

## Scientists find a bone from Santa Claus

10th December, 2017



Scientists from Oxford University in the UK believe they have found a bone that belonged to Santa Claus. The real name of Santa Claus is St Nicholas. He was a Christian holy man who lived in the 4th century in what is now Turkey. He died in the year 343. There are stories that he created many

miracles, which is why the Christian church made him a saint. The scientists said the bone is from when St Nicholas lived. An archaeologist said: "This bone...suggests that we could possibly be looking at remains from St Nicholas himself." St Nicholas is the saint of children and students. There are stories that he secretly gave presents to poor people. This is the story behind today's Santa Claus.

Santa Claus has other names. His name can be shortened to Santa. In many countries, he is called Father Christmas. He is a legendary character who brings presents to the homes of well-behaved children on the evening of the 24th of December (Christmas Eve). Badly-behaved children get a piece of coal. He delivers the presents on a sleigh, which is pulled through the air by his flying reindeer. Santa Claus is usually seen as an overweight, happy, smiling man with a white beard. He wears a red coat with a white fur collar and cuffs, red trousers, a black leather belt and black boots. He lives in the North Pole, where he has a toy-making workshop. Children today can track his Christmas Eve journey online.

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [christiantoday.com](http://christiantoday.com) / [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org)

## Writing

Santa Claus is a good thing to believe in. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / universities / bone / holy / miracles / saint / children / presents / poor / name / legendary / character / well-behaved / beard / the North Pole / workshop

## True / False

- Scientists from Oxford University found the body of Santa Claus. T / F
- Santa Claus came from a real saint called Nicholas. T / F
- St Nicholas lived in an area where Finland is now. T / F
- St Nicholas is the saint of students. T / F
- Another name for Santa Claus is Father Christmas. T / F
- If children do not behave, Santa brings them coal. T / F
- Santa Claus always wears a white leather belt. T / F
- Santa Claus lives in the South Pole in his toy-making workshop. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>believe</b>   | a. gifts     |
| 2. <b>holy</b>      | b. mythical  |
| 3. <b>miracles</b>  | c. body      |
| 4. <b>remains</b>   | d. religious |
| 5. <b>presents</b>  | e. follow    |
| 6. <b>shortened</b> | f. sky       |
| 7. <b>legendary</b> | g. think     |
| 8. <b>air</b>       | h. reduced   |
| 9. <b>track</b>     | i. trip      |
| 10. <b>journey</b>  | j. wonders   |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Which is the better name – Santa Claus or Father Christmas?
- Why is Santa usually seen as white?
- Were you a well-behaved child?
- What's the best present you've ever received?
- What do you think of the clothes that Santa wears?
- Would you like to visit Santa's toy-making workshop?
- What questions would you like to ask Santa Claus?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. they have found a bone
  2. a Christian holy man who
  3. There are stories that he
  4. he secretly gave
  5. This is the story
  6. His name can
  7. brings presents to the homes
  8. Badly-behaved children
  9. He wears a red coat with
  10. in the North Pole, where he
- a. behind today's Santa Claus
  - b. created many miracles
  - c. has a toy-making workshop
  - d. of well-behaved children
  - e. that belonged to Santa Claus
  - f. a white fur collar and cuffs
  - g. be shortened to Santa
  - h. presents to poor people
  - i. get a piece of coal
  - j. lived in the 4th century

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know of Oxford University?
- b) What do you think of Santa Claus?
- c) Should parents make children believe in Santa Claus?
- d) How big is this news?
- e) What do you know about saints?
- f) What would it be like to be an archaeologist?
- g) What would a saint of children do?
- h) Have you ever given or received a secret present?

## Spelling

1. dongbele to Santa Claus
2. lived in the 4th utrecyn
3. he created many Isaericm
4. the Christian chhcur
5. looking at ianrsm
6. he rsceelty gave presents
7. His name can be htrdenose to Santa
8. He is a anelrdgy character
9. well-dvaheeb children
10. He idelrsve the presents on a sleigh
11. a smiling man with a white arebd
12. a black tlrehae belt

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. c	5. a
6. h	7. b	8. f	9. e	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Movie Tickets

You think movie tickets would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): chocolates, an iTunes card or a watch.

### Role B – Chocolates

You think chocolates would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): movie tickets, an iTunes card or a watch.

### Role C – An iTunes Card

You think an iTunes card would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): chocolates, movie tickets or a watch.

### Role D – A Watch

You think a watch would be the best present. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their presents. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these presents (and why): chocolates, an iTunes card or movie tickets.

## Speaking – Presents

Rank these with your partner. Put the best presents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a watch
- a book
- a pen
- socks
- movie tickets
- chocolates
- perfume / cologne
- an iTunes card

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.