CHRISTMAS
Activities

Christmas Traditions

🎍 The Christmas Tree

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow:

The tradition of the Christmas tree dates back to the 16th century in Germany. Early Christmas trees were often decorated with candles, apples, and other treats. People believed that the tree brought joy and light during the cold winter months. The custom of placing a decorated tree inside the home spread to other parts of Europe, especially in the 19th century.

In Britain, Queen Victoria and her German husband, Prince Albert, played a big role in popularizing the Christmas tree. In 1841, they put a decorated tree in Windsor Castle, which was soon copied by many families across the country. By the late 19th century, the tradition was also becoming popular in the United States, especially among German immigrants.

Today, Christmas trees are decorated with lights, ornaments, and tinsel. They are often the centerpiece of holiday celebrations in many homes worldwide. Some families even gather around the tree to exchange gifts or sing Christmas carols. Artificial trees are also common, but many people still choose real trees for the authentic smell and look. The Christmas tree continues to be a symbol of holiday cheer, bringing families and friends together during the Christmas season.

1. Where and when did the tradition of the Christmas tree begin?

2. What were the first Christmas trees decorated with?

3. Who helped make the Christmas tree popular in Britain?

4. When did Christmas trees become popular in the United States?

5. What is one reason why the Christmas tree tradition continues to be important today?

🟢 The Christmas Card

Complete the paragraph below with the missing words:

designs individual drinking wishes sending printed shops

The tradition of .... Christmas cards started in the UK in 1843. A man named Henry Cole wanted to send holiday greetings to his friends but didn't have time to write .... letters. He asked an artist, John Calcott Horsley, to design a card that could be ....and sent to many people at once. The first Christmas card showed a family ....wine and celebrating together. Over time, the idea spread to other countries, and people started to send cards with different ....and messages. Today, Christmas cards are a popular way to wish friends and family a merry Christmas and share festive .... Some people even make their own cards, while others buy cards from ....or online.

🔴 The Christmas Carols

Read the text below and decide if the sentences that follow are True or False:

The tradition of Christmas carols dates back to medieval times. The word "carol" originally meant a joyful song or dance. During the early years of Christianity, carols were not specifically Christmas songs but were sung during festivals to celebrate different occasions. By the 13th century, Christmas carols became more closely connected to the holiday. The church encouraged the singing of carols in religious services. Over time, carols became more festive and were sung by groups of people, often going door to door to spread Christmas cheer.

One of the first Christmas carols was "The Boar's Head Carol," sung during a Christmas feast in the 15th century. The custom of caroling spread throughout Europe and eventually to other parts of the world. Many of today's most famous Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World," were written in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Caroling became a tradition in the UK and the US, where groups of people, called carolers, would go from house to house, singing to spread holiday spirit. Today, carols are an important part of Christmas celebrations, heard in churches, stores, and on the streets. They are enjoyed by people of all ages, reminding us of the joy and spirit of the holiday season.

1. The word "carol" originally meant a joyful song or dance.
2. Christmas carols were first connected to the holiday in the 13th century.
3. The first Christmas carol was "Silent Night."
4. Carolers originally sang songs only in churches.
5. The tradition of Christmas carols spread from the UK to other parts of Europe and the world.
6 Christmas carols are only sung in religious services today.

What is your favourite Christmas tradition and why? If you could add a new activity for the holidays, what would it be? Write a paragraph with your ideas for these questions:

Christmas Traditions -Teacher's B1

The Christmas Tree

1. Where and when did the tradition of the Christmas tree begin?

Answer: The tradition of the Christmas tree began in Germany in the 16th century.

2. What were the first Christmas trees decorated with?

Answer: The first Christmas trees were decorated with candles, apples, and other treats.

3. Who helped make the Christmas tree popular in Britain?

Answer: Queen Victoria and her German husband, Prince Albert, helped popularize the Christmas tree in Britain.

4. When did Christmas trees become popular in the United States?

Answer: Christmas trees became popular in the United States in the 19th century.

5. What is one reason why the Christmas tree tradition continues to be important today?

Answer: The Christmas tree brings families and friends together and symbolizes holiday cheer during the Christmas season.

The Christmas Card

The tradition of **sending** Christmas cards started in the UK in 1843. A man named Henry Cole wanted to send holiday greetings to his friends but didn't have time to write **individual** letters. He asked an artist, John Calcott Horsley, to design a card that could be **printed** and sent to many people at once. The first Christmas card showed a family **drinking** wine and celebrating together. Over time, the idea spread to other countries, and people started to send cards with different **designs** and messages. Today, Christmas cards are a popular way to wish friends and family a merry Christmas and share festive **wishes**. Some people even make their own cards, while others buy cards from **shops** or online.

The Christmas Carols

1. The word "carol" originally meant a joyful song or dance. True
2. Christmas carols were first connected to the holiday in the 13th century. True
3. The first Christmas carol was "Silent Night." False (The first Christmas carol was "The Boar's Head Carol.")
4. Carolers originally sang songs only in churches. False (Carolers went door to door to spread Christmas cheer.)
5. The tradition of Christmas carols spread from the UK to other parts of Europe and the world. True
6. Christmas carols are only sung in religious services today. False (They are also sung in many other settings, like on the streets and in stores.)

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