



Christmas Crafts from Around the World

FRANCE

“Merry Christmas” in French is “Joyeux Noël”, Father Christmas is le Père Noël. If you are going to send him a letter then it should begin:- Cher Père Noël, In the North East of France, Christmas celebrations begin on the 6 December – also known as Saint Nicholas Day. The celebrations take place because, once upon a time there were three children who got lost in the countryside. A wicked butcher kidnapped them. Luckily, Saint Nicolas rescued the children and returned them to their parents. This is why Saint Nicholas is known as the protector of children. Another name for him is Santa Claus!

On the night of 5 December children place their shoes at the entrance to their house. They also leave a carrot and a sugar lump for Saint Nicholas’ donkey. During the night, the saint arrives bringing treats for the children to find in their shoes in the morning.

Children’s Hands Wreath

Start with green colored paper. Trace children’s hands on green papers. Cut them out and place in a circle. Tape or hot glue gun to form a wreath. Place a French saying on top such as “Joyeux Noël”.

