

# Today

is Christmas Eve.

- In France, after midnight, people invite over family and friends and eat a large meal. Pere Noel fills shoes with presents and candy.
- In South America, the midnight service is called "Mass of the Rooster," named after the rooster that announced the birth of Jesus.
- In Sweden, a gnome, who lives under the floor of a house or barn, brings presents.
- In America, Santa Claus arrives on his sleigh pulled by eight reindeer, slips down chimneys, and leaves presents under the Christmas tree.

DECEMBER  
24

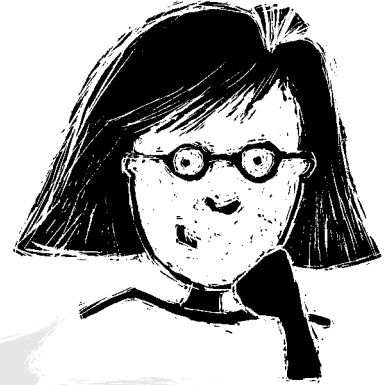
## Word of the day

eve The evening or day before a holiday; from the Old English *aefen* (evening).

## Imagine...

You are Santa for a day ... or a Christmas Eve. Write your itinerary for the night before Christmas.

## Quote of the day



"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, ..."  
From *The Night Before Christmas*

## Activity of the day

### A Scrambled Christmas

Can you unscramble these words that are associated with Christmas?



- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| etre _____        | nmaails _____        |
| anlecds _____     | eblls _____          |
| tasrs _____       | sreawth _____        |
| aoittepnis _____  | rcoals _____         |
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Answers: 1. tree, 2. candles, 3. stars, 4. poinsettias, 5. stockings, 6. Santa Claus, 7. mistletoe, 8. animals, 9. bells, 10. wreaths, 11. carols, 12. gifts, 13. nativity scene, 14. Yule log