

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Trees and Traditions

It's getting to be that time of year when families get together to decorate Christmas trees. The practice of having large trees inside a house is strange when you think about it. Today's Internet search helps us learn about Christmas trees, decorations, and traditions.



The site to use for Christmas tree facts:

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/trees/facts.cfm>

1. Which three states are the leading Christmas tree producers?

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2. Which president first put a Christmas tree in the White House?

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3. What is the name of the bright red flowering plant that we see during the Christmas holidays? Where is this plant from originally? (Click on Flowers and Greenery.)

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More Christmas information can be found at:

<http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/index.shtml>

(Click on the links at the left side of the webpage above for information about specific customs.)

4. What English tradition is associated with mistletoe? Who first put mistletoe in houses and why did they do that?

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5. Santa Claus has different names in different countries around the world. What do they call Santa in the United Kingdom?

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6. Children in the Netherlands celebrate a different holiday earlier in December. What holiday do they celebrate and when is it?

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7. December 26 is Boxing Day in Britain and countries that share their history with Britain. What was inside the "boxes" that were opened on this day? What happened to the contents of these boxes?

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8. When and where did the tradition of sending Christmas cards begin? How started it and why?

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9. Tell one interesting thing that you learned in today's search:

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