A Christian holiday

signifying the birth

of Jesus, Christmas is

widely celebrated

and enjoyed across

the United States

and the world. The

holiday always falls

on 25 December

(regardless of the

day of the week),

and is typically

accompanied by

decorations,

presents, and special

meals.

Specifically, the

legend behind

Christmas (and the

one that most

children are told) is

that Santa Claus, a

bearded, hefty, jolly,

and

red-jacket-wearing

old man who lives in

the North Pole,

spends the year

crafting presents

with his elves, or

small, festive,

excited

Santa-assistants. All

the children who

behave throughout

the year are

admitted to

the Good List, and

will presumably

receive their desired

gifts on Christmas,

while those who

don't behave are

placed on

the Naughty List, and

will presumably

(although the matter

is determined by

parents) receive a

lump of coal.

Santa Claus is said to

fly around the

Christmas sky in a

sled powered by

his magical

reindeer, or

cold-resistant,

mythically powered,

individually named

animals, delivering

presents to each

child's house in the

process. Santa is also

expected to slide

through chimneys to

deliver these

presents (homes not

equipped with

chimneys might

"leave the front door

cracked open"), and

children sometimes

arrange cookies or

other treats on a

plate for him to

enjoy.

Gifts are placed

underneath

a Christmas tree, or

a pine tree that's

decorated with

ornaments and/or

lights and is symbolic

of the holiday.

Additionally, smaller

gifts may be placed

inside a stocking, or

a sock-shaped,

holiday-specific

piece of fabric that's

generally hung on

the mantle of a

fireplace (homes

without fireplaces

might use the wall).

A Christmas

tree's ornaments, or

hanging, typically

spherical

decorations, in

addition to the

mentioned lights,

may be accompanied

by a star, or a

representation of

the Star of Jerusalem

that the Three

Apostles followed

while bringing Baby

Jesus gifts and

honoring him, in the

Bible.