

# The Norse Code

## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

**Fatema Mun**

How did Christmas come to be?

Christmas marks the day Jesus Christ was born. Angel Gabriel came to Mary and said that she was to carry God's son and name him Jesus. The time came that she was to give birth to Jesus, so she and Joseph tried to look for an Inn as a place to stay. They went to Bethlehem, but so many people were there that all the inns were full. The only place for them to stay was with the animals. Mary gave birth and Jesus was laid in a manger. The angels told the kings and shepherds that God's son was born and to follow the stars to find him. They gathered around the manger and worshipped Jesus. The Three Kings gave Jesus frankincense, myrrh and gold. Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth, a time of joy and happiness.



## THE HISTORY OF KWANZAA

**Emma Holland**

Most people tend to be uninformed of this particular aspect of the African culture, which is the celebration of Kwanzaa that lasts seven nights. This year, from December 26th to January 1st, Kwanzaa will be celebrated through family traditions, storytelling, music, and a large dinner called the Karamu on December 31st. The name stems from the phrase "matunda ya kwanzaa", meaning "fresh fruits" in Swahili. Each day symbolizes one of seven values in the African culture: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Each night, a child lights the Kinara, the candleholder, and the family gathers to discuss one



of the seven values, along with their individual family traditions.

## THE HISTORY OF HANUKKAH

**Fatema Mun**

Hanukkah, an eight-day Jewish holiday, can date back to over two thousand years ago. Around the second century BC, Israel had been ruled by the Syrian-Greek Empire. Antiochus III, a king, had won the land from Egypt and their culture spread around. After Antiochus III died, his successors began to oppress Jewish culture and religion and even took over the temple for its riches. This sparked the Maccabean revolt. The Maccabees rebelled against the King's army and won, reclaiming the temple back. Judah, who led the revolt, ordered that the Second Temple be cleansed and the menorah lit. However, as they searched for oil to light the menorah they could only find enough to last one day. A miracle occurred and instead of one day, the light lasted eight, just enough time till more oil became available. Hanukkah is celebrated to commemorate this miracle.



In modern time, it is easy to lose track of what the holidays are supposed to represent and celebrate. Because of this, it is important that we keep the same spirit and purpose alive that existed back when our celebrated holiday was originated. Happy Holidays!

## Why is Everyone Upset about the Starbucks Red Cup Every Year?

**Claudia Frankfurth**

Every single year, someone is upset over the annual Starbucks red cup that is supposed to represent the holiday season. Starbucks can never please everyone. For example, the 2017 cup which featured many cartoon men and women enjoying the holidays. One thing that caught the eye of the astute observer was two females holding hands. Although the nature of their relationship was never specified, many people started to voice their opinion. Some people praised Starbucks for their inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community. Others thought that Starbucks had “launched a gay agenda campaign”. Although the cups are meant to represent spending time with family during the holidays, homophobic activists started to boycott Starbucks because of the simple drawing on the cup. Joshua Feuerstein began to publicly boycott Starbucks and his Facebook video about his boycott has over 17 million views. On the other hand, one man posted on social media that he is trying to become friends with a gay barista at his local Starbucks.

### War with Hashtags

Joshua Feuerstein began his boycott against Starbucks by creating the #MerryChristmasStarbucks. This hashtag means that you have to go in for a drink at Starbucks and when they ask for your name you say Merry Christmas, so they have to write it on the cup. Joshua Feuerstein says “The cup is symbolic of a larger war against Christianity in this country”. On the other hand, people started to trend the #ItsJustACup where people try to explain that it's just a cup and it can't define people's Christmas.

Honestly, there is only one possible solution

and that is to have pure white cups. So next year, all of the anti-snow people will become upset. They will claim that Starbucks is siding with the snowmen. There are many other problems in the world that need attention and we are worrying about the designs on our disposable coffee cups.



This Dude in Red  
Adam McAlonie

So, it's finally December. The air is chilly, the halls are decked, and kids are as anxious as ever. For what, you may ask. Well, isn't that obvious? They are excited for a large obese man to break into their house while they are sleeping and deliver them all of the things they have always wanted, yay! "Well, when you put it like that, it doesn't sound so great," you might be saying. This begs the question of why this dude in red is celebrated in the first place.



To answer that, we have to take a dive into history. The jolly fellow known as Saint Nicholas was born in around 280 A.D. in what is now modern-day Turkey. It was known that Nicholas was a monk.

This jovial monk was regarded by most as kind and generous, giving most of his wealth away to the needy and assisting the poor and the sick. His popularity spread throughout Europe and he eventually became known as the protector of children and sailors. It wasn't until the 1700s when Saint Nick made his way to American culture when a group of "Dutch families had gathered to honor the anniversary of his death. (History.com staff, 2)" This event was reported by a New York newspaper which started the popularity of Nicholas. Christmas saw a revival in the mid 1800s, becoming the holiday phenomenon we see today. People would gather for blocks just to get a glimpse of a life sized Santa Claus model found in Philadelphia. This revival is thanks to advertisers of the time creating holiday aimed advertisement campaigns centered around the one and only Santa. The modern image of Santa we have today is due to the classic poem, "The Night Before Christmas", written by Clement Clarke Moore in 1822. This poem was then illustrated in the year 1881, stamping Saint Nick's appearance into the minds of children for generations. So, there you have it... the story of Saint Nick and how he came to be. He once represented safety and generosity, something that we should not forget in present day, despite the stockings and the gifts.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/santa-claus>





## A HOLIDAY PUBLIC SERVICE

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Emma Holland

Going against the popular opinion around this time of year, maybe we don't "need a little Christmas, right this very minute". Yes, of course, the Holidays should be embraced, treasured, and looked forward to as much as they are, for it is a very beautiful time of year. However, there are flawed ways to spend your holiday season. Getting tangled up in the ribbons, bows, and materialistic side and letting the presents over shine the presence of family, celebration, and tradition should never consume December. Letting your frustration grow as you sit in traffic to get to the mall, to your grandparents, or just to Wawa to get that cup of coffee you so desperately need. A lot of the time, the holidays bring you family that you normally would not see on a day that the banks are open. December 26th tends to sneak up on anyone, especially the people rushing to get the holidays over with, causing them to slip by and miss what they mean. Take advantage of the time with them. Turn things around on yourself. When faced with something that would normally make you complain or add to your stress, find the positives, even if you have to reach. It's the holidays. Take it all in, take your time, and be here.

### SAVE THE DATES!

**DECEMBER 22ND-** Half Day for All Students

**DECEMBER 22 TO JANUARY 2ND-** WINTER BREAK

**JANUARY 25TH-** Two Hour Delay for Students

**FEBRUARY 22-** Two Hour Delay for Students

## Predictions for 2018: The Year of The Yellow Dog

Claudia Frankfurth



If you were born in 1982, 1996, or 2006, then by the Chinese zodiac, you are a Dog. 2018 is the year of the Dog, so you are going to have less good luck. Your fortune for 2018 is that you should take initiative and become the leader of projects, but be careful if your leadership is rejected. Dogs are very ambitious, but this year reaching your goals will be harder. It is suggested that you take walks in nature to cleanse bad luck. As for your love life in 2018, then you may have a harder time building relationships. For both men and women, romance is unlikely to flourish, because female Dogs have a lot of pride and male Dogs just don't have the luck next year. There is still hope for dogs next year, but relationships may take longer to develop. As for Dog's health next year, you should pay attention to your arms and legs because they are more prone to injuries in 2018.

As for the other Chinese zodiac signs, Goats will also have bad luck in 2018, so people born in 2003 and 1991. Since 2016 was a bad year for Monkeys, that means that 2018 will be a good year for everybody born in 2004 and 1992. As for Roosters in 2018, they will have a woeful year except for a lucky few, like those born in 2005 and 1993. Pigs, those who are born in 2007 and 1995 fortune is also filled with bad luck, but focusing on your career is your best bet. Those born in 1996 and 2008 are Rats, and they shall have a good fortune in 2018 especially for their career and love life. Oxes, born in 1985 and 1973, are going to have lots of opportunities in 2018 which is your decision to take these opportunities. Tigers, those born in 1986 and 1998, are going to have good fortune and someone will help you in 2018. Rabbits will have many up and downs in 2018, so those born in 1999 and 1987, need to be careful and manage their stress well. Dragons, born in 1988 and 2000, will have a good fortune in 2018 and dragons can turn bad luck into good luck with their relationships. Snakes will have a very good 2018, so those of you born in 1989 and 2001 are lucky. And finally, Horses, born in 1990 and 2004, will have a good year with lots of opportunities, but they should be careful about their health. In the end, you decide your fortune in 2018, but keep your fortune in mind.

# Holiday Recipes



## Coconut Pie (from Taste of Home)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup shredded coconut
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 unbaked pastry shell (9 inches)

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, place milk, sugar, coconut, eggs, flour, butter and vanilla; stir until combined.
2. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool to room temperature. Refrigerate leftovers.



## White Chocolate-Dipped Pretzel Rods (From The Kitchen is My Playground)

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (10 oz.) bag pretzel rods
- 1 (24 oz.) package white chocolate bark coating or 1 (1 lb.) bag white candy melts (you'll only use about 10 or 12 oz.)
- 1 to 2 tablespoons shortening
- Assorted sprinkles

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a tall skinny container (such as a pottery cup or perhaps even a small glass vase), melt bark coating or candy melts and shortening together in the microwave per package directions (typically in 30 second intervals, stirring in between).
2. Dip a pretzel rod in the candy coating, letting excess coating drip off back into the container. Sprinkle immediately with desired sprinkles.
3. Place on waxed paper and let stand for white chocolate coating to set up.
4. Store in a sealed container at room temperature.

## Sugar Cookies (From AllRecipes)

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups butter, softened
- 2 cups white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight).
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Roll out dough on floured surface 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into shapes with any cookie cutter. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets.
3. Bake 6 to 8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.
4. Decorate however you like!

