

Advent Wreath

Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas. It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Day.

An Advent Wreath in Some Churches

In some churches, there are three purple candles, one pink candle and one white candle on the Advent wreath.

A purple candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent.

Another purple candle is lit on the second Sunday of Advent.

A pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent.

The last purple candle is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

The white candle is lit on Christmas Day. This is called the Christ Candle.



The wreath is often made from the leaves of holly bushes and pine trees.



The First Advent Wreath

The first Advent wreath was made in 1839 by a German man named Johann Wichern. He opened a children's home.

The children kept asking him when it would be Christmas Day so he decided to light candles to count down to Christmas.

Questions

1. When does Advent begin? Tick one.
 - ☐ Christmas Eve
 - ☐ Christmas Day
 - ☐ four Sundays before Christmas
2. How many purple candles are there in some Advent wreaths? Tick one.
 - ☐ one
 - ☐ two
 - ☐ three
3. What colour candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent? Tick one.
 - ☐ pink
 - ☐ purple
 - ☐ white
4. What is the name of the white candle? Tick one.
 - ☐ Jesus Candle
 - ☐ Christmas Candle
 - ☐ Christ Candle
5. Johann Wichern made the first Advent wreath. Where was he from? Tick one.
 - ☐ England
 - ☐ Germany
 - ☐ France

Answers

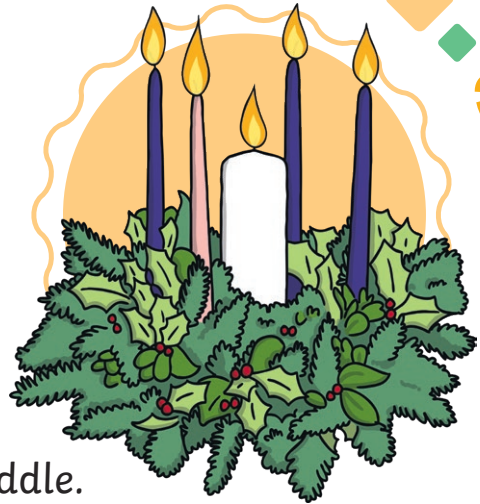
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 - ☐ England
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Advent Wreath

Advent is the time before Christmas. It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Day. It is a time of preparation for Christmas.

Making the Wreath

The Advent wreath is made from leaves twisted together to form a circle. Four candles are placed around the wreath and often a fifth candle is put in the middle. One candle is lit each Sunday before Christmas Day.



There are three purple candles, one pink and one white in some Christian churches. The purple candle is lit on the first Sunday. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday. The white candle is lit on Christmas Day as a sign of Jesus being born.

Advent wreaths are often made from the evergreen leaves of holly bushes and pine trees. The candles in an Advent wreath are red or white in some churches.

The First Advent Wreath

The first Advent wreath was created in 1839 by a German man named Johann Wichern. He was the founder of a children's home.

The children kept asking him when it would be Christmas Day. He decided to light a white candle each Sunday and a smaller red candle for each day in between, to show them how many days it was until Christmas Day.

The Meaning behind the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath has several different meanings.

Christian people believe that the white candle represents Jesus being born and being the Light of the World, bringing peace and joy.

It is believed by some that the circle of the wreath represents God's never-ending love.



Questions

1. What is Advent a time for? Tick one.

- ☐ holidays
- ☐ preparation
- ☐ sleeping

2. When are the candles lit on an Advent wreath? Tick one.

- ☐ each Sunday before Easter
- ☐ each Sunday in January
- ☐ each Sunday before Christmas

3. Draw **three** lines and complete the sentences.

The pink candle... •

• is lit on the first Sunday.

The white candle... •

• is lit on the third Sunday.

The purple candle... •

• is lit on Christmas day.

4. Why did Johann Wichern create the first Advent wreath? Tick one.

- ☐ The children wanted to know how long it was until Christmas Day.
- ☐ The children were not looking forward to Christmas.
- ☐ The children asked him to make one.

5. Fill in the missing word.

Advent wreaths are often made from _____ leaves.

Answers

1. What is Advent a time for? Tick one.

- ☐ holidays
- ☒ **preparation**
- ☐ sleeping

2. When are the candles lit on an Advent wreath? Tick one.

- ☐ each Sunday before Easter
- ☐ each Sunday in January
- ☒ **each Sunday before Christmas**

3. Draw **three** lines and complete the sentences.

The pink candle...	•	•	is lit on the first Sunday.
The white candle...	•	•	is lit on the third Sunday.
The purple candle...	•	•	is lit on Christmas day.

4. Why did Johann Wichern create the first Advent wreath? Tick one.

- ☒ **The children wanted to know how long it was until Christmas Day.**
- ☐ The children were not looking forward to Christmas.
- ☐ The children asked him to make one.

5. Fill in the missing word.

Advent wreaths are often made from **evergreen** leaves.

Advent Wreath



Advent is the time before Christmas, beginning four Sundays before Christmas Day and ending on Christmas Day.

It is a time of preparation for Christmas.

Some Christian people believe that it is also a time for prayer and a chance to think about the times they have made the right choices and the times they could have made better ones.

Making the Wreath

The Advent wreath is made from leaves which are twisted to form a circle. Then, four candles are positioned around the wreath and often a fifth candle is placed in the middle. One candle is lit each Sunday before Christmas Day.



There are three purple candles, one pink candle and a white one on the wreath in some Christian churches. The white candle is lit on Christmas Day as a symbol of Jesus being born.

Candles in an Advent wreath can also be red or white.

The Meaning behind the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has several different meanings. Christian people believe that the white candle represents Jesus being born and being the Light of the World by bringing peace and joy. It is believed by some that the circle represents God's everlasting love.





The First Advent Wreath

Wreaths had been used as Christmas decorations for many years but the first Advent wreath was thought to have been created in 1839 by a German man named Johann Wichern. He was the founder of a children's home.

Time after time, the children kept asking him when it was Christmas.

So, he decided to light a white candle each Sunday and a smaller red candle for each day in-between as a means to show the children how many days were left until Christmas Day.



Advent wreaths are made using the leaves of evergreen trees.

Many other trees lose their leaves by the time Advent begins but evergreens remain green throughout the year, such as holly and pine.

Questions

1. What do some Christian people do during the time of Advent? Tick one.
☐ go shopping
☐ think about decisions they have made in the past
☐ go to church every day
2. Where might you see an Advent wreath with three purple candles, a pink candle and a white one?

3. Find and copy one word which means 'is a sign of something'.

4. Tick all the facts which are true about Johann Wichern.
☐ He was French.
☐ He made the first Advent wreath.
☐ He was the founder of a children's home.
5. Why are Advent wreaths made from trees like holly and pine?

6. Why do you think that some people use a circle to show everlasting love?

Answers

1. What do some Christian people do during the time of Advent? Tick one.

- ☐ go shopping
- ☒ **think about decisions they have made in the past**
- ☐ go to church every day

2. Where might you see an Advent wreath with three purple candles, a pink candle and a white one?

You might see an Advent wreath with three purple candles, a pink candle and a white one in some Christian churches.

3. Find and copy one word which means 'is a sign of something'.
symbol

4. Tick all the facts which are true about Johann Wichern.

- ☐ He was French.
- ☒ **He made the first Advent wreath.**
- ☒ **He was the founder of a children's home.**

5. Why are Advent wreaths made from trees like holly and pine?

Advent wreaths are made from trees like holly and pine because they are evergreens and they remain green during Advent.

6. Why do you think that some people use a circle to show everlasting love?

Pupils' own responses, such as:

I think that some people use a circle to show everlasting love because a circle goes round and round. The line never stops.