

CELEBRATIONS

Advent

Teacher's notes

Age: Adults and young adults

Level: Pre-intermediate (A2)

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

In pairs, students look at the images of three things connected with Advent (Advent wreath, Advent calendar and Advent biscuits) and see if they can identify which words in the box go with each image. They should write these words onto the correct lines a-i.

Key:

1. **Advent biscuits:** a. star; b. decorations; c. icing
2. **Advent calendar:** d. door; e. chocolate; f. picture
3. **Advent wreath:** g. candle; h. pine branches; i. fir cone

2. Key words

- a. Students read the words and draw lines to match them with their definitions.

Key:

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

- b. Next students use the words to complete the gaps in the text. Then they read the text again

Key:

The words should be written into the text in this order: spices, famous, mulled, gifts, baking, cinnamon, wreath, decorated

3. Understanding the article

Students read the sentences, refer back to the article, and decide with a partner whether they are true or false.

Key:

1. F – Advent lasts for four weeks before Christmas
2. F – it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. F – it has 24 doors
8. T
9. F – they are made and eaten at any time during Advent
10. F – they are mostly sweet and spicy
11. T
12. F – they are also on in towns and villages
13. T
14. F – they do
15. T
16. F – they have four candles
17. T
18. F – they are made of real pine branches

4. German Christmas recipe – hot mulled fruit punch

- a. First students complete the ingredients list using the words provided. They should look up any words or ingredients they do not know.

Note: this is the non-alcoholic version of the drink and is also sold at most Advent markets alongside the usual mulled wine, which contains red wine and sugar.

Key:

- 500ml of apple **juice**
- 250ml of cranberry juice
- ½ large **orange**, sliced
- 3 small cinnamon **sticks**
- 15g of **fresh** ginger, cut into pieces
- 10 **whole** cloves

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- b. Then students put the recipe instructions in a logical order so that anyone reading it would be able to make the drink.

Key:

e - 1

b - 2

a - 3

d - 4

c - 5

5. Discussion

In small groups, students talk about the recipe, the things they have read about in the text, and Advent time in general. Some prompts are given to help students start and continue their conversations.

6. Web task - Christmas markets

Working alone, students find out more about Advent and Christmas markets in one of the stated cities. Then, in groups, they report on their findings. Try to ensure that there is a good mix of different markets being researched, so that when students report back to the rest of their group, 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 decide 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, 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