

Interest Times

R e a d L e a r n C r e a t e

C A N D Y C A N E S

Dear Reader!

Winter has come with its pale, leaden sky. Clouds are hanging low. The air is frosty.

Sometimes it is slippery and one must be careful when crossing the road.

Despite all nasty weathers we like December for it brings us our favorite holidays! Many people call this time The Best Time of the Year.

What do you think?

*I.E.Kraynova
English teacher
Room B201*

The Christmas Candy Cane originated in Germany about 250 years ago. They started as straight white sugar sticks.

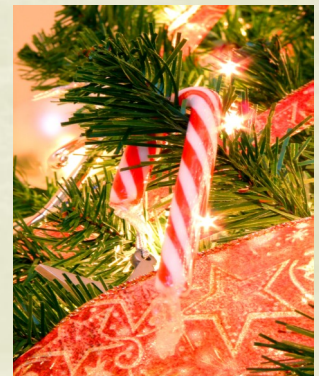
A story says that a choirmaster, in 1670, was worried about the children sitting quietly all through the long Christmas nativity service. So he gave them something to eat to keep them quiet! As he wanted to remind

them of Christmas, he made them into a 'J' shape like a shepherd's crook, to remind them of the shepherds that visited the baby Jesus at the first Christmas. However, the earliest records of 'candy canes' comes from over 200 years later, so the story, although rather nice, probably isn't true!

Sometime around 1900 the red stripes were added and they

were flavored with peppermint or wintergreen.

Sometimes other Christian meanings are given to the parts of the canes. The 'J' can also mean Jesus.



*Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night:
God said, 'Let Newton be!' and all was light*

IT'S INTERESTING TO KNOW...

...that Sir Isaac Newton, one of the world's greatest scientists, was born on December 25, 1642 (Christmas Day). A famous Englishman formulated the law

of gravity, discovered why the prism breaks up sunlight into colours and invented the reflecting telescope. It was he who said that light is a com-

bination of different rays of different colours, and that white light is a mixture of all these.

WHAT IS BEHIND BRITISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS?

Christmas fever is upon Britain again. Lists of those to receive presents and cards have been made and, with luck, some of them have been bought. Decorating the house in the traditional way comes in the list of priorities. All British people like brightening up their homes at Christmas time with holly, mistletoe and other evergreens but how many people have stopped to think why they came to be used in the first place and what is the meaning behind them?



The Christmas tree is the focal point of the decorations in most homes in Britain and in almost all countries. Nobody is really sure when Fir trees were first used as Christmas trees. One of the legend says that the first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a house, in the way we know it today, may have been the 16th century German preacher Martin Luther. A story is told that, one night before Christmas, he was walking through the forest and looked up to see the star shining through the tree branches. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of the star that came to rest over the stable in which Christ was born and which guided the shepherds to the birthplace.

In Britain the tree only gained popularity when Queen Victoria used it. Since then, trees have become more and more decorative. The branches are adorned with fairy lights, angels, small toys, candies and special biscuits. Presents are piled around the tree and artificial “frost” is scattered over the branches making them sparkle.



The holly with its brilliant red berries is the most cheerful of all Christmas evergreens. Its symbolic significance is related to the crucifixion of Christ who wore a crown of thorns that caused him to bleed from his head. Thus the look of the hollies is similar to the look of Christ's make-shift crown, and the berries symbolize the blood that oozed forth from Christ during his darkest hours. The holly is, subsequently more of a religious symbol for those who subscribe to this metaphorical depiction of the widely-popular plant.

Most people have heard of **mistletoe**, particularly at Christmas time. It is a plant which often grows on other trees and shrubs. The white berries are full of a sticky juice.

There are lots of legends and traditions surrounding mistletoe, the most well known and popular being the kissing one. It was believed that kissing under the mistletoe would lead to marriage.

In ancient times the Druids believed that mistletoe would bring good luck and health. Although it has been used to treat some ailments, the berries are poisonous and should not be touched by children. There has also been a tradition that a good crop of mistletoe is a sign that there will be a good harvest in the following season.



Dear reader!

We invite you to take part in the creation of our school newspaper in English.! Welcome!

Glossary:

Carol also **Christmas carol** [countable] a traditional Christmas song

holly plural **hollies** [uncountable and countable] a small tree with sharp dark green leaves and red berries, or the leaves and berries of this tree used as a decoration at Christmas

mis-tle-toe [uncountable] a plant with small white berries, which grows on trees. It is traditional to kiss people under a piece of mistletoe at Christmas.

jin-gle [intransitive and transitive] to shake small metal things together so that they make a sound, or to make this sound



Jingle Bells (Christmas carol)

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
Over the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail ring'
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and
sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way;

Long ago people believed that they could use bells to frighten away evil spirits. Bells were a simple form of noisemaking. Many people thought that as winter began, evil spirits would come to harm them.

The tradition of using noisemakers like bells during these times carried over into the celebration of Christmas. But instead of making noise to keep away evil things, people made noise to celebrate something happy. In many villages, there was a church and most churches had a bell. When something important was happening – such as remembering the birth of Jesus Christ – they would ring the bell.

And bells have always had a place in Christmas songs. “Jingle Bells” is one of the most famous among all **Christmas carols**.

BE ACTIVE!

Gymnasium 16

**R e a d
L e a r n
C r e a t e**

Gymnasium 16 "Interest"
Room B201
E-mail: Interest-times@yandex.ru

Junior Interest

Christmas fun

Match the words to the correct pictures to complete the crossword. Then find a secret message.

- bells
- candle
- candy cane
- card
- chimney
- Christmas tree
- elf
- gingerbread
- holly
- letter
- lights
- ornaments
- presents
- reindeer
- Santa Claus
- sleigh
- snowman
- stocking
- wreath

The secret message is _____ lead home.