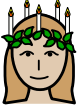




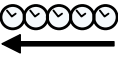
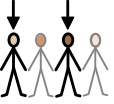







The story of Saint Lucia

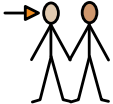

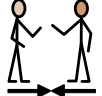





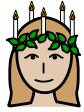
Saint Lucia - Supported

 Lucia was a  Christian  girl who  lived in  Italy a  long time ago.

 Some people  thought she  she  once  visited  Sweden.

 Christians were  persecuted in  Italy.

 They had to   meet in  secret to  worship  God.



Saint Lucia is a Swedish Festival of Light.



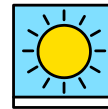
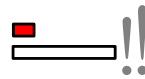
13th



It is on December 13th every year.



13th



December 13th is one of the shortest days of winter.



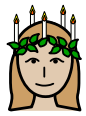
The Festival helps to brighten up the long winter nights.

The Christians met in caves at night time to worship.

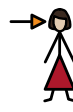
Lucia used to visit them with food so they would not be hungry.

She found it difficult to carry enough food for all the people.

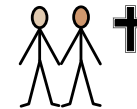
So she put a crown of candles on her head to light her way.



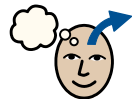
She could then carry more food with her hands.



One day the Romans caught her.








They killed her because she was helping the Christians.













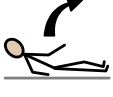



Her kindness is remembered every year.

     
On December 13th in Sweden, girls dress up as Saint Lucia.




    
They wear a white dress and a crown of candles.


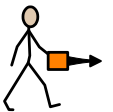


    
Today they use modern candles with batteries in them.





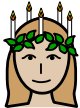

        
In the past they used real candles but this is too dangerous now.

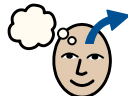


The  girls  get up  early in the  morning when it is still  dark.





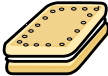


They  take  take coffee  and cakes  and ginger  biscuits  to their  family, 



 while they  are in  bed.

They  also take  food  to  neighbours.

At  school  now  children  sing  Saint Lucia's  song

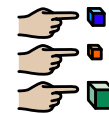
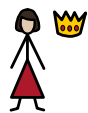
 to remember  her  kindness.

 They  make  the spicy  gingerbread  biscuits  called  pepparkakor

 and the small  saffron  tasting  buns  with raisins  called  lussekatter.



In the past a Lucia Queen or bride was chosen in each village.



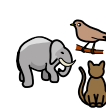
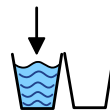
She would have to visit homes and farms delivering trays of food.



She would be wearing the crown of candles on her head.

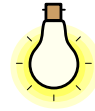


Lucia would also visit the barns full of animals.

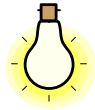




People thought this would bring light and good luck



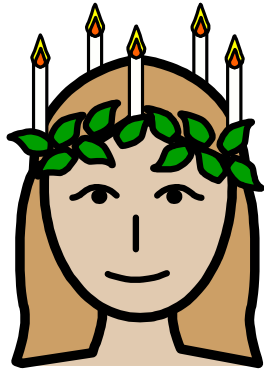
to the animals and people.



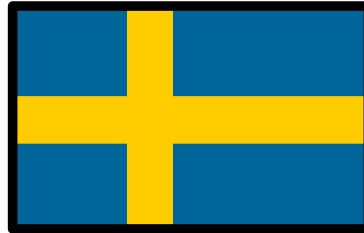
This festival symbolises light overcoming darkness,



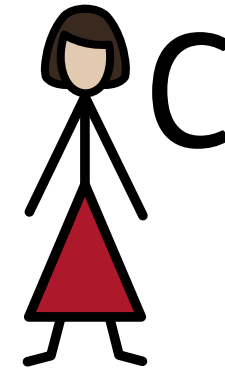
and good overcoming evil.



Saint Lucia



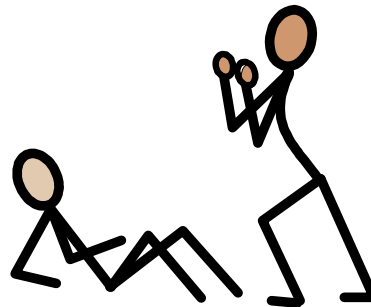
Sweden



Christian



Italy



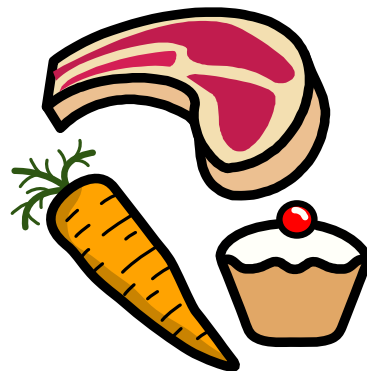
persecuted



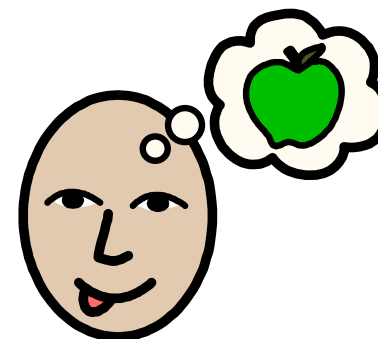
worship



God



food



hungry



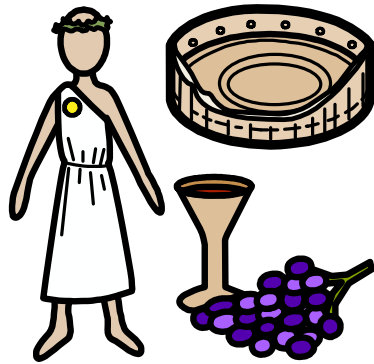
difficult



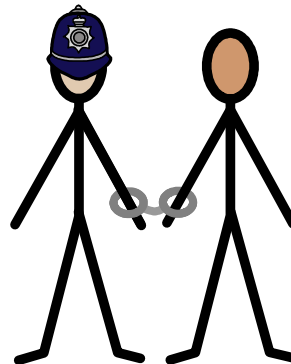
Festival of Light



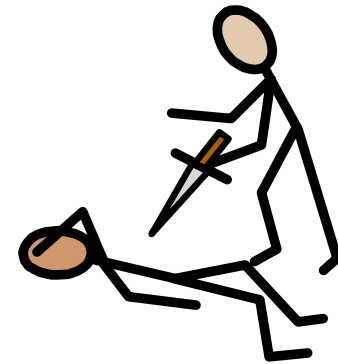
evil



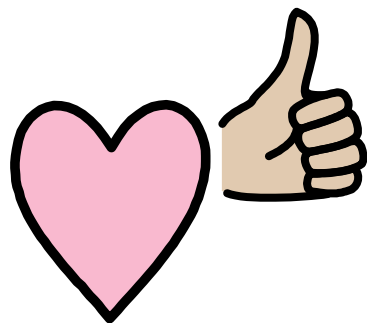
Romans



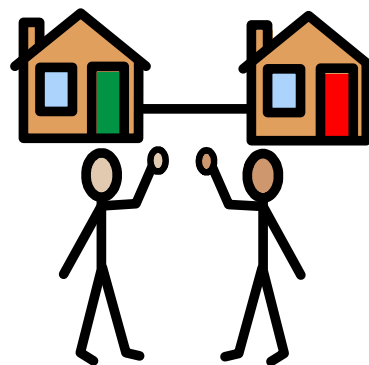
caught



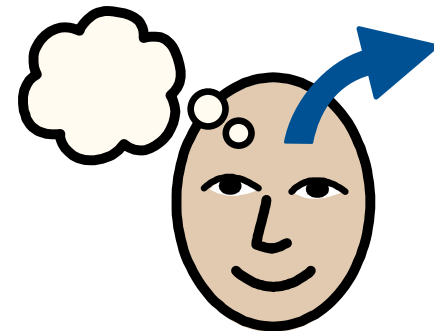
killed



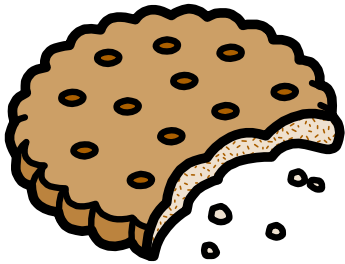
kindness



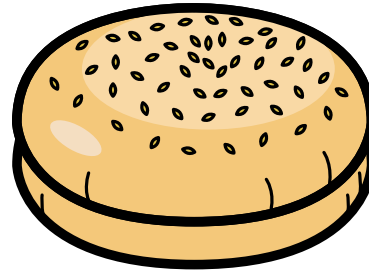
neighbours



remember



pepparkakor



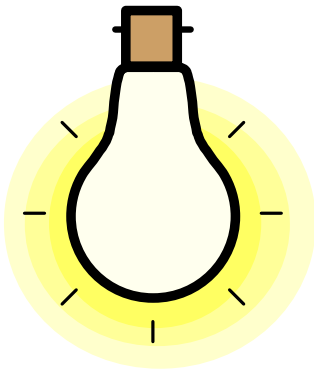
lussekatter



good



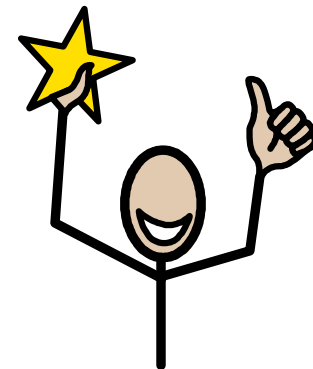
luck



light



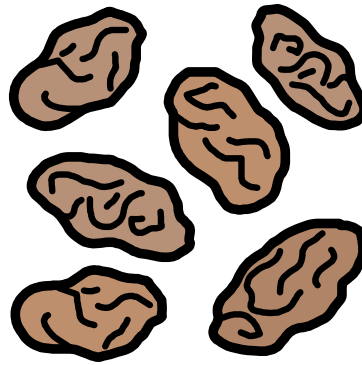
darkness



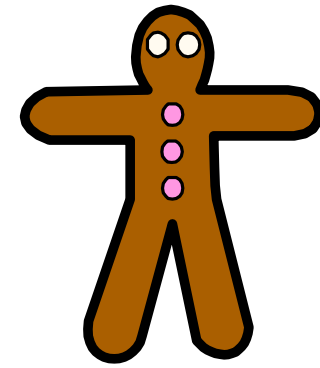
overcoming



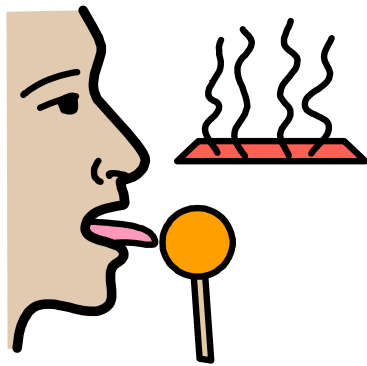
saffron



raisins



gingerbread



spicy



visited



festival