



Five Things You Didn't Know About Santa Claus



1. The image of a jolly red-suited fat man originated in the early 20th century, for a Coca Cola advertising campaign.
2. Santa is not from the North Pole. The actual Saint Nicholas lived in the southeast of what is now Turkey, though his bones are entombed in Bari, Italy.
3. The idea of a secret nocturnal visitor who leaves gifts grew out of Nicholas's anonymous generosity to a poor family, whom he helped by tossing a bag of gold coins through their window at night.
4. Though Santa Claus is often thought of as an emblem of the materialistic, rather than the spiritual, side of Christmas, the real Saint Nicholas was a man of deep faith who gave away his own possessions.
5. "Jolly old St. Nick" played a role in pivotal events in the history of Christianity, including attending the Council of Nicaea, convened by the Emperor Constantine, which developed the first uniform Christian creed.

Learn more about the true-life saint behind Santa in
***The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus:
The True Life and Trials of Nicholas of Myra***
by Adam C. English
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