

Advent



At the start of every December, many people around the world celebrate Advent.

What Does It Mean?

1

The word Advent comes from the Latin word for coming, which is 'adventus'. In the Christian faith, it is usually used to describe the period of preparation and reflection leading up to Christmas Day. It usually starts on the Sunday closest to 30th November and lasts around four weeks.

History

2

There are written mentions of **fasting** and specific **sermons** for various Christian churches from mid-November to December that date back to the fourth century AD.

How Do Christians Celebrate Advent?

3

In some churches, customary Christmas songs called carols are sung, such as 'Once in Royal David's City'. They are then followed by special Advent sermons. In many churches in the UK, the walls, pews and altar will be covered with ceremonial purple decorations and the church leaders will wear purple robes. However, some Christian churches use blue instead because it can represent hope.



Advent Wreaths

4

Various cultures and countries use Advent wreaths or crowns to mark the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Traditionally, it is made up of a ring of evergreen branches and four candles. Some churches have blue candles while others have red or white. In Catholic churches, purple and pink are the most common colours. Most Christians believe that each of the four candles represents people or emotions associated with the Christmas story. Some Advent wreaths have an extra white candle in the middle to represent Jesus.



Advent Calendars

5

Lots of people around the world use Advent calendars to count down the days until Christmas. The first calendars were simple and involved marking the days leading up to Christmas with a line of chalk or by lighting a candle. Soon, Advent calendars were made out of cardboard or wood and were sold throughout Germany and America. The first chocolate Advent calendar was produced in 1958.

Did You Know...?

Advent calendars date back to the 19th century and originally came from Germany.

Observed in many different ways around the world, Advent is considered by many to be a special time of the year.

Glossary

fasting:

Traditionally, to give up something such as food or drink for a period of time.

sermons:

Talks or speeches on a religious or moral subject.



Questions

1. When was the first chocolate Advent calendar made? Tick one.

- ☐ 1958
- ☐ 1959
- ☐ 1948
- ☐ 1949

2. Where did Advent calendars originally come from? Tick one.

- ☐ France
- ☐ America
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ England

3. How many candles do most Advent wreaths have? Tick one.

- ☐ one
- ☐ two
- ☐ three
- ☐ four

4. What language does the word 'adventus' come from? Tick one.

- ☐ Latin
- ☐ English
- ☐ German
- ☐ French

5. Look at the section called **History**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'many different'.

6. What colour can often represent hope?

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Advent in 25 words or fewer.



Answers

1. When was the first chocolate Advent calendar made? Tick one.

- ☒ **1958**
- ☐ 1959
- ☐ 1948
- ☐ 1949

2. Where did Advent calendars originally come from? Tick one.

- ☐ France
- ☐ America
- ☒ **Germany**
- ☐ England

3. How many candles do most Advent wreaths have? Tick one.

- ☐ one
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- ☒ **four**

4. What language does the word 'adventus' come from? Tick one.

- ☒ **Latin**
- ☐ English
- ☐ German
- ☐ French

5. Look at the section called **History**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'many different'.

various

6. What colour can often represent hope?

Blue can represent hope.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about Advent in 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Advent is a four-week celebration starting around 30th November where people might use Advent calendars or Advent wreaths to count down the days to Christmas.

Advent



Starting around December each year, millions of people all over the world begin to celebrate Advent.

What Does It Mean?

1

The word Advent stems from the Latin word for coming, which is 'adventus'. In the Christian faith, it means the period of preparation and **penance** leading up to Christmas Day. Traditionally, this starts on the Sunday closest to 30th November and lasts around four weeks.



Did You Know...?

Historically, Advent has also sometimes been linked to the Second Coming. This is a time mentioned in the Bible when Christians believe Jesus will return to judge the world.

History

2

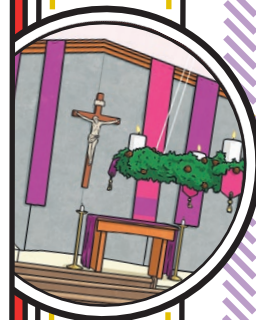
As far back as the fourth century AD, there are written reports of **fasting** and specific **sermons** for various Christian churches from mid-November to December. Many historians agree that these reports of fasts and sermons suggest that Advent season has been a long-established Christian tradition for centuries.



How Do Christians Celebrate Advent?

3

During some church services, long-established Christmas carols are sung, such as 'Once in Royal David's City'. They are then followed by special Advent sermons. In various UK churches, the walls, pews and altar will be decorated with ceremonial purple cloths and the church leaders will wear purple robes. However, some Christian **denominations** use blue instead because it can often represent hope.



Advent Wreaths

4

Various cultures and countries use Advent wreaths or crowns to mark the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Traditionally, it is made up of a ring of evergreen branches and four candles. Some churches have blue candles while others have red or white. In Catholic churches, purple and pink are the most common colours. Most Christians believe that each of the four candles represents people or emotions associated with the Christmas story. Some Advent wreaths have an extra white candle in the middle to represent Jesus.



Advent Calendars

5

Many people have Advent calendars they use to mark the days leading up to Christmas. These calendars date back to 19th-century Germany when families used to count down each day by lighting candles or by drawing a line of chalk. Soon, mass-produced calendars made out of cardboard or wood were sold throughout Germany and America. The first chocolate Advent calendar was produced in 1958. Some modern Advent calendars can contain various items such as cheese, perfumes and toys.



**Observed in many different ways around the world,
Advent is considered by many to be a special time of the year.**

Glossary

denominations:	Recognised branches of a religion.
fasting:	Traditionally, to give up something such as food or drink for a period of time.
penance:	An act of showing sorrow or regret for doing something wrong.
sermons:	Talks or speeches on a religious or moral subject.



Questions

1. What does the Latin word 'adventus' mean? Tick one.

- ☐ celebration
- ☐ coming
- ☐ countdown
- ☐ Christmas

2. How long does Advent usually last? Tick one.

- ☐ around two weeks
- ☐ around three weeks
- ☐ around four weeks
- ☐ around five weeks

3. What does the extra white candle represent in some Advent wreaths? Tick one.

- ☐ Mary
- ☐ hope
- ☐ joy
- ☐ Jesus

4. What kind of branches make up an Advent wreath? Tick one.

- ☐ oak
- ☐ evergreen
- ☐ beech
- ☐ birch

5. Look at the section called **Advent Wreaths**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'connected' or 'linked to'.

6. Fill in the missing words.

These _____ date back to 19th-century Germany when _____
used to count down each day by lighting candles or by drawing a line of chalk.



7. What is your favourite fact about Advent you have learnt? Explain your answer.

8. Name one way of celebrating Advent that you would like to try. Explain your answer.



Answers

1. What does the Latin word 'adventus' mean? Tick one.

- ☐ celebration
- ☒ **coming**
- ☐ countdown
- ☐ Christmas

2. How long does Advent usually last? Tick one.

- ☐ around two weeks
- ☐ around three weeks
- ☒ **around four weeks**
- ☐ around five weeks

3. What does the extra white candle represent in some Advent wreaths? Tick one.

- ☐ Mary
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- ☐ joy
- ☒ **Jesus**

4. What kind of branches make up an Advent wreath? Tick one.

- ☐ oak
- ☒ **evergreen**
- ☐ beech
- ☐ birch

5. Look at the section called **Advent Wreaths**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'connected' or 'linked to'.

associated

6. Fill in the missing words.

These **calendars** date back to 19th-century Germany when **families** used to count down each day by lighting candles or by drawing a line of chalk.



7. What is your favourite fact about Advent you have learnt? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think my favourite fact about Advent is how the candles can mean different things and be different colours. I like to think that this means they can suit different people who celebrate Advent in their own way.

8. Name one way of celebrating Advent that you would like to try. Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like to celebrate Advent using a different calendar other than a chocolate one. I think I might like a toy one or one that contains a book of Christmas stories every day.

Advent



Around the beginning of December each year, millions of people all over the world start to celebrate Advent.

What Does It Mean?

1

Originating from the Latin word for coming, which is 'adventus', traditional Advent is the Christian period of preparation and **penance** leading up to Christmas Day. Usually, this starts on the Sunday closest to 30th November and lasts around four weeks. Historically, it has also sometimes been linked to the Second Coming: a time mentioned in the Bible when Christians believe Jesus will return to judge the world.



History

2

Dating back to the fourth century AD, there are written accounts by various religious leaders and church councils about times of **fasting** for their churches from mid-November to December. During this time period, there are also mentions of specific **sermons** that were used while these times of fasting were being observed. Most historians agree that these accounts of fasts and sermons indicate that Advent season has been a long-established tradition of the Christian faith for centuries.



How Do Christians Celebrate Advent?

3

For Christians, the four-week-long celebration of the coming of Christmas is spent with family and in prayer. In some churches, traditional Christmas carols, such as 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' and 'Once in Royal David's City', are sometimes sung during this time and followed by special sermons written specifically for Advent. There are even special colours that are linked with Advent. In many churches in the UK, purple is the traditional ceremonial colour of Advent. During the celebration period, various UK churches will be adorned with purple decorations and the church leaders will wear purple ceremonial robes. However, some Christian **denominations** use blue instead as it can often symbolise hope.

Advent Wreaths

4

In some cultures, Advent wreaths or crowns are used in churches and in the home. Traditionally, the wreath is made up of a ring of evergreen branches with four candles around it to represent and acknowledge the four Sundays before Christmas. In some churches, the four main candles are blue, red or white but in Catholic churches, purple and pink are the standard colours. Most Christians believe that each of the four candles represents people or emotions, such as joy, connected to the Christmas story. Some Advent wreaths have an additional white candle in the middle to represent Jesus.



Advent Calendars

5

Various people around the world – both Christians and non-Christians – have Advent calendars they use to count down the days leading up to Christmas. These calendars date back to 19th-century Germany. Families would light candles or draw chalk lines to count each day. Soon, mass-produced calendars made out of cardboard or wood were sold throughout Germany and America. The first chocolate Advent calendar was produced in 1958. Many Advent calendars used today feature anything such as toys, perfumes and cheese.



Commemorated in different ways throughout various cultures, Advent is considered by many to be a special annual Christmas tradition.

Glossary

denominations:	Recognised branches of a religion.
fasting:	Traditionally, to give up something such as food or drink for a period of time.
penance:	An act of showing sorrow or regret for doing something wrong.
sermons:	Talks or speeches on a religious or moral subject.

Questions

1. What colours can Advent candles be? Tick one.

- ☐ pink, purple, blue, red and orange
- ☐ pink, purple, red, white and black
- ☐ pink, purple, red, white and blue
- ☐ pink, purple, brown, white and blue

2. Draw **four** lines and match each element of Advent to its description.

Advent wreath

A way of counting down the days until Christmas.

Advent calendar

Traditional songs that are sometimes sung during Advent.

Christmas carols

A ring of evergreen branches with four candles around it.

purple

In many UK churches, this is the traditional ceremonial colour of Advent.

3. When does Advent usually start?

4. Look at the section called **How Do Christians Celebrate Advent?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'decorated' or 'dressed up'.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Most Christians _____ that each of the four candles represents people or emotions, such as joy, _____ to the Christmas story.



6. What is your favourite Christmas song and why?

7. If you had an Advent wreath, what colour(s) would you like your candles to be and why?

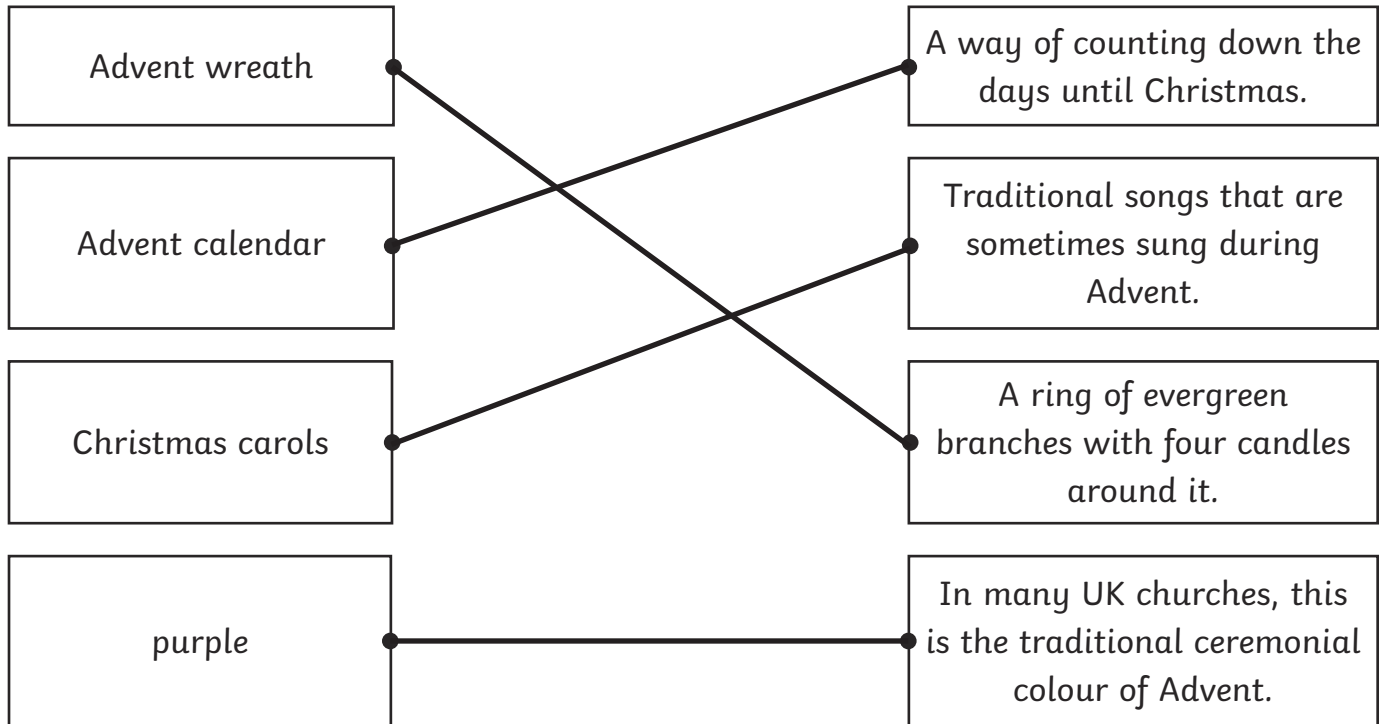
8. What is your favourite kind of Advent calendar? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. What colours can Advent candles be? Tick one.

- ☐ pink, purple, blue, red and orange
- ☐ pink, purple, red, white and black
- ☒ **pink, purple, red, white and blue**
- ☐ pink, purple, brown, white and blue

2. Draw **four** lines and match each element of Advent to its description.



3. When does Advent usually start?

Advent usually starts around 30th November.

4. Look at the section called **How Do Christians Celebrate Advent?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'decorated' or 'dressed up'.

adorned

5. Fill in the missing words.

Most Christians **believe** that each of the four candles represents people or emotions, such as joy, **connected** to the Christmas story.



6. What is your favourite Christmas song and why?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think my favourite Christmas song is 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' because when I hear it sung it gives me tingles in my stomach and makes me feel excited for Christmas.

7. If you had an Advent wreath, what colour(s) would you like your candles to be and why?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would like the colours to be red and white because they remind me of excitement and light. Christmas is a time of excitement and it is very pretty with all of the Christmas lights.

8. What is your favourite kind of Advent calendar? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think my favourite kind of Advent calendar is still a chocolate one. The toys in toy Advent calendars are usually small and often break.