

St. Lucia's Day is celebrated in Sweden. It is a festival of lights that celebrates St. Lucia who was killed by the Romans in the year 304.

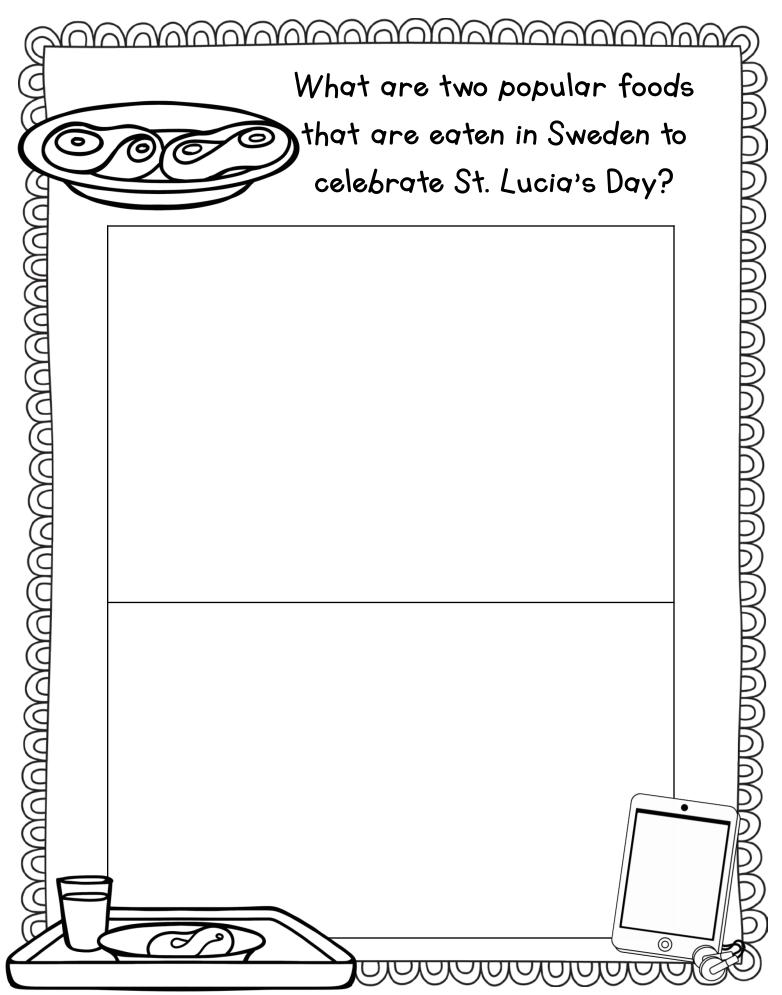
St. Lucia is known for secretly bringing food to Christians who were hiding in Rome. She wore candles on her head so she was able to have her hands free to carry the foods she would bring.

This day is celebrated on December 13th. A young girl dresses in a white dress with a red sash. She will carry palms and wear a crown of candles on her head.

Schools and towns will each choose their own St. Lucia. They will have processions where they sing carols. Girls dressed as Lucia might also visit hospitals and retirement homes.

Other girls might dress like Lucia without the candles. Young boys might dress as star boys.

What is the weather like in December in Sweden? Draw a picture to show what it might look like.



On the morning of December 13th, the oldest daughter in the family will dress as St. Lucia. She will wake the rest of her family while serving special baked buns



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Another tradition is to make sweet bread in the shape of a wreath.

Families will then stick candles into the wreath.



Younger girls who are not Lucia might dress up like her but will not wear candles.



