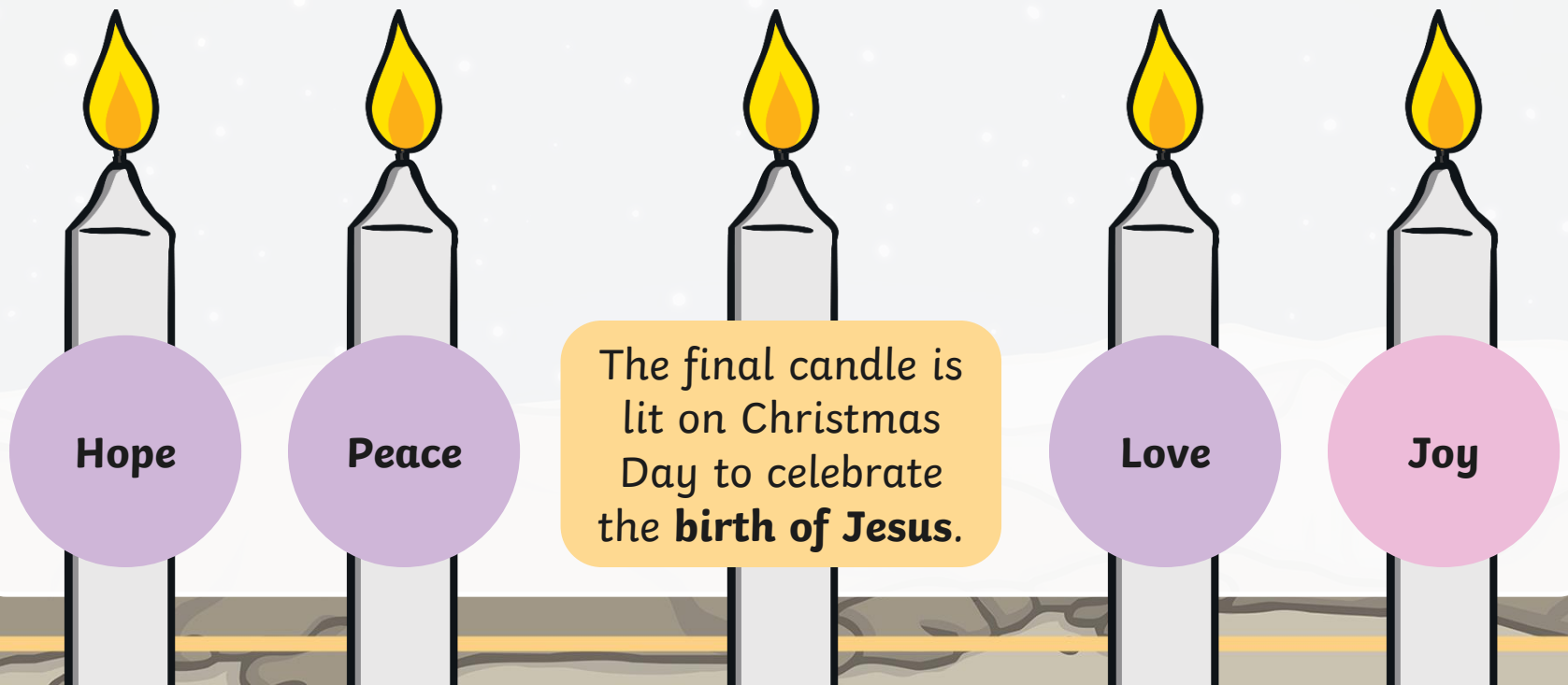
There are 4 candles standing in the circle.
In the centre there is a 5th candle.



How is Advent Celebrated?

The circle of evergreen branches is a reminder that God does not change. The candles remind Christians of the light of God.

A new candle is lit each Sunday during Advent until all 4 candles are burning. Each candle has a different meaning:



Christingles

Children often have fun making Christingles during Advent.

The cocktail sticks represent
the four seasons.

The sweets or dried fruit represent
all of God's creations.

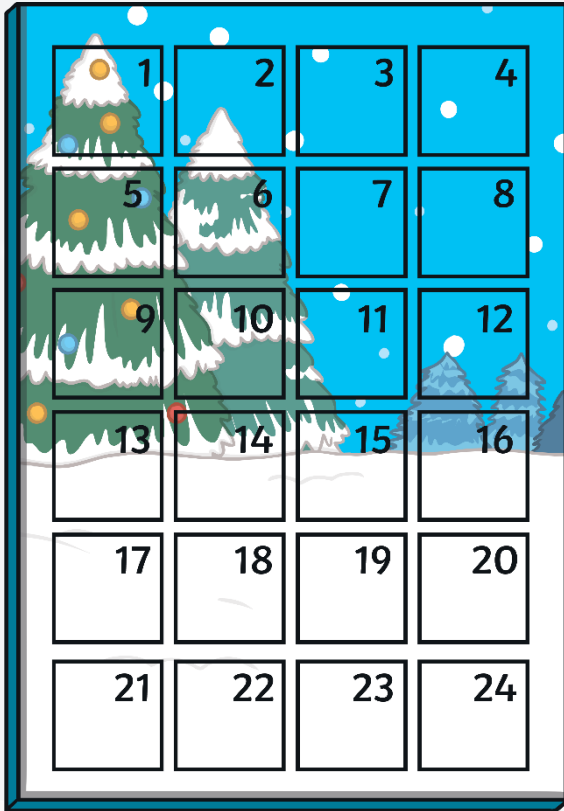
The red ribbon is a reminder
that Jesus died.

The candle reminds Christians of
Jesus, light of the world.

The orange represents the world.



Advent Calendars



Advent calendars start on 1st December and count down to Christmas Eve.

Each day a door is opened and shows a Christmas picture.

Some Advent calendars have a chocolate treat hidden behind the door!

Advent Around the World: Germany

In Germany, at Advent you need to check your shoes before putting them on.

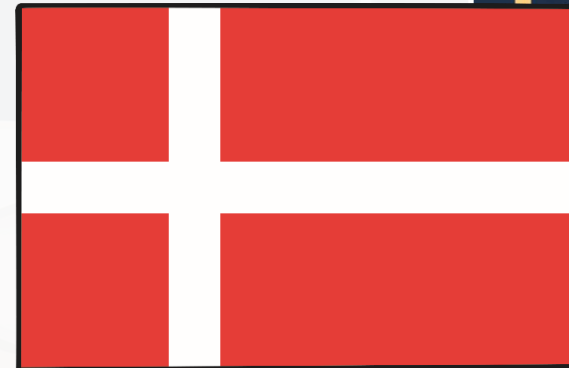
On the 6th December, Saint Nikolaus comes and puts sweets in children's shoes during the night.



Advent Around the World: Denmark

In Denmark, families burn calendar candles.

The candle is burnt a little each night until it is finished on Christmas Eve.



Advent Around the World: Finland

In Finland, families have ice or snow lanterns burning in their garden.

