



Name: _____

Christmas Trees

The story of the Christmas tree began in ancient times when people liked evergreen trees because they stayed green throughout the harsh winter months. These trees represented everlasting life and hope during the cold, dark winters. People would often bring branches of these trees into their homes to remind them that life would return in the spring.

In the 16th century, the tradition of decorating these trees became popular in Germany. Families would decorate the branches with fruits, nuts, and paper ornaments. It was said that a man was walking through a forest one winter's night and was impressed by the stars shining through the trees. He wanted to share this magical sight with his family, so he cut down a small evergreen tree, brought it home, and decorated it with candles to represent the stars.



As time passed, the tradition of the Christmas tree spread across Europe. In the 1800s, Queen Victoria of England and her German husband, Prince Albert, were shown in a popular drawing standing around a decorated Christmas tree. This drawing sparked a trend, and soon, Christmas trees became popular in England and later in the United States.

By the late 19th century, Christmas trees became a cherished tradition in many households around the world. Families would gather around the tree to exchange gifts and share stories.

Today, the Christmas tree stands as a symbol of joy, hope, and togetherness during the holiday season. People continue to decorate these trees with lights, ornaments, and tinsel, celebrating the spirit of giving and the beauty of the season.

The history of the Christmas tree is a tale of how a simple tradition evolved into a beloved symbol that brings warmth and happiness to homes worldwide during Christmas.



Name: _____

Christmas Trees

1. What is the text structure of this passage? (circle all that apply)

description

cause and effect

compare and contrast

problem and solution

sequence

2. Why did people in ancient times bring evergreen trees into their homes?

3. What caused decorated Christmas trees to become popular in Europe and the United States?

4. Decorate the tree.

