

# Christmas Trees

Christmas trees are seen by many people as an important part of Christmas.

They can be decorated with lights, baubles, tinsel and beads and topped with an angel or star. Presents can be put under the tree, ready to open on Christmas Day morning.

Villages, towns and cities may have their own Christmas tree. These are usually much bigger than those bought for the home.



## History of the Christmas Tree

In the 1500s, Christians bought real trees into the home and decorated them. They were first lit up with candles on the branches. (Don't try this at home as it's a major fire risk!)

In the 1700s and 1800s, other decorations such as paper ornaments, fruit and sweets were added to trees. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, made owning a Christmas tree in your home very fashionable in Britain.

People began hanging glass baubles on branches for the first time and electric lights were used instead of candles.

As well as real trees, artificial trees are often seen in homes today. Many families decorate their tree in Christmas colours such as silver, red or gold. Black or pink artificial trees are also very popular.

