

Snacks for Santa

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*'Tis the night before Christmas, and set by children with glee, is a plate
full of cookies and a milk by the tree – in some countries, that is.*

Rising from his knees, the man in the velvet red suit takes one last look at the gifts he has placed with care beneath the festive tree. He straightens his cap, smooths his beard, and stretches his back; delivering gifts to children around the entire world in a single night is hard work for an old man.

A grumble comes from his tummy — he's worked up an appetite. Glancing up at the fireplace mantel, he spies what he seeks: a plate full of cookies and a glass of white milk. He drinks most of the milk and takes the cookies to go.

It's his last delivery in **Canada**, one of a few countries that hold to the cookies-and-milk tradition. But the cookies and milk aren't the only treats fueling his journey across the skies on Christmas Eve, as children in other countries leave out a variety of snacks and drinks for Santa Claus and his sleigh-pulling team.



England



In **England**, he gratefully tips back a well-earned glass of sherry to accompany a freshly made mince pie, leaving not a crumb behind.

The children in **Argentina** always are concerned for Rudolph and his companions, so Santa makes sure they get the hay and water left out for them before continuing on his way.

Argentina



Denmark



In **Denmark**, the children remember the elves, so Santa packs up the rice pudding to bring back to his toy-making team.