

I put a hedgehog in every book, and it was easy in Home for Christmas because hedgehogs live in Sweden.

Skansen is an open air museum in the heart of Stockholm, where old buildings from all over Sweden are brought, restored, and displayed to the public. My favorite was this hut on "legs" where you could store food even in deep snow. I put one on the troll's farm. Lots of the old farms had potato cellars built into the earth and I modified one for the troll's house. I also got ideas for the troll's house on a trip to Iceland.

Skansen also keeps many of Sweden's wild animals. I saw a lynx, brown bears, otter, grey owl and moose up close.

Don't miss Skansen if you go to Sweden!



We saw this pig at Skansen. It reminded me of a cross country trip we took as children. We stopped at an intersection and spotted a giant pig in a red harness pulling a buggy. I've never forgotten it. We turned the car around and went back for a second look.

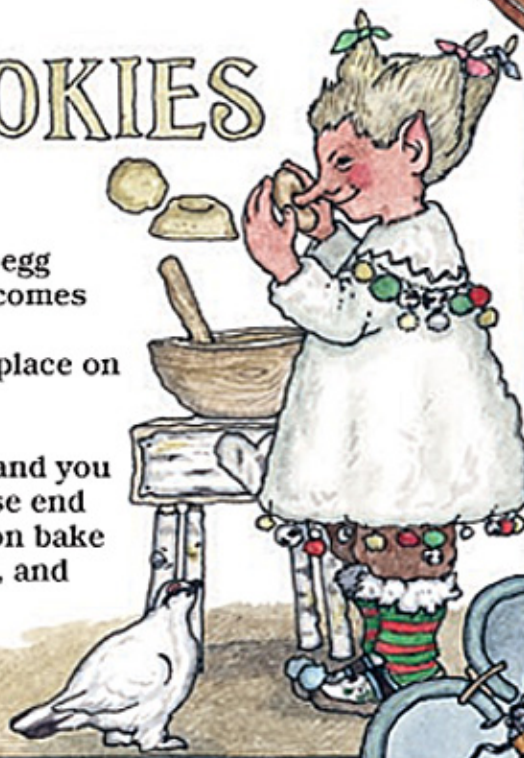


NOSEPRINT COOKIES

Preheat oven to 350° F

- 1 c butter
- 2/3 c sugar
- 1/4 t salt
- 1/4 t almond extract
- 1 egg
- 2 c flour
- 1/2 c seedless jam

- cream butter and sugar
- add salt, almond extract, egg
- mix in flour until dough comes together
- roll into 1 1/2" balls and place on cookie sheet
- make depression in ball
- If nose is under 3" long, and you are not a troll, use end of a wooden spoon to make a depression 10 minutes, cool, and fill with jam.



The bumblebee that lives in arctic Sweden looks like it was dipped in white paint. It makes honey and builds its nest underground.