December 2026 Kids' Corner *(Barnes Hjørne):*

(This presentation was created with the help of AI; please verify)

1. Can you tell which objects (presents) are missing from the left kick sled and which were added?

Now the hard part:

2. What is the significant historical background of all these traditional and/or conventional Norwegian gifts?





Answers are given on our Fjellheim website, December 2026 Kids Corner



Missing items: skis, winter hat, thermos, wooden train, toy car.

All the items (See picture to the right): Added items include Tor's medallion and Erling Haaland's autographed picture.

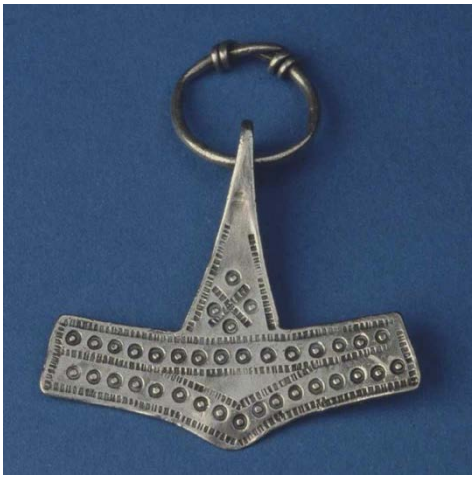
The History Behind Norwegian Christmas Gifts

The gifts pictured on this Norwegian kick sled represent a fascinating combination of **Viking heritage, Norwegian Christmas traditions, winter recreation, childhood memories, and modern Norwegian achievements.**

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Note: Not all of these objects are traditional Norwegian Christmas gifts. Some are centuries-old cultural symbols, while others represent modern Norwegian life.

1. Thor's Hammer Medallion — *Tors hammer (Mjølner)*



Historical significance: Thor was the Norse god associated with thunder, storms, strength, and protection.

During the Viking Age (approximately 800–1050 CE), people wore small hammer-shaped pendants representing Thor's hammer, Mjølner (*Mjölnir*). These pendants were associated with protection and religious identity.

As Christianity spread through Scandinavia, Thor's hammer pendants and Christian crosses existed side by side.

What children can learn: A small medallion can tell us about the beliefs and mythology of people who lived in Norway more than 1,000 years ago.

2. Viking Sword — *Vikingsverd*



Historical significance: Swords were important objects in Viking society. They could represent a warrior's status, wealth, family connections, and craftsmanship.

Some Viking swords were decorated with elaborate designs, and archaeologists have discovered swords in burial sites throughout Norway.

The sword also connects children with the Viking Age, when Norse seafarers traveled throughout Europe and across the North Atlantic.

What children can learn: Viking swords are historical artifacts that help archaeologists understand ancient Norwegian society, metalworking, and burial customs.

3. Erling Haaland Autographed Photograph — *Signert bilde av Erling Haaland*

Historical significance: Erling Braut Haaland represents modern Norway and its international sporting achievements.



Born in Leeds, England, in 2000 to Norwegian parents, Haaland grew up in Bryne, Norway. He became internationally famous for his extraordinary goal-scoring ability.

He represents Norway's modern football culture and the importance of organized sports to Norwegian children.

An autographed photograph is a modern collectible, rather than a traditional Norwegian Christmas gift.

What children can learn: Norway is famous not only for Vikings and skiing but also for modern athletes who compete internationally.

Video: [Erling Haaland Is Worth Millions, But He Still Lives Like He's Poor]

4. Skis — *Ski*

Historical significance: Skiing has been part of Norwegian life for thousands of years, originally serving as transportation across snowy landscapes.

Norway became internationally associated with skiing through explorers such as Fridtjof Nansen and the development of modern skiing competitions.

What children can learn: Before skiing became a sport, it was an important way for Norwegians to travel during long winters.

5. Winter Hat — *Vinterlue*

Historical significance: Knitted wool hats have long helped Norwegians stay warm in their cold climate. Traditional knitting patterns often feature geometric designs, stars, and snowflakes.

Wool clothing was especially important in rural communities where families spent considerable time outdoors.

What children can learn: Norwegian wool clothing combines practicality, craftsmanship, and traditional patterns.

6. Thermos — *Termos*

Historical significance: The thermos is a modern invention, not an ancient Norwegian tradition. However, it has become closely associated with Norwegian outdoor recreation, known as *friluftsliv*.

Families frequently bring hot chocolate, coffee, or other warm drinks on skiing trips, hikes, and winter outings.

What children can learn: Enjoying nature in all seasons is an important part of Norwegian culture.

7. Books — *Bøker*

Historical significance: Norway has a strong literary tradition, from medieval sagas and folktales to modern children's literature.

Writers such as Asbjørnsen and Moe preserved traditional Norwegian stories, including tales of trolls, clever children, and magical creatures.

Books make meaningful Christmas gifts because storytelling helps pass cultural traditions between generations.

What children can learn: Norwegian folktales preserve stories that grandparents and parents have shared with children for generations.

8. Teddy Bear — *Bamse*

Historical significance: Teddy bears became popular children's toys in the early twentieth century, including in Norway.

Although the teddy bear did not originate in Norway, the word “bamse” is familiar to Norwegian children and is often used for a stuffed bear.

What children can learn: Childhood toys can create lasting memories and connect generations.

9. Wooden Train — *Tretog*

Historical significance: Wooden toys reflect Norway's long woodworking and handicraft traditions.

Wood was readily available in much of Norway and was used to make household objects, furniture, and toys. Simple wooden toys were especially practical before mass-produced plastic toys became common.

What children can learn: Norwegian craftspeople have long used natural materials to create useful and beautiful objects.

10. Toy Car — *Lekebil*

Historical significance: Toy cars represent twentieth-century childhood rather than an ancient Norwegian custom.

As automobiles became more common in Norway, miniature vehicles became familiar children's toys.

What children can learn: Toys change as transportation and technology develop.

11. Soccer Ball — *Fotball*

Historical significance: Football has been played in Norway since the late nineteenth century and has become one of the country's most popular organized sports.

Football clubs give children opportunities to develop teamwork, friendships, and athletic skills.

The soccer ball also connects the historical gifts with Erling Haaland's modern sporting achievements.

What children can learn: Football is a shared interest that connects Norwegian children with young people around the world.

12. The Kick Sled — *Sparkstøtting*

Historical significance: The kick sled itself is an important part of Scandinavian winter history.

Kick sleds became widely used in Norway and neighboring countries during the nineteenth century. They allowed people to travel along snowy or icy roads by standing on one runner and pushing with the other foot.

Unlike recreational sleds designed primarily for downhill riding, kick sleds were used for practical transportation.

What children can learn: Norwegians developed clever ways to travel and work during snowy winters.

The Christmas setting also reflects Norway's tradition of exchanging presents on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Bringing the gifts together

This Christmas kick sled can represent three different periods of Norwegian history:

- **Viking Norway:** Thor's hammer and the Viking sword symbolize ancient beliefs and historical craftsmanship.
- **Traditional Norway:** Skis, knitted hats, wooden toys, and the kick sled reflect winter life, practical skills, and family traditions.
- **Modern Norway:** Erling Haaland, soccer balls, and contemporary toys connect children with Norway today.