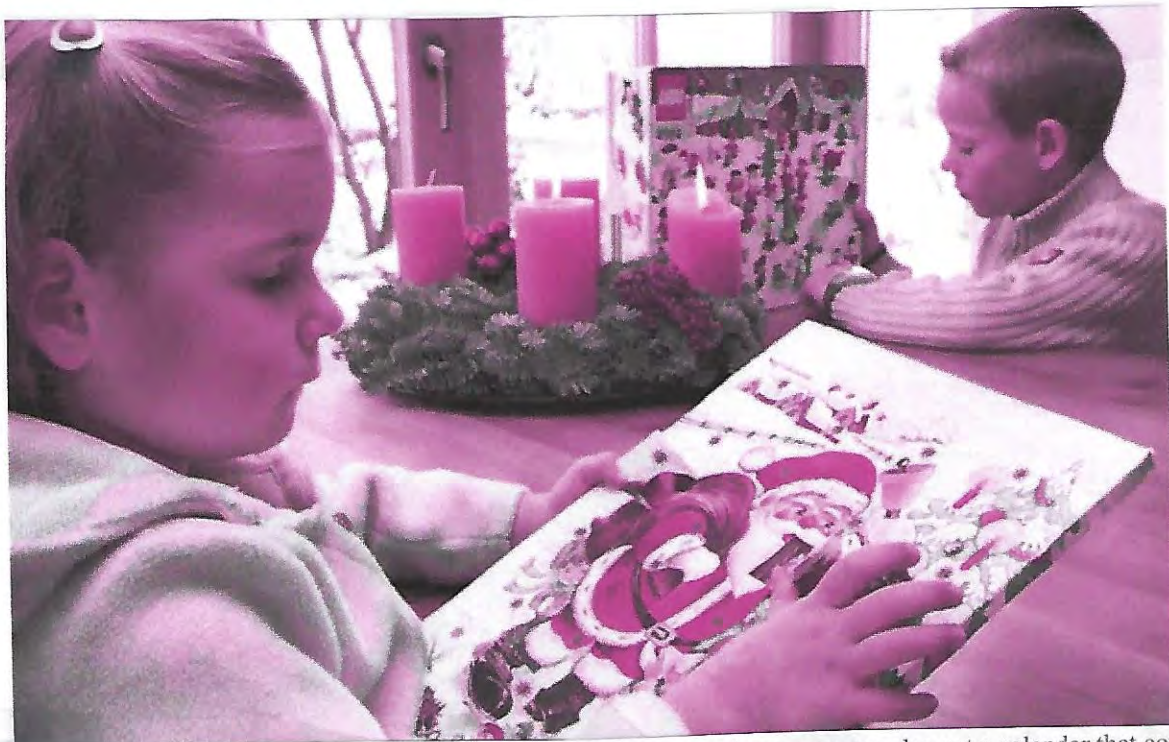


**VORWEIHNACHTENSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)****HOW TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS LIKE AN AUSTRIAN**

Buy or make an advent wreath: Advent is the period before Christmas. The four Sundays preceding the big day are known as Advent Sunday. Austrians mark them with a wreath of four candles. On the first Sunday, one candle is burned, on the second, two, and so on. Modern advent settings are catching on, with many Austrians setting candles on platters as opposed to the traditional pine wreath.



Get ready to open those doors: In addition to the four Sundays countdown, you can also get a calendar that counts down every individual day in December to Christmas Eve. Many people choose one with chocolate treats.