

# Gingerbread Houses

Read the passage below to learn about the custom of decorating gingerbread houses.



Gingerbread houses are not just decorations; they are edible structures made from gingerbread dough and decorated with candies and icings. They have a long history and are a fun activity for all ages.

The tradition of making gingerbread houses began in Germany during the 16th century. It is believed that the popular fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" by the Brothers Grimm, where the main characters discover a house made entirely of treats in the forest, inspired the tradition of creating gingerbread houses.

Gingerbread dough is made from ingredients like flour, butter, sugar, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, and baking soda. The dough is rolled out, cut into shapes, and baked to form the walls and roof of the house. Once the pieces are baked and cooled, they are assembled using icing as glue.

Gingerbread houses are not only for decoration; they can be eaten too. However, some choose to keep their creations as decorations throughout the holiday season. In some families and communities, building gingerbread houses is a competition, with awards for the most creative or elaborate designs.



Gingerbread houses have changed over time. Nowadays, they can be simple and traditional or complex and artistic, resembling real buildings. But, don't worry if you don't know how to bake because you can buy a gingerbread house kit at your local store! This kit includes all you need to start decorating right away. First, you'll have to put together the pieces of the house. Then, you'll use different candies and icings to add details. Some popular decorations are gumdrops, peppermint sticks, chocolate bars, and colored icing.

In conclusion, gingerbread houses are a fun and beloved part of holiday customs. They combine cooking abilities and creative talent, bringing happiness and sweetness to the holiday season.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Gingerbread Houses

Use context clues to determine the meaning of the following words.

1. edible \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. inspired \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. competition \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. elaborate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. complex \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. resembling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. customs \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. talent \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_




Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Gingerbread Houses

Answer the following reading comprehension questions about the passage.

 Why might "Hansel and Gretel" have inspired gingerbread houses?

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 Why might gingerbread houses be a fun activity for all ages?

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 What can you infer about the evolution of gingerbread house designs?


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 What does "elaborate" imply about some gingerbread house designs?


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 Describe "assembled" as used in the context of constructing the houses.

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 Why might some people choose not to eat their gingerbread houses?

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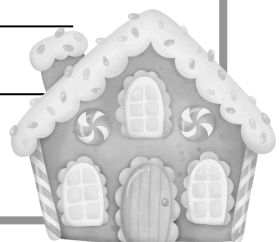
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\_\_\_\_\_

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