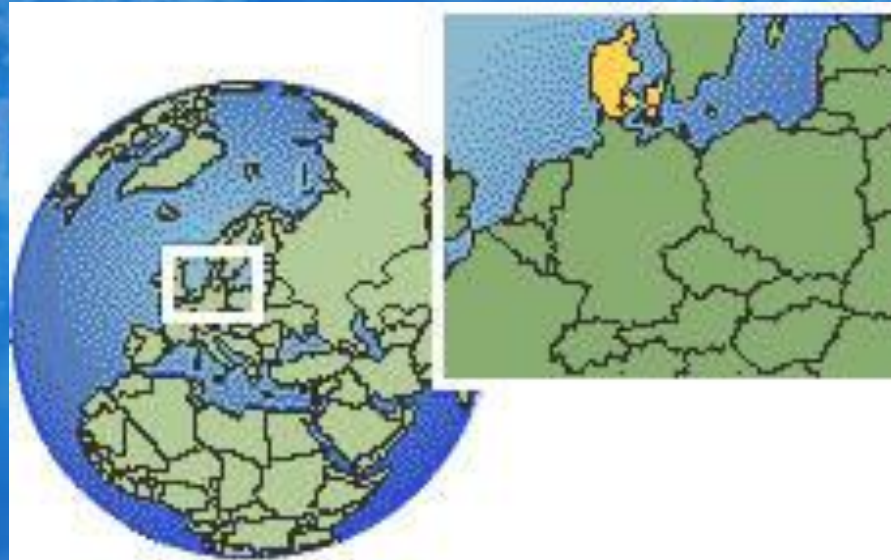


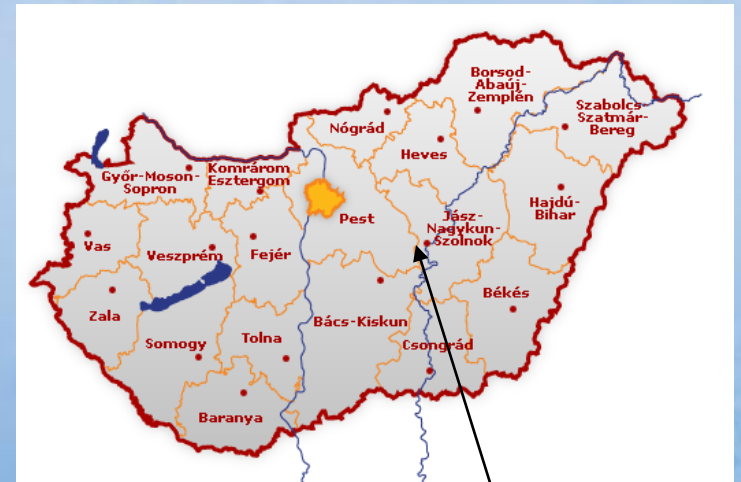
Christmas traditions in Hungary



We come from a town called Abony in Hungary



Here we are. There are 6 students
in our group and we are 14 years old.



This is Abony.

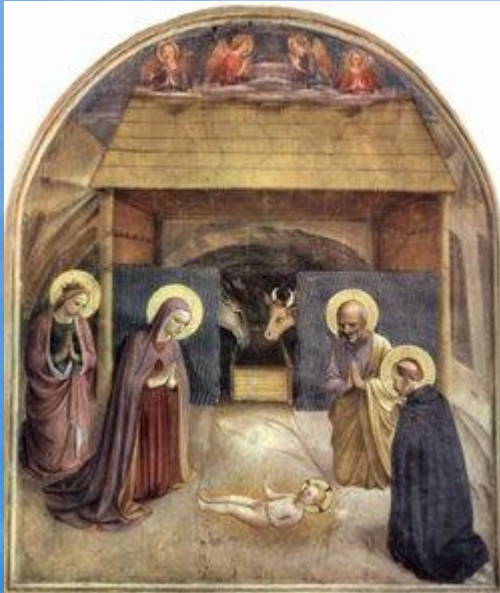
Christmas



Christmas Eve is on 24th December

Christmas day is on 25-26th December

What is Xmas?



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is traditionally observed on December 25, though some Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate it on 7 January, which corresponds to December 25 of the Julian calendar. Christmas has many aspects, both religious and secular, including the exchange of gifts, the Santa Claus myth, decoration and display of the Xmas tree, and religious ceremonies.

Preparations for the holiday

A month before Christmas shopkeepers decorate the front doors of their shops in Hungary. In the bustling cities the streets are embellished with holiday decorations, while, on the street corners, you can buy roasted chestnuts.



How do we celebrate Xmas?

In Hungary the main Christmas celebrations take place on Christmas Eve. The evening is called Szent-este or Holy Evening. Before attending Midnight Mass, families gather around the Christmas tree to sing carols and open the presents left by Baby Jesus and the angels.

We also decorate the pine tree and after that we call it a Xmas tree. We put some hand-made decorations and garlands on the tree as well.



Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner usually features fish, especially fried fish and a special Hungarian fish soup. For dessert there is always a wide variety of holiday cookies. One of these is *Beiglie*, a soft rolled cookie that contains walnuts and poppyseeds.



Christmas Candy

Szaloncukor (literally: "parlour candy") is a type of sweets traditionally associated with Christmas in Hungary. It is usually made of fondant, covered by chocolate and wrapped in shiny coloured foil, then hung on the Xmas tree as decoration.

The tradition of hanging these candies on the Christmas tree started in the 19th century. It was named szaloncukor because the tree usually stood in the parlour (szalon in Hungarian). (Cukor means "sugar" or "candy").

Fondant candies originally came in a few flavours (vanilla and strawberry for example), but now there is a wide variety of different kinds of candies, including jelly, coconut, hazelnut and lots of other flavours. It is usually hung on the tree with strings or small metal hooks.