



Multilingual-Multicultural Advent (Christmas) Calendar.

We are participating in your project from Turkey. We are a high school with 500 students in the city of Adana in the south of Turkey. Our school has actively participated and participates in e-twinning projects and Erasmus mobility. For giving us the opportunity to get in touch with the cultural heritage of other countries and to understand its uniqueness and value and this cooperation We actively participated in your project with 8 of our students. However, through certain activities, we gave the participants the opportunity to express themselves in their mother tongue, thus emphasizing the multilingual and multicultural element of modern societies, thus highlighting the importance of diversity and interculturality.

Your project increased their cultural awareness by sharing their feelings, thoughts and knowledge about ancestral, cultural heritage, traditions, history, language, dialect and religious traditions with mutual cooperation. You presented life in a culturally different community. This was an important goal for us. Erasmus with you We would also like to take part in the project.

Celebrating the new year is a tradition unique to the Old Turks. The ancestor of the character referred to as Santa Claus today is Ayaz Ata.



May the great ancestor of the Turks, Ayaz Ata, visit you in Nardugan (in the new year) and give you luck and fortune. Let's take care of our tradition and traditional cultural values, in spite of those who take Nardugan and make Christmas, our holiday, and those who claim our Ayaz Ata as Santa Claus. Because Nardugan is the New Year's holiday, which is known by the same name in Turks and Sumerians until Islam.

Christmas, celebrated by Christians as the birth of Jesus, is the feast of the Turks' rebirth in ancient times before Christ, and is still called Nardugan by many Turkish tribes, or "Koyaş Tuga" by Tatar Turks, that is, "Sunborn" day, and "Nardugan" by Bashkirs. Or "Mardugan", Chuvash's New Year, celebrated with similar names such as "Nartavan" or "Nartukan", is the Tree of Life of the Turkish world and is a New Year's tradition.



It is thought that this tradition passed from the Turks to the Sumerians, whose homeland is Central Asia and migrated to Mesopotamia for various reasons, and from there to Ancient Rome through Anatolia, and has come to the present day and formed the basis of today's January 1st New Year's Day.

According to the beliefs of the Turks before they entered monotheistic religions, there is a maple tree in the middle of the earth. This tree is called the tree of life. This tree, which is of great importance for the Turks, is used as a motif in Anatolia as well as in Central Asia, such as all carpets, rugs, tiles, amulets, pillows, etc. seen in our work.

The pine tree has been considered a sacred tree for the Turks since ancient times. In his honor, festivals were held 3-4 thousand years ago when people worshiped idols.

There is a saying in Anatolia, "The judge of the mountains is tar, and the mufti is pine". With this word, the blessed tree of God, the pine, was symbolized by the mufti who

taught religion to people. In the Altai epics, the pine tree symbolizes resurrection and well-being.



The tradition of pine decoration, which has been seen as a Christian tradition for years, is actually an important tradition inherited from our ancestors.

While the concept of Christianity was not yet in existence and before it spread as a religion, it was a form of belief that largely overlaps with Shamanism, and its origins go back to the ancient nature religions of the world, adopting a pantheistic understanding of nature-human identity before monotheistic religions, keeping nature sacred and celebrating the movements of the sun and moon collectively. , a holy day known as the 'rebirth' holiday, which is repeated every year on December 22, where day and night are equalized among the communities called pagan, which is based on living in the countryside and being intertwined with nature, shows the birthday of Jesus as December 25 and Christmas means Christmas. They combined the Pagan understanding with the love of nature and entertainment in its essence and spread it to the world with the name of Christmas.

Dressing Santa Claus in a red and white jumpsuit is a made-up act by Haddon Sundblum, who prepared advertising posters for Coco Cola for commercial purposes.

Sun is very important for Turks. According to the beliefs of the Turks, the battle of the Night and the Day begins on December 22. After an all-night battle, the Sun wins. This victory is called Nardugan, that is, the Rising Sun.

Pomegranate, which is frequently mentioned in literary sources in Eastern Mediterranean, Mesopotamian, Iranian, Urartian and Aegean cultures, symbolizes birth, death, life, fertility and abundance. In ancient Egypt, the dead were buried with pomegranates in the hope of a second life. In folk culture, pomegranate also means sun. Tugan is born. Its combination is "Rising Sun". The Turks celebrated this victory with festivities under the tree of life.



The Turkish tribes in Central Asia decorated the pine tree to thank God, as the day lengthened on December 25, and placed gifts under the tree, also known as the Tree of Life, and left their wishes for the next year under the tree, just like the house and car shape were made in Hidrellez. Today, there are pine branches called the Christmas tree.



We enter the New Year with new hopes and excitement, and with our loved ones, under the decorated Christmas trees, with the energy of the New Year's gifts received. The most beautiful Christmas gifts are waiting for you during the New Year holiday! If you haven't bought a gift for your loved ones yet, now is the time! Your time is running out. So, what are you getting your loved ones on this day? Why and how is New Year's Eve celebrated in Turkey? Here is the answer...

CHRISTMAS Feast

"Christmas" is the religious holiday of the Christian world that begins on December 25. Christians on this holiday It celebrates the birth of Jesus. On the night of December 24, parents place gift packages around the pre-decorated Christmas tree, and the next morning the children wake up with the joy of opening their presents. All day long, the family spends joyful times and in the evenings, especially on the first day, a magnificent table is prepared, the turkey is cooked and red wine with cinnamon is drunk. The whole

family has fun together, sings religious songs and prays together. This is how the Christmas feast lasts for 3 days. However, they do not remove the tree they decorated until the New Year. Because then they celebrate the New Year's day in a splendid way and the Christmas tree accompanies that day with its glamorous appearance.



NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS FROM PAST TO PRESENT IN TURKEY

In Turkey, the New Year celebrations have changed from past to present. In the past, families would come together again, eat delicious meals, eagerly await the lottery results, play bingo, cook chestnuts and watch entertaining programs. In recent years, we share this enthusiasm and excitement with the whole world. With various Christmas decorations, arrangements are made both in houses and in streets and avenues, and a different nuance is displayed with lighting. On New Year's Eve, entertainment options can be found according to different lifestyles. Concerts are enjoyed in hotels, restaurants or in public places, accompanied by various artists.



Especially young people and people who do not want to spend a lot of money prefer open air concerts. In big cities such as Istanbul and Ankara, fireworks displays are held where we will witness magnificent views, people gather in the most important squares of the city and have fun until midnight. Just ten seconds before 00.00, everyone starts counting down from 10 and welcomes the New Year with enthusiasm, as is the case all over the world. They leave behind all the troubles, good and bad days of the previous year and instead open the door to new hopes. Everyone wishes each other a good year, calls their loved ones far away, or sends New Year's congratulatory messages. Then they continue their entertainment until midnight. Thus, the whole year is left behind and the

first hours of the new year are greeted with enthusiasm.

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Merry Christmas!!!