


Christmas in the Czech Republic

ÚROVEŇ 3 · MISTR ●●● · 9. třída

Jméno: _____ Datum: _____ Jak mi to šlo? ☆ ☆ ☆

Czech Christmas: from St Nicholas to the Three Kings

Czech Christmas traditions start long before Christmas. On the evening of 5 December, St Nicholas walks through towns and villages with an angel and a devil. Good children recite a short poem or sing a song and get sweets, fruit or nuts. Naughty children might get a piece of coal or a potato instead, and the devil pretends to put them in his sack.

The four weeks before Christmas are called Advent. Many families make an Advent wreath with four candles and light one more candle every Sunday. A few days before Christmas, live carp are sold from big tanks in the streets. Some families take their carp home and keep it in the bath for a day or two.

The most important day is 24 December, Christmas Eve. Some people do not eat anything all day, because then they might see the golden piglet in the evening. The traditional dinner is fish soup and fried carp with potato salad. After dinner, people follow old customs. They cut an apple in half: a star in the middle means good health. Children float tiny walnut-shell boats with candles in a bowl of water, and some families still pour melted lead into cold water and try to read the future from its shape.

And the presents? Czech children believe that Ježíšek (Baby Jesus) brings them. Nobody has ever seen him. While the family is having dinner, he secretly leaves the presents under the tree. When a little bell rings, the children run to the tree and open the presents at once – on the evening of 24 December.

In Britain, Christmas is different. Father Christmas comes down the chimney on the night of 24 December and fills children's stockings with small presents. Children open them on the morning of 25 December. Christmas dinner is roast turkey and then Christmas pudding, and people pull crackers at the table. The day after Christmas Day is Boxing Day.

The Czech Christmas season ends on 6 January, Three Kings' Day. Children dressed as Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar go from house to house, sing a carol and collect money for people in need. Before they leave, they write the letters K+M+B and the year above the door with chalk.

True or false? Circle **T** (true) or **F** (false). Pravda, nebo nepravda?

1. Czech children open their presents on the morning of 25 December. **T** **F**
2. Czech children believe that Father Christmas brings their presents. **T** **F**
3. Naughty children might get coal or a potato. **T** **F**
4. Boxing Day is the day before Christmas Day. **T** **F**
5. There are four candles on an Advent wreath. **T** **F**

Complete with the **passive**: is / are / was / were + past participle. Doplň trpný rod ve správném čase.

1. The presents _____ (put) under the tree while the family is having dinner.
2. The first Czech Christmas carols _____ (write) hundreds of years ago.
3. Traditionally, fish soup _____ (eat) before the carp.
4. Sometimes a live carp _____ (keep) in the bath for a day or two.

Find the English words in the text. Najdi v textu anglická slova.

vana = _____ **nádrž, káď** = _____ **olovo** = _____

uhlí = _____ **pytel** = _____ **zvyk** = _____

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