

# THINGS FOR YOU TO DO

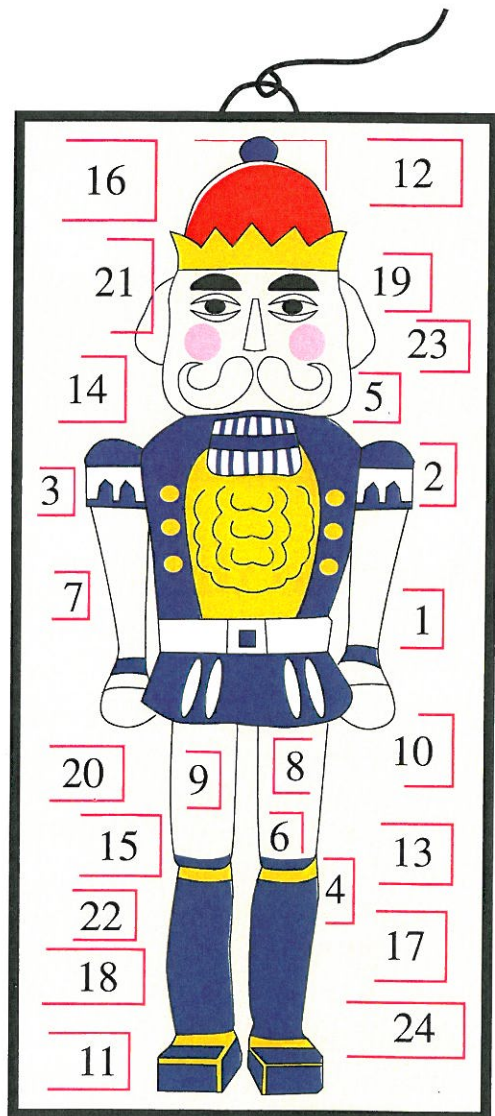
The four Sundays leading up to Christmas are called Advent.

Advent is an important season in Germany. People celebrate this time in all kinds of ways. Some people light one candle each Sunday before Christmas. One popular activity for German children is to make an Advent calendar.

## What is an Advent calendar?

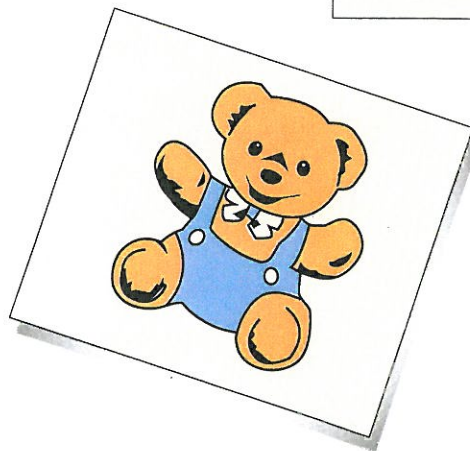
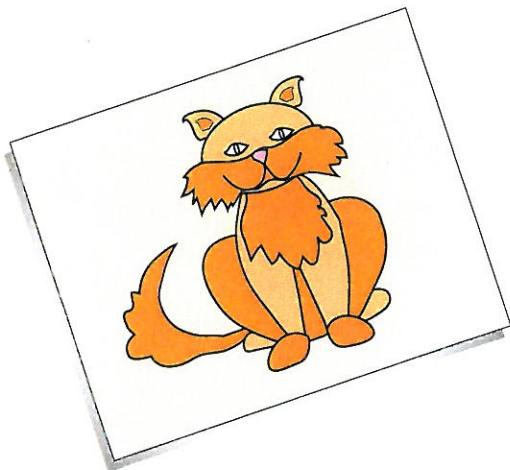
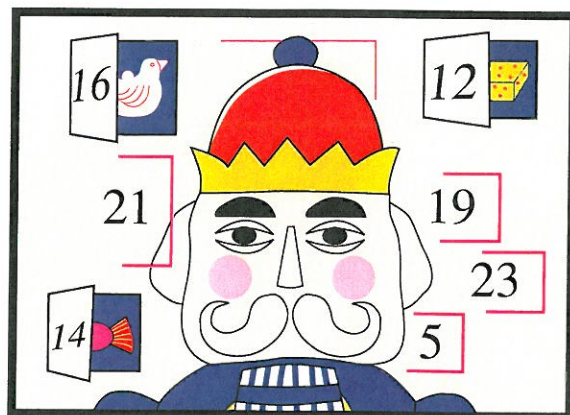
An Advent calendar is a picture with 24 numbered windows cut in it, one for each of the days before Christmas. Behind each window is a little surprise. On some calendars, it is a picture. On others, it might be a candy or a little toy. Starting December 1st, you open a window each day until Christmas.

Why not try making your own Advent calendar? Here's how to make a simple one. Or you could get crafty and make a real fancy one—use your imagination!



# Make an Advent calendar

Draw a Christmas picture on a rectangular piece of cardboard using markers or colored pencils. Copy one of ours or make your own. Arrange 24 squares around your picture and number them 1-24. Cut three sides of each square to make a window. Put the picture over a piece of paper and trace the squares onto the paper. Cut out pictures from an old magazine and glue them in the squares on the paper. Or write messages to yourself about the number of days until Christmas. When you've finished with all 24 squares, line up the squares behind the windows and glue the paper to the cardboard.



## Things to look for in your library

- The Classic Grimm's Fairy Tales.* Louise Betts Egan and Erin Wise (Courage Books, 1991).
- Cooking the German Way.* Helga Parnell (Lerner, 1989).
- Count Your Way Through Germany.* Jim Haskins (Carolrhoda, 1990).
- Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Germany.* Virginia Haviland (Beech Tree Books, 1994).
- Germany: Country Topics for Craft Projects.* Ting Morris et. al. (Franklin Watts, 1994).
- Getting to Know Germany and German.* Janine Amos (Barrons Juveniles, 1993).
- Great Composers and their Music* (Clearvue video, 1990).
- If I Lived In Germany.* Rosanne Knorr (Longstreet Press, 1995).
- Postcards from Germany.* Helen Arnold (Raintree/Steck Vaughn, 1995).