

# CULTURE

A LARGE PART OF AN ITALIAN'S LIFE INVOLVES FAMILY AND FOOD. FAMILIES EAT TOGETHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. OFTEN, GRANDPARENTS ARE PART OF THE FAMILY UNIT. THEY HELP WITH CHILDCARE AND HOUSEHOLD DUTIES ESPECIALLY WHEN BOTH PARENTS WORK OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.



## A Visit from Befana

Italian families celebrate Epiphany on January 6th. Children wake up to find presents from the La Befana, an old witch who flies on a broomstick. Her name originally meant "giver of gifts". She flies down chimneys to fill stockings with toys and candy. Sometimes, La Befana leaves pieces of coal for the naughty ones.

There are also festivals, parades and even a boat race in Venice to mark the day of Befana.



## SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL SWAPS

USE YELLOW YARN, BROWN PONY BEADS, AND RED PAINT TO MAKE THESE CUTE SWAPS.

# CHRISTMAS iN ITALY

MANY ITALIAN FAMILIES SET UP A NATIVITY SCENE IN THEIR HOUSE BEFORE CHRISTMAS. BABY JESUS IS NOT ADDED TO THE CRIB UNTIL CHRISTMAS EVE.

SOMETIMES FATHER CHRISTMAS BRINGS SMALL GIFTS BUT MOST GIFT GIVING IS DONE ON EPIPHANY ON JAN. 6TH.

**Did  
YOU?  
KNOW**

AT MIDNIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE SKI DOWN AN ALPINE PEAK CARRYING TORCHES.