

An aerial view of a snowy city street at night. The scene is filled with falling snow, creating a soft, white atmosphere. The street is illuminated by warm yellow lights, and the surrounding buildings and trees are covered in a thick layer of snow. The overall color palette is dominated by cool blues and purples, contrasted with the warm yellow of the streetlights. The text 'CHRISTMAS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS' is overlaid in a golden-yellow, serif font, centered in the upper half of the image.

CHRISTMAS

HISTORY
AND
TRADITIONS

A close-up photograph of a Christmas tree branch. The branch is covered in green needles and is decorated with small, warm white lights. A prominent gold star ornament is visible on the right side of the branch. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more lights and branches.


**Where does the name
'Christmas'
come from?**



The name 'Christmas' comes from the **Mass of Christ**.

A Mass service is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life. The 'Christ-Mass' service was the only one that was allowed to take place after sunset (and before sunrise the next day), so people had it at Midnight! So we get the name **Christ-Mass**, shortened to **Christmas**.





**How is the period of four
Sundays and weeks
before Christmas
called?**

ADVENT

Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Some people fast(don't eat meat and dairy) during advent to help them concentrate on preparing to celebrate Jesus's coming.



What are the two
most common
ways to count
days and weeks
during the Advent
before Christmas?



There are several ways that Advent is counted down but the most common is by a calendar or candles.

Christians light Advent wreaths with 4 candles. One candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit on the second Sunday and so on.

The most common calendars are made of paper or card with 25 little windows on. A window is opened every day in December and a Christmas picture is displayed underneath. Some of these types of calendar have chocolate under each window, to make every day in December a little bit better!



A warm, golden-toned photograph of a city street at night, heavily decorated for Christmas. The street is lined with buildings and trees, all illuminated with numerous small, glowing lights. A large, decorated Christmas tree stands prominently in the middle ground. People are seen walking along the sidewalks, some carrying shopping bags, adding to the festive atmosphere. The overall scene is cozy and celebratory.

**How do we call the Day
before Christmas?**

So, today is ...

Christmas Eve



Thus 24th December is the Christmas Eve celebrated all over the world. On the Christmas Eve the entire family and the relatives gather to enjoy a wonderful dinner along with singing and dancing.



**What are the most famous symbols
of Christmas?
Enumerate as many of them
as possible**



Christmas Tree



Christmas Stockings



Santa



Presents

Christmas sleigh and Reindeer



Christmas bells



The Holly

Christmas Wreath



Poinsettias



Candy Canes



What is the origin of Santa Claus?



The origin of Santa Claus begins in the 4th century with Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra an area in present day Turkey. By all accounts St. Nicholas was a generous man, particularly devoted to children. He was a very rich man because his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it.



The image shows four red and white Christmas stockings hanging from a wooden mantel. The stockings are made of a soft, fuzzy material. The top of each stocking is white with a red trim, and the rest is red. They are hanging in a row. In the background, there is a Christmas tree decorated with lights and ornaments, and a fireplace mantel with more decorations. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere.

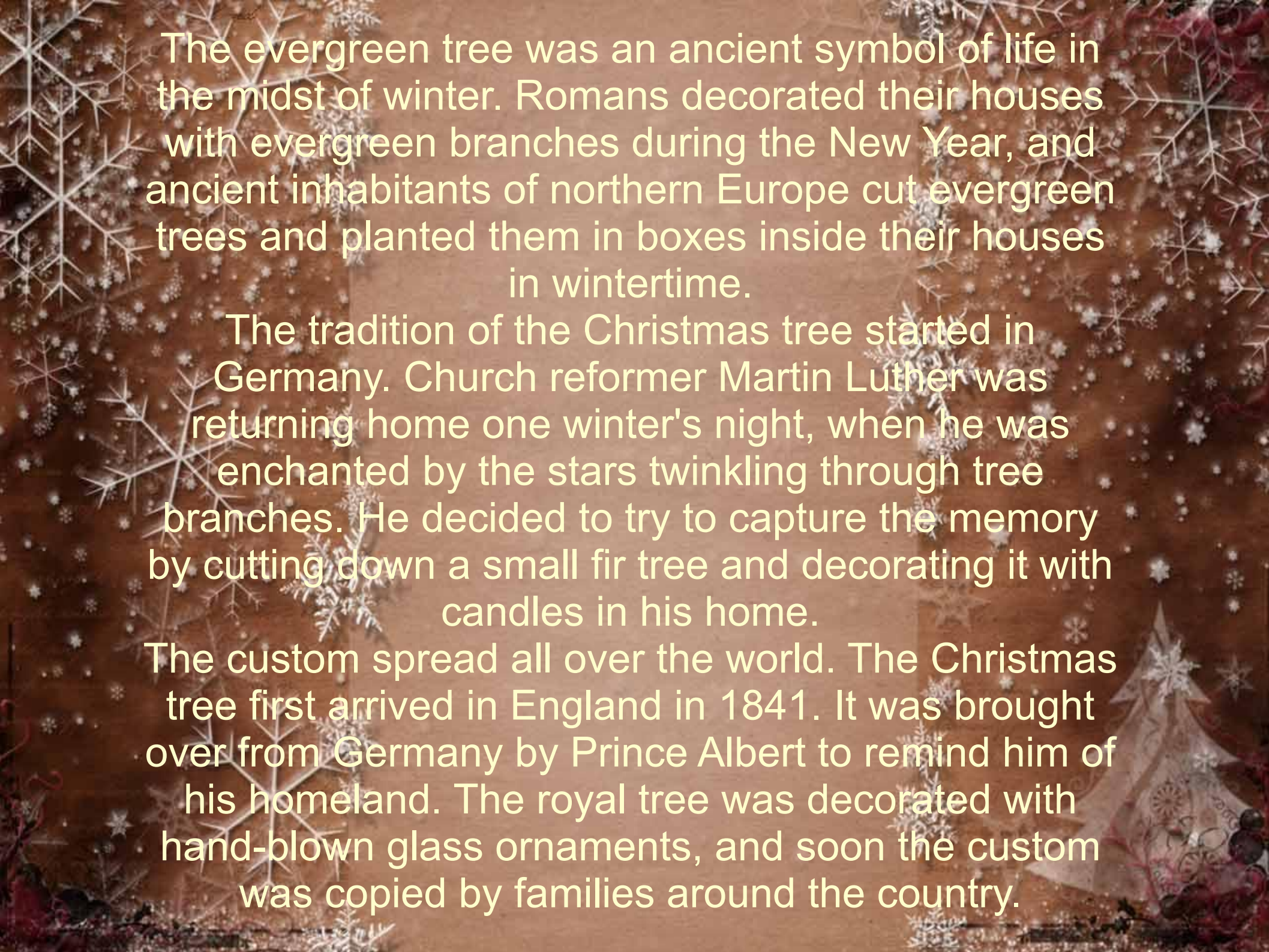
How did the custom of hanging up stockings to get presents in first start?

According to tradition, the original Saint Nicholas put gold coins in the stockings of three poor sisters. One night, the girls left their stockings drying over the fireplace. Saint Nicholas knew the family was very poor, so he threw three bags of gold coins down the chimney. The money landed in the sisters' stockings. Since then, children have hung up their Christmas stockings on Christmas Eve, hoping to find them filled with gifts in the morning.



A painting of a family in a parlor. A large, decorated Christmas tree stands in the center, illuminated with warm lights. A woman in a dark dress stands to the right, holding the hand of a young girl in a patterned skirt. In the foreground, two young boys are dancing or playing. In the background, a man in a white shirt and dark vest stands near a doorway. The room is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the Christmas tree. The overall atmosphere is warm and festive.

**Why do we put up a
Christmas tree?**



The evergreen tree was an ancient symbol of life in the midst of winter. Romans decorated their houses with evergreen branches during the New Year, and ancient inhabitants of northern Europe cut evergreen trees and planted them in boxes inside their houses in wintertime.

The tradition of the Christmas tree started in Germany. Church reformer Martin Luther was returning home one winter's night, when he was enchanted by the stars twinkling through tree branches. He decided to try to capture the memory by cutting down a small fir tree and decorating it with candles in his home.

The custom spread all over the world. The Christmas tree first arrived in England in 1841. It was brought over from Germany by Prince Albert to remind him of his homeland. The royal tree was decorated with hand-blown glass ornaments, and soon the custom was copied by families around the country.

A snowy night scene with falling snow, trees, and buildings. The scene is illuminated by warm yellow lights from buildings and trees, creating a cozy winter atmosphere. The snow is falling in a steady stream, and the ground is covered in a layer of white. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**What is Mistletoe?
And what is the famous
Christmas tradition
connected with it?**



Mistletoe is a plant that grows on willow and apple trees (and in garden centres!). The tradition of hanging it in the house goes back to the times of the ancient Druids. It is supposed to possess mystical powers which bring good luck to the household and wards off evil spirits.

It was also used as a sign of love and friendship in Norse mythology and that's where the custom of kissing under Mistletoe comes from.



**What are the
colours of
Christmas and
what do they
symbolize?**

Red- an early use of red at Christmas were the apples on the paradise tree. They represented the fall of Adam in the plays.Red is also the color of Holly berries, which is said to represent the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross.

Green - Evergreen plants, like Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe have been used for thousands of years to decorate and brighten up buildings during the long dark winter.

White is often associated with purity and peace in western cultures. The snow of winter is also very white!

Gold is the color of the Sun and light - both very important in the dark winter.Gold was also one of the presents brought to the baby Jesus by one of the wise men and traditionally it's the color used to show the star that the wise men followed.

Blue - The color blue is often associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus. In medieval times blue dye and paint was more expensive than gold! So it would only be worn by Royal families and very rich people. Mary was often painted wearing blue to show she was very important.



What is the name of a special Xmas song which is sung during Christmas time?

Carol

The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy! Carol singing, or Caroling, is one of the oldest customs in Great Britain, going back to the Middle Ages when beggars, seeking food, money, or drink, would wander the streets singing holiday songs.

People today still go carol singing. People go from house to house singing carols and collecting money for charity.

The traditional period to sing carols is from St Thomas's Day (21 December) until the morning of Christmas Day.



A warm and inviting Christmas scene. On the left, a large, dark green Christmas tree is densely decorated with red and gold ornaments, white lights, and red candles. At its base, a stack of wrapped gifts in various patterns and colors is visible. In the center, a fireplace mantel is adorned with a garland of greenery, white lights, and small figurines. Two red stockings with white trim hang from the mantel, one containing a small gift. The fireplace opening shows a fire burning brightly. To the right of the fireplace, a wicker basket is filled with cut logs. The overall atmosphere is cozy and celebratory.

What is the Yule Log?

Yule log is a large wooden log which is burned in the hearth as a part of traditional Christmas celebrations. English Christmas traditions called for the yule log to burn as a sign of goodwill through all 12 days of Christmas. The magical properties of the Yule Log are said to ensure good luck in the coming year.



A Chocolate Yule Log or is now a popular Christmas dessert or pudding. They are made of a chocolate sponge roll layered with cream. The outside is covered with chocolate or chocolate icing and decorated to look like a bark-covered log.



What food is traditionally served on Christmas in Great Britain?



The dinner usually consists of roast turkey although other poultry such as goose, chicken, duck, capon or pheasant served with stuffing, gravy and sometimes forcemeat; pigs in blankets; devils on horseback, cranberry sauce or redcurrant jelly; bread sauce; roast potatoes ; brussels sprouts and parsnips; with dessert of Christmas pudding (or plum pudding)





Merry Christmas