

The Original “Saint Nick”

Santa Claus is a character from legends based on Saint Nicholas of Myra, a real-life fourth-century Roman Catholic saint from the city of Myra, in Asia Minor, where Turkey is today. Little is known about his historical life, although he had a reputation for being generous, and many legends arose based on his acts that he performed for the poor (Britannica). In the Middle Ages, children were given presents in his honour.

To North America

The Dutch brought the legendary *Sinterklaas* figure – who is said to keep records of the kids who were naughty and nice and give gifts just like the Western character of Santa Claus – to New Amsterdam, a 17th-century Dutch settlement at the southern end of Manhattan Island in New York City (Britannica). Thomas Nast, a cartoonist, was a major contributor to the modern portrayal of Santa Claus. Clement Clarke Moore’s poem “ ’Twas the Night Before Christmas” further contributed to the modern portrayal of Santa Claus.

If you are/will be a parent

Please don’t actively deceive your kids into thinking that Santa Claus is a real, living person. It undermines their trust in you, and they will have trust issues in the future, which might cause them to doubt historical truths and believe in conspiracy theories. Imaginary play with Santa Claus, however, is fun, and I would strongly encourage it! It is okay if kids play pretend with Santa Claus, just as they might do with characters from movies or fairy tales.



**Santa Claus
is NOT Real!**



Santa Claus is not real!

Ever wonder who leaves those gifts underneath the Christmas tree? You might think it is a jolly, bearded man in a large red coat – but in fact, it is merely your parents and/or legal guardians.



THIS IS SANTA

You can still enjoy Christmas!

Christmas is not restricted to just belief in an imaginary man in a red suit! Here are many things you should do at Christmas:

- Write cards to friends and family!
- Write Christmas music!
- Continue the *legend* of Santa by writing a story about him! (But don't tell others that your story is non-fiction!)
- Go to the library or online to explore more about the history of Santa Claus!
- Christmas was based on the birth of a significant first-century person! If you believe in him (if you do, you know exactly whom I'm referring to), then honour and give thanks for his birth!



Many authors have contributed to the imaginary portrayal of the modern Santa Claus.

Works Cited

Encyclopædia Britannica authors. "Santa Claus." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 17 Aug. 2020, www.britannica.com/topic/Santa-Claus.

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Merry Christmas! Written by Félix An
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