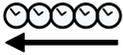
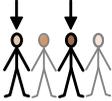


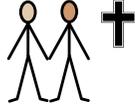
The story of Saint Lucia

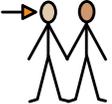


Saint Lucia - Supported

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

 Some people  thought  she  once  visited  Sweden.

 Christians were  persecuted in  Italy.

 They  had to  meet in  secret to  worship  God.

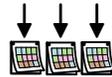
Saint Lucia - Supported



Saint Lucia is a Swedish Festival of Light.



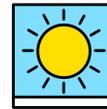
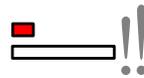
13th



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.

Saint Lucia - Supported

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.

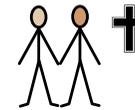
Saint Lucia - Supported



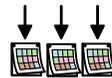
She could then carry more food with her hands.



One day the Romans caught her.



They killed her because she was helping the Christians.



Her kindness is remembered every year.

Saint Lucia - Supported



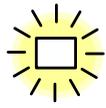
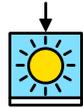
13th



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.

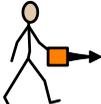
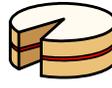
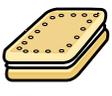


,



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  coffee  and  cakes and  ginger  biscuits to  their  family,

 while  they are in  bed.

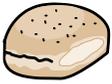
They  also  take  food to  neighbours.

Saint Lucia - Supported

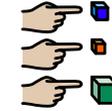
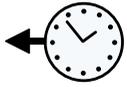
     
At school now children sing Saint Lucia's song

  
to remember her kindness.

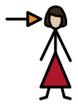
      
They make the spicy gingerbread biscuits called pepparkakor

      
and the small saffron tasting buns with raisins called lussekatter.

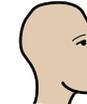
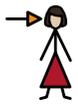
Saint Lucia - Supported



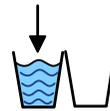
In the past a Lucia Queen or bride was chosen in each village.



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

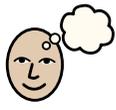


She would be wearing the crown of candles on her head.



Lucia would also visit the barns full of animals.

Saint Lucia - Supported



People thought this would bring light and good luck



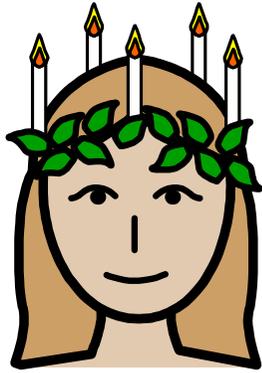
to the animals and people.



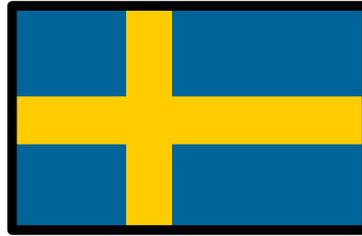
This festival symbolises light overcoming darkness,



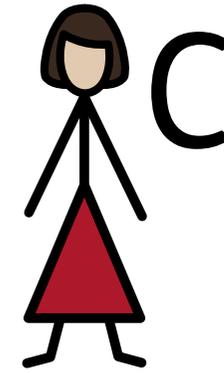
and good overcoming evil.



Saint Lucia



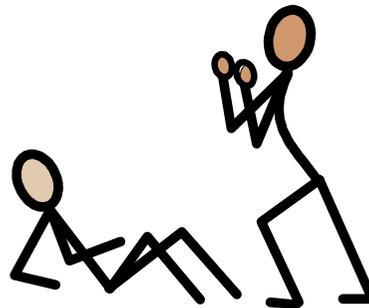
Sweden



Christian



Italy



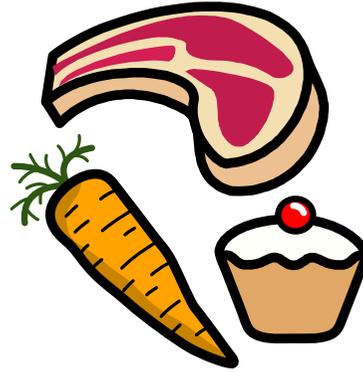
persecuted



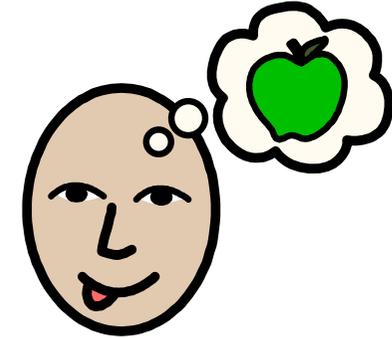
worship



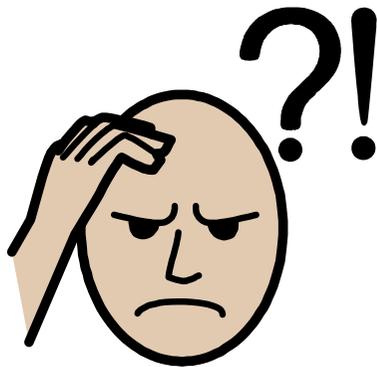
God



food



hungry



difficult



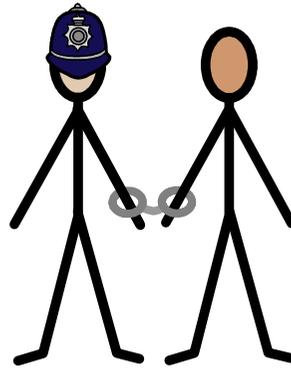
Festival of Light



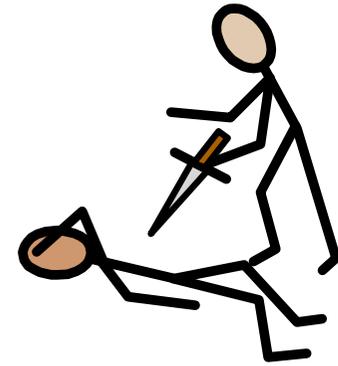
evil



Romans



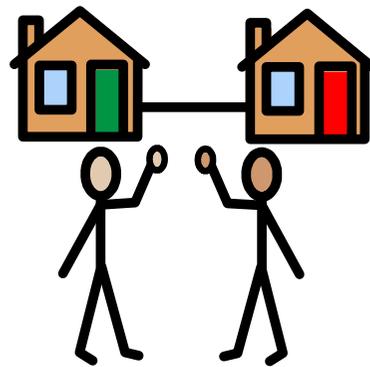
caught



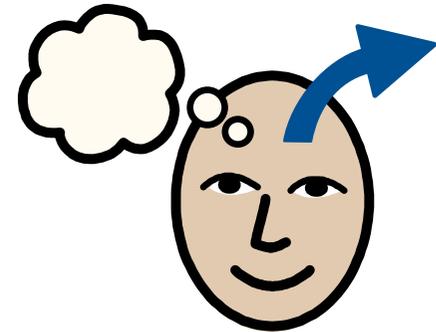
killed



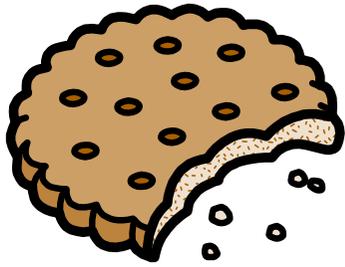
kindness



neighbours



remember



pepparkakor



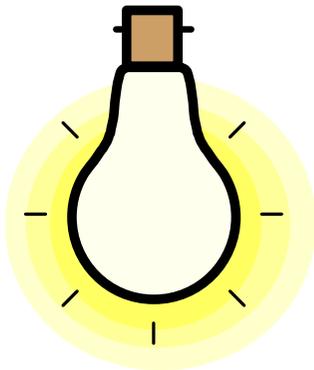
lussekatter



good



luck



light



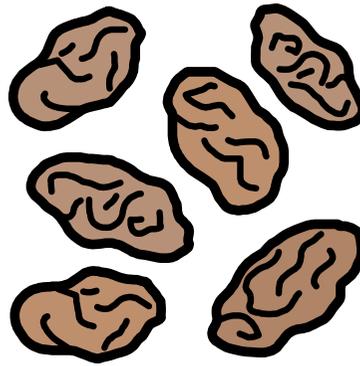
darkness



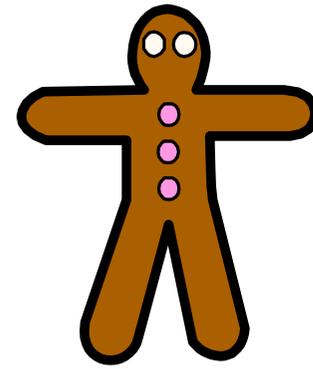
overcoming



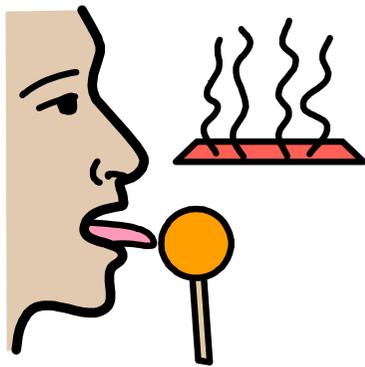
saffron



raisins



gingerbread



spicy



visited



festival