

Santa Clauses around the world

skyteach

Task 1

Discuss the questions with your partner.

1. Did you believe in Santa Claus when you were a child?
2. What is Santa Claus in your country like?
3. What do you know about Santa Claus in other countries?



Task 2

Read about Santa Clauses around the world and match the paragraphs and the pictures:

Father Christmas

Santa Claus

Sinterklaas

Ded Moroz

Père Noël



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

Let's take a look at different Santa Clauses found around the world. You might be surprised at how many different versions of the Santa there are!

1. Father Christmas

Dating back to the 16th century is Father Christmas from the UK. A large man donning fur-lined green or scarlet robes, Father Christmas stands as the spirit of good cheer, peace, joy, food, wine and revelry. He rides a sleigh pulled by reindeer and travels down the chimney to leave gifts for children. Families leave him a glass of sherry or beer and a plate of mince pies as thanks and carrots can be left for his reindeer. Some stories even have him riding a "Yule Goat".

2. Santa Claus

With his eight flying reindeer (and the later addition of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer), America's version of Santa is one of the most recognisable characters in the world. A merry old man with red and white clothes, Santa lives at his home along with his wife, Mrs Claus, and their elves on (or near) the North Pole. Come Christmas Eve, he flies across the

Read about Santa Clauses around the world and match the paragraphs and the pictures:

globe on his sleigh, filling socks or stockings with presents and leaving gifts under the Christmas tree after making his way into homes through by climbing down their chimneys. Those on Santa's naughty list, however, received a stocking of coal. Children leave him milk and cookies and often wake to an empty glass and a plate full of crumbs.

3. Sinterklaas

Sinterklaas is the Dutch version of Santa Claus. With his traditional red costume, flowing white beard, and all-around jolly demeanour, Sinterklaas comes to the Netherlands every year in late November. He is said to arrive by steamboat from Spain, and after landing he is paraded through the city streets so that he can greet all the Dutch children. Wearing a bishop's alb and cape as well as a ruby ring, he rides a white horse and often carries a staff.

Zwarte Piet or Black Peter is Sinterklaas' companion. He has dark skin, curly hair and wears a page's attire. This figure would often listen at chimneys to families' conversations in order to report back a "naughty and nice" list.

Children place their shoes by their fireplace, along with some carrots for Sinterklaas's horse, and if they've been good, there will be candy and presents in the shoes come morning. Sinterklaas doesn't leave the gifts himself; instead, Black Peter climbs down the chimney with presents for the good kids

and coal or bags of salt for those who were naughty.

4. Ded Moroz and the Snow Maiden

Literally translated as "Grandfather Frost," Ded Moroz is the traditional holiday gift-giver of Slavic countries in Eastern Europe. Like Santa, Ded Moroz wears a flowing red costume and sports a white beard. He drives a troika, which is a traditional Russian horse-drawn sled. His granddaughter Snegurochka, "the Snow Maiden" accompanies him on his trips. Ded Moroz typically arrives on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Like Santa, he brings gifts for children and places them under the New Year's tree, although sometimes he will show up at parties and celebrations to give out gifts in person.

5. Père Noël or Papa Noël

Papa Noel resembles Santa Claus in appearance, but instead of using reindeer he rides a single donkey called Gui, which means Mistletoe in French. He wears a long red cloak instead of a red suit, and children leave their shoes by the fireplace hoping that they will be filled with goodies after mass on Christmas Eve. Père Noël also traditionally travels with a not-so-friendly companion called Père Fouettard, or "the whipping father," who spanks any children who have not behaved well throughout the year.

Task 3

Read the text again and fill in the chart with information about Santa Clauses.

Country	Name	Appearance	Assistant	Gift-giving style (for good/ naughty children)	Travelling style

1. What new did you learn about different Santas?
2. Which facts about different versions of Santa surprised you?
3. Which facts about different versions of Santa did you like? Why?

Task 4

Here are some of the toughest questions children ask Santa. You and your partner are Santa's advisors. Discuss and see who comes up with the best answer.

1. How can you travel all over the world in just one night?
2. How do you get into a house if it doesn't have a chimney?
3. How do you really know what children have been naughty or nice?
4. Why do you have the same wrapping paper as my mom?
5. How did you get this job?



Task 5

Here are some of the toughest questions children ask Santa. You and your partner are Santa's advisors. Discuss and see who comes up with the best answer.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

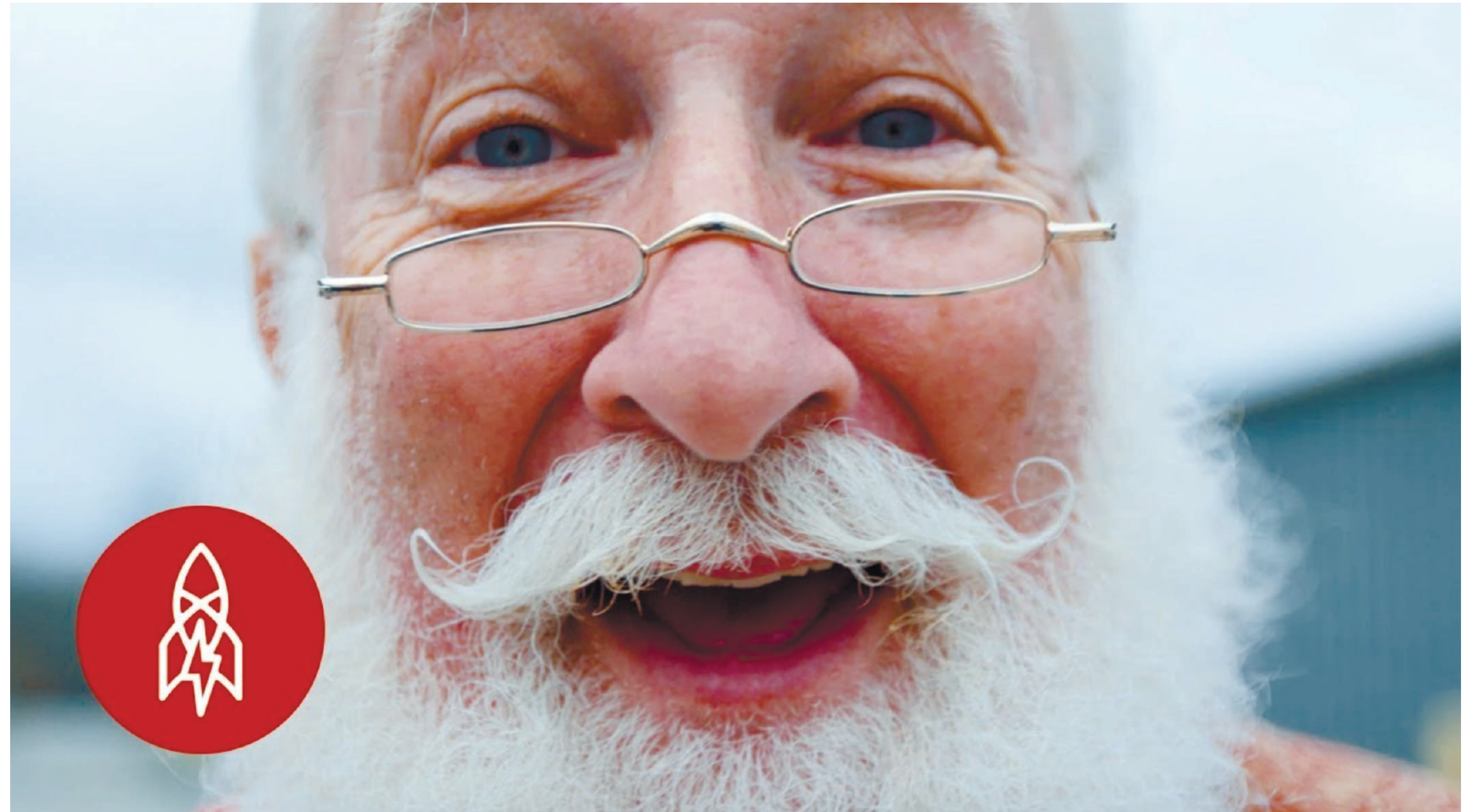
5. _____



Task 6

Watch a *video* about a school for Santa Claus and answer the questions:

1. Why do people come to Santa school?
2. What do the Santas learn at the school?
3. From what countries do the Santas come from?



Task 7

Create a perfect Santa.

- 1. What is his name? (Create a legend about the origins of his name)
- 2. Where is he from and why?
- 3. What does a perfect Santa look like?
- 4. What is his assistant like?
- 5. Where does he live and how does he travel?
- 6. What treats do children leave for him?
- 7. What subjects did he study at school for Santas?
