

# Christmas Trees

Christmas trees are seen by many people as an important part of Christmas.

They can be decorated with lights, baubles, tinsel and beads and topped with an angel or star. Presents can be put under the tree, ready to open on Christmas Day morning.

Villages, towns and cities may have their own Christmas tree. These are usually much bigger than those bought for the home.

## History of the Christmas Tree

In the 1500s, Christians bought real trees into the home and decorated them. They were first lit up with candles on the branches. (Don't try this at home as it's a major fire risk!)



In the 1700s and 1800s, other decorations such as paper ornaments, fruit and sweets were added to trees. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, made owning a Christmas tree in your home very fashionable in England.

People began hanging glass baubles on branches for the first time and electric lights were used instead of candles.

As well as real trees, artificial trees are often seen in homes today. Many families decorate their tree in Christmas colours such as silver, red or gold. Black or pink artificial trees are also very popular.



# Christmas Trees Questions

1. List two things which can be used to decorate a Christmas tree.

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2. How are Christmas trees located in villages, towns and cities, different from those bought for the home?

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3. How were Christmas trees decorated in the 1500s? Do you think this was safe? Why? Why not?

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4. Who made owning a Christmas tree fashionable in England?

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5. Which is the name given to Christmas trees which aren't real?

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# Christmas Trees Answers

1. List two things which can be used to decorate a Christmas tree.

**Answers will include two of the following: lights, baubles, tinsel, beads, an angel or star.**

2. How are Christmas trees located in villages, towns and cities different from those bought for the home?

**Christmas trees located in villages, towns and cities are different from those bought for the home because they are usually much bigger.**

3. How were Christmas trees decorated in the 1500s? Do you think this was safe? Why? Why not?

**In the 1500s, Christmas trees were decorated by placing lit candles on the branches. Various answers relating to the fact that this was not safe.**

4. Who made owning a Christmas tree fashionable in England?

**It was Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who made owning a Christmas tree in your home very fashionable in England.**

5. Which is the name given to Christmas trees which aren't real?

**The name given to Christmas trees which aren't real is 'artificial'.**

# Christmas Trees

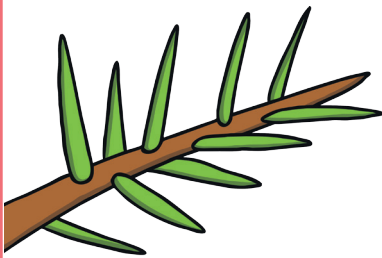
Christmas trees are seen by many as an important part of Christmas. Trees of different shapes and sizes are decorated ready for Christmas Day. There are a wide range of decorations available including coloured baubles, lights, tinsel, ribbons, beads, bunting, angels and stars. Christmas presents can be put under the tree ready to open on Christmas Day morning.

Villages, towns and cities may have their own Christmas tree. These trees are generally decorated with lights and much larger than those bought for the home.

Decorating evergreen trees during winter time began thousands of years ago. These trees stayed green all winter and brought hope that spring would come again next year.

The Christmas tree tradition that we know today is believed to have started in Germany. In the 1500s, Christians bought real trees into the home and decorated them. They were first lit up with candles on the branches. (Don't try this at home as this is a major fire risk!) During the 18th and 19th centuries, popular decorations included paper ornaments, fruit or sweets. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, made owning a Christmas tree in your home very fashionable in England. People began hanging glass baubles on branches for the first time and electric lights were used in the 1900s, replacing the candles.

Today, artificial and fibre optic Christmas trees are a popular choice.



Many people prefer a real tree in the home at Christmas time as they can give off a woodland scent. These include fir and spruce trees. Many families have a Christmas colour theme for their tree such as silver, red or gold.

## Did you know?

- London has a famous Christmas tree which sits in Trafalgar Square. It is given as a gift by the people of Norway every year.
- The world's largest floating Christmas tree can be found in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



# Christmas Trees Questions

1. How do Christmas trees located in villages, towns and cities vary from those bought for the home?  

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2. What is special about evergreen trees?  

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3. Give an example of a popular Christmas tree decoration during the 18th and 19th centuries.  

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4. Why are electric Christmas tree lights a safer alternative?  

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5. Who made having a Christmas tree in the home fashionable in England?  

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6. Who donates the Christmas tree which sits in Trafalgar Square every year?  

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7. Which do you think is the best type of Christmas tree? Explain your answer.  

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# Christmas Trees Answers

1. How do Christmas trees located in villages, towns and cities tend to vary from those bought for the home?

**Christmas trees located in villages, towns and cities tend to vary from those bought for the home as they are much larger.**

2. What is special about evergreen trees?

**Evergreen trees are special as they stay green all winter.**

3. Give an example of a popular Christmas tree decoration during the 18th and 19th centuries.

**Answers will include one of the following: paper ornaments, fruit or sweets.**

4. Why are electric Christmas tree lights a safer alternative?

**Electric Christmas lights were a safer alternative to candles as they are less of a fire risk.**

5. Who made having a Christmas tree in the home fashionable in England?

**Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, made owning a Christmas tree in your home very fashionable in England.**

6. Who donates the Christmas tree which sits in Trafalgar Square every year?

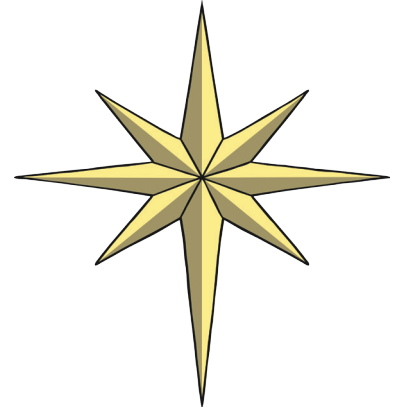
**The Christmas tree which sits in Trafalgar Square every year is given as a gift by the people of Norway.**

7. Which do you think is the best type of Christmas tree? Explain your answer.

**Various answers.**

# Christmas Trees

Many of those who celebrate Christmas believe that the Christmas tree is an essential part of the festivities. Trees of different shapes, sizes and varieties are put on display in anticipation of Christmas Day. Christmas trees can be decorated using coloured baubles, lights, tinsel, ribbons, beads or bunting and are traditionally topped with a star or angel. Christmas presents are placed under the tree ready to open on Christmas Day morning.



Villages, towns and cities may have their own Christmas tree. These trees are usually decorated with lights and are much larger than those bought for the home.

Decorating evergreen trees during winter time began thousands of years ago. These trees stayed green all winter, which symbolised everlasting life and the hope that spring would come again next year.

Germany is believed to be responsible for the Christmas tree tradition that we know today. In the 16th century, Christians bought real trees into the home and decorated them. They were first lit up with candles on the branches. (Don't try this at home as this is a major fire risk!) During the 18th and 19th centuries, decorations included paper ornaments, fruit or sweets. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, made owning a Christmas tree in the home very fashionable in England. Glass baubles became popular and the use of the newly invented electric lights were a much safer alternative to candles.



The invention of the artificial tree meant that you could reuse it every year and you wouldn't have to worry about it losing all its needles before Christmas Day. Today, fibre optic Christmas trees can also be spotted at this time of year; some rotate and play music. In recent years, black or pink artificial trees have become very fashionable. You might even own a Christmas tree which hangs from the ceiling or a 'half tree' (yes, these do exist!).



Some people prefer a real Christmas tree in the house at Christmas as they can give off a beautiful woodland scent. Varieties include fir and spruce trees. There are different varieties of fir tree such as the balsam and noble fir trees.

Many families have a Christmas colour theme for their tree such as silver, red or gold.

**Did you know?**

- London has a famous Christmas tree which sits in Trafalgar Square. It is given as a gift by the people of Norway every year.
- The National Christmas Tree in Washington has been a tradition since 1923.
- The world's largest floating Christmas tree can be found in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The Rockefeller Centre Christmas tree in New York is typically a Norwegian spruce. The tree is covered in thousands of lights and has appeared in many Christmas films. In 2015, it was 78 feet high!



# Christmas Trees Questions

1. List three things commonly used to decorate Christmas trees.

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2. Why was it important a long time ago to have an evergreen tree inside the home during winter?

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3. Where do people believe the Christmas tree tradition that we know today originated from?

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4. Why were candles used to light up a Christmas tree in the 16th century? Why was this a major fire risk?

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5. Explain why people might have thought it was a good idea to own a Christmas tree upon hearing that royalty owned one too?

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6. Who might want to buy a 'half tree'?

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7. Why do some people prefer a real Christmas tree in their home?

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8. Which do you think is the best type of Christmas tree? Explain your answer.

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# Christmas Trees Answers

1. List three things commonly used to decorate Christmas trees.

**Answers will include three of the following: coloured baubles, lights, tinsel, ribbons, beads, bunting, a star or an angel.**

2. Can you explain why it was important to have an evergreen tree inside the home during winter?

**It was important to have an evergreen tree inside the home as these trees stayed green all winter which symbolised everlasting life and the hope that spring would come again next year.**

3. Where do people believe the Christmas tree tradition that we know today originated from?

**Many people believe the Christmas tree tradition that we know today originated from Germany.**

4. Why were candles used to light up a Christmas tree in the 16th century? Why was this a major fire risk?

**Candles were used to light up Christmas trees in the 16th century as this was before the invention of the electric lights. This was a major fire risk as the candles could have fallen over, setting the branches on fire.**

5. Explain why people might have thought it was a good idea to own a Christmas tree upon hearing that royalty owned one too?

**Various answers.**

6. Who might have to buy a 'half tree'?

**Various answers.**

**Someone who didn't have much space in their home might have to buy a 'half tree'.**

7. Why do some people prefer a real Christmas tree in their home?

**Some people prefer a real Christmas tree in their home as they can give off a beautiful woodland scent.**

8. Which do you think is the best type of Christmas tree? Explain your answer.

**Various answers.**