

Der Martinszug

am 11. November

Einer der schönsten Bräuche ist der Martinszug. Hierbei gehen Kinder mit selbstgebastelten Laternen durch die Straßen und singen Martinslieder. Vorneweg reitet der Heilige Martin auf einem weißen Pferd. Er führt die Kinder zu einem Platz, an dem neben einem Feuer ein Bettler sitzt. Hier wird die Martinslegende nachgespielt.

Damit Ihr Euch einen Martinszug vorstellen könnt, möchten wir Euch einige Fotos zeigen...





Geschichte des heiligen Martins

The Story of St. Martin

Adapted from <http://drachendeutsch.net/Spende/Martinstag/>

DIRECTIONS: place your mouse over words you don't know - DO NOT CLICK!

Read the English at the bottom - at the end of each link.

EX: <http://www.serve.com/shea/germusa/wordmeaning>

TIP: *der, die, das, dem, den = the*

Martin
ist römischer Soldat im vierten Jahrhundert.
Er ist Soldat für Kaiser Konstantin.

Er kommt mit dem Pferd nach Hause.

Es ist 5 Uhr abends und schon dunkel.
Der Abend ist bitterkalt.

Was sieht Martin? Er sieht einen Mann.
Dem Mann ist es sehr kalt.

Martin denkt, "Mir ist warm. Dem Mann
ist es kalt."

Martin denkt an den armen Mann. Der
Mann hat nichts. Martin hat einen warmen
Soldatenmantel.

Martin fragt sich, "Was kann ich für den
Mann tun? Wie kann
ich dem Mann helfen?"

Er hat eine Idee: "Mein Mantel ist groß; und
warm. Ich teile den Mantel.

Ich teile
ihn mit meinem Schwert -- halb für den
armen Mann, halb für mich!"

Viele
Kinder in Deutschland feiern Martinstag am
elften November. Die Kinder haben schöne
Laternen und sie singen.

Sie denken an Martin und an den armen
Mann.

Sie lernen wie gut es ist, wenn wir anderen
helfen.

-- Patricia Hill

*"Sankt Martin, Sankt Martin,
Sankt Martin ritt durch Schnee und Wind,
sein Ross, das trug ihn fort geschwind..."*

[Click here for all the words...](#)

[... Click here for the melody](#)

Let your students know that on November 10 (The day before Veteran's Day) at 1730 they are invited to come to Beaverton Library and watch the German American School's Laternenfest, and that my class will send an e invite with the official info (including a few songs!) this weekend.

MfG

Minty

ST. MARTIN

The most popular of the saints' days is St. Martin on November 11. Martin of Tours lived in the 4th century. He started out as a Roman soldier, was baptized and became a monk. Because of his exemplary life he was, (very much against his will,) appointed Bishop of Tours. The goose, animal symbol of St. Martin, is a common meal around St. Martin's Day. Legend has it that geese betrayed him with their gabbling when he tried to hide in a stall as he was to be appointed bishop.

Placed at the beginning of winter, many pagan fertility and light celebrations are connected with this holiday, such as the Martin's fires (bon fires and burning wheels,) and the Martin's singing. When evening falls children, carrying Martin's lanterns and torches, parade through the streets. While parading they sing about the generosity of St. Martin and the procession may end with the lighting of a bonfire. Finally the children go from house to house and recite verses, for which they are rewarded with sweets or, more so these days, with money. In some areas the legend is reenacted in which St. Martin shares his cloak with a beggar in the cold of winter.

The real reason that the geese are butchered around St. Martin's Day is that they are ready for harvesting at this time of the year. In this country as well as in the old, goose feathers were used for pillows and featherbeds, quills were used for writing, the eggs were good for baking, the fat was needed for baking and could be eaten on bread, the bird made a great "Braten," and even the wing could be used for dusting.

Since many of the early German settlers did not find the right kind of Christmas tree, a tree on which they could place candles safely, they used the tough part of the feathers to make "feather trees." Goose feather trees have become collectors items. They are made again and can be purchased in speciality stores. They are very expensive but beautiful and can be called the first "artificial Christmas trees."

November 11 is also the kick-off of Fasching, Karneval and Fastnacht. For one day revelers are drawn into the streets, before the activities in carnival clubs, street and neighborhood groups, begin in earnest as the preparations for the January/February crazy days, are in full swing. In the Alpine regions St. Martin's used to coincide with "Viehtrieb," bringing the animals back into the villages from their summer's stay higher up and is still celebrated in some areas.

There is a very nice chapter (pp. 280-287) on customs, lantern making, 'Laternenlieder' etc. in: *Hausbuch der Feste und Bräuche*, Hg. Josef K. Pöllath. München: Südwest Verlag, 1993.

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OTHER RESOURCES compiled by Robert Shea

- [English- St. Martin's Day resources and info](#)
- [Several good pictures of a Martinszug in Germany and a bonfire](#)
- [Scroll to bottom for the last two pics](#)
- [Click around on the different types of lanterns](#)
- Look at the [image](#) and the [sculpture](#) to understand the story then read the next link
- [Easy to read text in German about St. Martin](#)
- [Pie of Cologne](#)