

CELEBRATIONS

Advent

Teacher's notes

Age: Adults and young adults

Level: Intermediate to upper-intermediate (B1–B2)

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

Students look at the images, say what they see then read the article to check if they were correct. They then write the names of the items (as they appear in the article) under each image.

Key:

1. Advent wreath
2. cinnamon sticks
3. a cup or glass of mulled wine
4. Advent biscuits
5. Advent calendar
6. ribbons
7. evergreen pine twigs

2. Key words and expressions

Students search for words and expressions in the text and write them next to the definitions while noticing how the words are used in context.

Note: the definitions are in the order that the words appear in the text.

Key:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. cosiness | 4. atmospheric |
| 2. aromas | 5. community |
| 3. good cheer | 6. commercialism |

7. glow

8. woven

9. peel

10. count down

3. Understanding the text

Students read the sentences, decide with a partner whether they are true or false, and decide how to correct any that are false.

Key:

1. False – it lasts for four weeks up until Christmas Eve on 24th December
2. False – it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (this might be at the end of November)
3. True
4. False – this type of Advent calendar exists, but people also like to make home-made Advent calendars – and not only grandparents for their grandchildren
5. False – they are made and eaten at any time during Advent, preferably with friends and family

4. German cinnamon star Advent biscuits

a. Students decide how to complete the ingredients list using the words provided.

Key:

- 250g of icing sugar
- 3 whisked egg whites
- 2 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 350g of ground almonds

b. Students cut out the recipe instructions and put them in a logical order so that anyone reading it would be able to make the biscuits.

Key:

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

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5. Web task – Advent markets

Working individually, students research Advent and Christmas markets in one of the specified cities. Try to ensure that students research different markets, so that when they report back in groups, 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 vote on 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 and an 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