

Name: _____

Christmas Tree Facts and Video Questions

Christmas Tree Facts:

Christmas trees are a popular symbol of the holiday season. We decorate them, light them up and put presents under them. But how much do you really know about these famous evergreens?



- Evergreen trees have been used for winter celebrations for a long time. People started decorating with them over 2,000 years ago. No one knows for sure who started the tradition. But ancient Romans celebrated the winter solstice—the shortest day and longest night of the year—by decorating their homes and temples with evergreen trees and branches.
- The custom of decorating trees for Christmas probably began about 1000 years ago in Northern Europe. Early Christmas trees were decorated with food — cakes, cookies, pretzels, nuts and fruit. And Christmas gifts were hidden *in* the tree, not placed *underneath*.
- About 300 years ago, it was common for people to hang their Christmas trees from the ceiling, upside down. Hanging the trees upside down in the rafters of the house kept the goodies in the tree away from little children's hands.
- Electric tree lights have only been around for a little over 120 years. Before that, people used candles to light their trees.
- In some countries, people decorate their trees with ornaments that look like spiders and spider webs. We think of spiders as Halloween decorations, but in Poland and the Ukraine, it's considered good luck to have a spider build its web in your Christmas tree.
- Even though it used to be popular to go and cut down your own Christmas tree, people don't really do that anymore. Today, 98 per cent of Christmas trees are grown on tree farms.

Why Trees on Christmas Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIxB23AFh80>

Use these words to fill in the blanks below:

Germany electric light apples candles Paradise Trees food

1. During the Middle Ages, churches began decorating living fir trees with _____ for Christmas. The decorated trees were called _____.

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2. The custom of bringing trees into the house for Christmas and decorating them started in _____ around 600 years ago. These early Christmas trees were decorated with _____ and _____.
3. German immigrants brought the custom of decorating trees for Christmas to America. But wasn't until the 1800s and the invention of the _____ that Christmas trees became popular in the United States.

Christmas Tree Farm Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AActlpf-9E>

Fill in the blanks below with these words:

Spruces Pine Firs Grand Fir Douglas Fir

4. The three main types of Christmas trees are fir, pine, and spruce. _____ trees have needles that come in bunches of 2, 3, or 5.
5. _____ have single, sharp, prickly needles that will roll between your fingers.
6. _____ have single needles that are soft and rounded at the end. The needles are flat and will *not* roll.
7. The most popular (best-selling) Christmas tree is the _____.
8. According to the Video, the Christmas Tree with the best Christmas smell is the _____.