

CELEBRATIONS

onestopenglish

Advent

Teacher's notes

Age: Adults and young adults

Level: Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time: 90 minutes +

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. Read a short text about Advent in Germany, looking at the language used;
2. Complete an Advent recipe;
3. Research and discuss Christmas markets in different cities, deciding as a group which one they would most like to visit.

Language focus: vocabulary related to Advent, including words to describe particular kinds of feelings and atmospheres, a traditional recipe and Christmas markets

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student; access to the internet for Exercise 6

Procedure

1. Warmer

In pairs, students look at the images of three things connected with Advent (Advent wreath, Advent calendar and Advent biscuits) and see if they can identify which words in the box go with each image. They should write these words onto the correct lines a-i.

Key:

1. **Advent biscuits:** a. star; b. decorations; c. icing
2. **Advent calendar:** d. door; e. chocolate; f. picture
3. **Advent wreath:** g. candle; h. pine branches; i. fir cone

2. Key words

- a. Students read the words and draw lines to match them with their definitions.

Key:

1. f
2. d
3. h
4. a
5. g
6. c
7. b
8. e

- b. Next students use the words to complete the gaps in the text. Then they read the text again

Key:

The words should be written into the text in this order: spices, famous, mulled, gifts, baking, cinnamon, wreath, decorated

3. Understanding the article

Students read the sentences, refer back to the article, and decide with a partner whether they are true or false.

Key:

1. F – Advent lasts for four weeks before Christmas
2. F – it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. F – it has 24 doors
8. T
9. F – they are made and eaten at any time during Advent
10. F – they are mostly sweet and spicy
11. T
12. F – they are also on in towns and villages
13. T
14. F – they do
15. T
16. F – they have four candles
17. T
18. F – they are made of real pine branches

4. German Christmas recipe – hot mulled fruit punch

- a. First students complete the ingredients list using the words provided. They should look up any words or ingredients they do not know.

Note: this is the non-alcoholic version of the drink and is also sold at most Advent markets alongside the usual mulled wine, which contains red wine and sugar.

Key:

- 500ml of apple **juice**
250ml of cranberry juice
½ large **orange**, sliced
3 small cinnamon **sticks**
15g of **fresh** ginger, cut into pieces
10 **whole** cloves

CELEBRATIONS

Advent

Teacher's notes

- b. Then students put the recipe instructions in a logical order so that anyone reading it would be able to make the drink.

Key:

e – 1

b – 2

a – 3

d – 4

c – 5

5. Discussion

In small groups, students talk about the recipe, the things they have read about in the text, and Advent time in general. Some prompts are given to help students start and continue their conversations.

6. Web task – Christmas markets

Working alone, students find out more about Advent and Christmas markets in one of the stated cities. Then, in groups, they report on their findings. Try to ensure that there is a good mix of different markets being researched, so that when students report back to the rest of their group, the information isn't duplicated. If you have lots of students, add further major German cities to the choice, such as Cologne and Hamburg.

Note: You may wish to exclude the capital city, Berlin, as there was a terrorist attack at the Christmas market there in 2016 which may come up when students search.

Finally, the groups should decide which market they would most like to go to on a group outing.

Key:

Possible information that could be included is:

- Stuttgart – particularly attractive market stands with decorated roofs, ice rink
- Dresden – Germany's oldest market, includes a medieval market
- Nuremberg – Germany's most famous market, opened by the Christkind, also famous for its sausages and Lebkuchen (a type of gingerbread)
- Constance – cross-border stands from the countries surrounding Lake Constance: Germany, Switzerland and Austria
- Munich – has the largest manger; live Advent music is played every evening from the town hall

CELEBRATIONS

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Advent

Worksheet

1. Warmer

Match the words in the box below to the correct Advent images.

star

spices

fir cone

pine branches

picture

icing

door

chocolate

candle

decorations

1. Advent biscuits



a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Advent calendar



d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

3. Advent wreath



g. _____

h. _____

i. _____

CELEBRATIONS

Advent

Worksheet

2. Key words

a. Match the words on the left (1-8) with their correct meanings (a-h).

1. baking	a. when something is this, a lot of people have heard about it
2. cinnamon	b. substances made from plants and added to food to give it a special taste
3. decorated	c. a word to describe a hot drink made of wine or juice mixed with sugar and spices
4. famous	d. a brown powder or small stick made from the bark of a tree and used for giving a special taste to food, especially sweet food
5. gifts	e. a circle of flowers or leaves that is used for decoration
6. mulled	f. making bread, cakes, biscuits, etc using an oven
7. spices	g. things that you give to someone as a present
8. wreath	h. made something look more attractive by putting nice things on it

b. Now use the words 1-8 above to complete the article text.

Advent in Germany



Advent in Germany is a time of candlelight, food and drink made with sugar and _____, and spending time with friends and family. Advent makes people feel warm and happy in the cold, dark weeks before Christmas. Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This is usually between November 27th and December 3rd.

German Christmas markets start on the first weekend of Advent. They are _____ all over the world, and many thousands of people go there to drink hot _____ wine, eat good food and buy Christmas _____. Advent markets in big towns and cities are usually open for the four weeks of Advent. Most villages and small towns have a small Christmas market on the first weekend of Advent.

At home, adults and children have fun in the kitchen, _____ special traditional Advent biscuits such as _____ stars. They eat the biscuits with their friends and family or give them as gifts.

For Advent, people make or buy an Advent _____ and put it on a table or in a window. An Advent wreath is made of real pine branches, has four candles and is _____ with dried orange, cinnamon sticks and ribbons. People light the first candle on the first Sunday of Advent. On the second Sunday, they light the second candle, and on the third Sunday they light the third candle, too. By Christmas, all four candles on the wreath burn at the same time.

Many parents and grandparents make Advent calendars with 24 doors for their children or grandchildren. Door number 1 is opened on 1st December and door number two on 2nd December, and so on. Behind each door there is a picture, a chocolate or a small gift. The last door tells excited children that Christmas Eve, the last day of Advent, has finally come.

3. Understanding the article

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F) according to the information in the text? Correct the false sentences.

1. Advent lasts for the whole of winter.
2. Advent always begins on December 1st.
3. There are always four Sundays in Advent.
4. Advent ends on Christmas Eve.
5. Many Advent traditions give people a feeling of being warm and happy.
6. Children open the first door of their Advent calendar on 1st December.
7. Advent calendars have 31 doors, the same number as the days in December.
8. When children open the calendar doors they find a picture, a chocolate or a small toy.
9. It is a tradition to make and eat Advent biscuits on Christmas Eve.
10. Advent biscuits are usually very salty.
11. Many families bake Advent biscuits together at home.
12. Advent and Christmas markets are only on in big cities.
13. People go to the markets to drink and eat with their friends.
14. Nobody buys Christmas gifts at the markets.
15. The Advent and Christmas markets are very popular.
16. Most Advent wreaths have one big candle in the middle.
17. People light the first candle on the Advent wreath on the first Sunday of Advent.
18. Most Advent wreaths are made of green plastic.

CELEBRATIONS

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Advent

Worksheet

4. German Christmas recipe – hot mulled fruit punch



This hot Advent drink is easy to make but first the recipe needs some help.

a. Use these words to complete the list of ingredients. Look up any words you don't know.

fresh

juice

sticks

orange

whole

Ingredients:

500ml of apple _____

250ml of cranberry juice

½ large _____, sliced

3 small cinnamon _____

15g of _____ ginger, cut into pieces

10 _____ cloves

b. Now put the recipe instructions in the correct order by numbering them 1-5.

Instructions:

a. Turn the heat down and simmer slowly for ten minutes. _____

b. Heat slowly until it starts to boil. _____

c. Drink the punch while it is still hot. _____

d. Pour it out through a sieve to remove the spices. _____

e. Put all the ingredients into a large pan. _____

CELEBRATIONS

Advent

Worksheet

5. Discussion

Talk about the recipe above and what you read about in the Advent article text using the comments below to help you.

I would/wouldn't like to try the hot mulled fruit punch because ...

I like / don't really like spicy things, so I would/wouldn't like to try the Advent biscuits.

We often/never have candles at home in the dark winter months. They make me feel ...

When I was a child, I sometimes/always/never baked biscuits and cakes with my ...

6. Web task – Christmas markets

a. Search the internet to find out more about Advent and the Christmas markets in one of these cities.

Stuttgart

Dresden

Nuremberg

Constance

Munich

Think about:

- When does it start?
- When is the last day of the market?
- What can you see, buy and do there?

Find some images of your market. Is there anything that you read about in the article that you can see in the images such as candles, people drinking mulled wine, etc?

b. Tell the other students in your group about your market.

c. Decide which market you would like to visit.