**AOW 6: Archaeologists find tomb of St. Nicholas, the original Santa Claus**

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff

Grade Level **3**

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 Archaeologists in southern Turkey say they have discovered the tomb of the original Santa Claus. Here, a man dressed as Santa attends a parade in Toronto, Canada. Photo from Wikimedia

**Good news:** Santa Claus is real!

**Bad news**: He's dead. Well, at least St. Nicholas is dead, the old-time **saint** who gave Santa his name.

**Finding A Grave In Turkey**

Archaeologists in the country of Turkey say they know where St. Nicholas is buried. His grave is in the St. Nicholas Church. The church is in the city of Demre. It is near the Mediterranean Sea.

**Archaeologists** are scientists who study the history of **artifacts**. Atifacts are things that humans made, used and left behind. Examples of artifacts are cups, plates and knives.

St. Nicholas was from the city of Myra. It is now called Demre. He loved to give gifts. He **secretly** put coins in people's shoes.

As the story goes, he was a **monk** who gave away all his money. A monk is a very religious man. He always wanted to help the poor and the sick.

**Protecting Sailors, Loving Children**

He's also the saint of sailors. That means sailors believe he can protect them. In addition, he loved children.  In Europe, he was called Father Christmas and wore a red and white suit.

***Instructions***

**Day One (Monday):** Watch the video and discuss. Then, read the article, find the meanings of the underlined words and circle the clues.

**Day Two (Tuesday):**Re-read the article, highlight the main idea in yellow. Underline two supporting details.

**Day Three (Wednesday):** What nouns are the pronouns His, It,It and He referring to?

Name 4 ***proper nouns*** from the article.

**Day Four (Thursday):** Answer the following questions:

1. Which sentence from the article BEST explains where St. Nicholas lived?
2. His grave is in the St. Nicholas Church.
3. The church is in the city of Demre.
4. St. Nicholas was from the city of Myra.
5. It is near the Mediterranean Sea.
6. What do you conclude about St. Nicholas’s character from the following sentence: “ He **secretly** put coins in people's shoes.”
7. He likes to be famous.
8. He is humble and does not want people to know he is helping them.
9. He does not like people.
10. He is very arrogant.
11. Why was St. Nicholas important to Demre?
12. Because he always wanted to help the poor and the sick.
13. Because he is buried there and people pay a lot of money to see his grave.
14. Because he protected all the sailors in Demre.
15. Because he was a sailor.

**Day Five (Friday): Making Connections:**

Talk about a famous person who likes to help poor people and sick people like St. Nicholas.

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