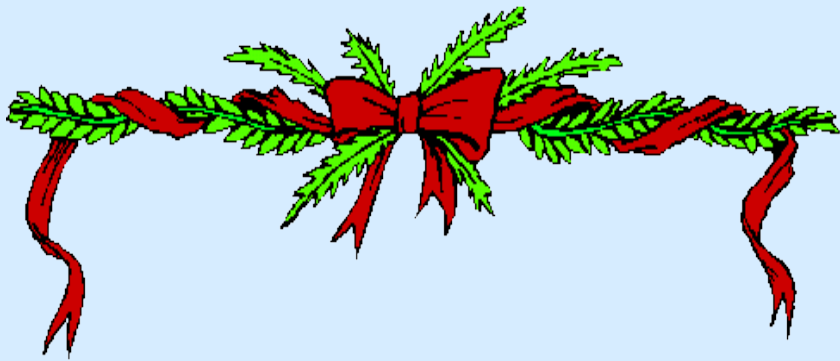






Christmas decorations

A **wreath** is an assortment of flowers, leaves, fruits, twigs and/or various materials that is constructed to resemble a ring. They are used typically as Christmas decorations to symbolize the coming of Christ, also known as the Advent season in Christianity. They are also used as festive headdresses as attire in ceremonial events in many cultures around the globe. Wreaths have much history and symbolism associated with them. They are usually made from evergreens and symbolize strength, as evergreens last even throughout the harshest winters.





The Ringing of The Bells

- Bells were rung at pagan winter celebrations. It was thought that evil spirits could be driven out by loud noises, and bells often accompanied singing and shouting.

- Bells are mentioned in the Old Testament as being used on the robes of the high priest.

- During the Middle ages bells were rung with increasing frequency until midnight, to warn the devil of the approaching birth of the Christ Child.



Candles



- Ancient Romans lit candles to ward off evil, and to convince the sun to shine again.
- Candles were often placed in windows during the Christmas season as a sign to those passing by that shelter and warmth could be found within.
- On the Advent Wreath, a candle is lit each week to remind us of the coming of Christ, who is "the light of the world".





Candy Canes

- The most obvious symbolism used in the candy cane is its shape.
- Turned one way, it looks like a "J" for Jesus.
- Turned the other way, candy canes remind us of the shepherd's staff.
- Some say the 3 small stripes honor the Holy Trinity, while the larger stripe reminds us of the One True God.





Christmas Dinner

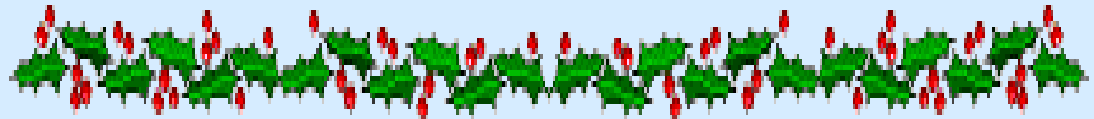
Christmas is, of course, a holiday loved by children, as their eyes sparkle with wonder and excitement at the brightly-lit Christmas tree and the wrapped presents. The feast is prepared for months in advance, so that the table groans under the weight of the food: oyster soup; an enormous, majestically browned turkey, or rather two turkeys: one boiled, the other roasted with chestnuts, accompanied by a whole succession of vegetables, sauces, and bright red cranberries. At the end of Christmas Day the plum pudding is brought out to be enjoyed for tea on the stroke of five, as the guests raise a drop of port to toast Her Majesty.





Holly

- Druids once believed that holly, with its shiny leaves and red berries stayed green in Winter to keep the earth beautiful when the sacred Oak lost its leaves.
- Holly was the sacred plant of Saturn and was used at the Roman Saturnalia festival to honor him. Romans gave one another holly wreaths and carried them about decorating images of Saturn with it.
- Holly in Christianity, serves as a reminder of the crown of thorns worn by Jesus Christ at his crucifixion.



Christmas cards



A **Christmas card** is a [greeting card](#) sent as part of the traditional celebration of the [Christmas](#) in order to convey between people a range of sentiments related to the [Christmas and holiday season](#).

Christmas cards are usually exchanged during the weeks preceding [Christmas Day](#) by many people. The traditional greeting reads "wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

The first commercial Christmas cards were commissioned by [Sir Henry Cole](#) in London in 1843 and featured an illustration by [John Callcott Horsley](#).



Christmas Wishes

*It's full of **surprises** (nice & otherwise!)*

*It's sometimes been **tough**
Sometimes a whole lotta **laughs***

*But it's always been a **joy...**
To **raise you & watch you grow!***

Merry Christmas

©123Greetings.com



*Wish you the gifts of good cheer,
good times & good memories...
that last for years to come.*



Merry Christmas

©123Greetings.com

The Christmas Star



-The original Nautical Star, or North Star, was seen as providing guidance, and good luck for sailors.

- In Germany and in Amish lore, the 5-Pointed Star provides protection from fire and lightning or a protection for livestock, good fortune, hope, love, fertility, energy and harmony. The Eight-Pointed Star symbolizes goodwill, good omens, light and protection. -

-The Triple Star represents good luck, success and happiness.

-In Christianity, the Star of Bethlehem guided the three wise men and announced the birth of Christ. Eventually, stars were placed on the tops of Christmas Trees to celebrate His birth.





The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree

The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree is decorated in traditional Norwegian style with hundreds of individual white lights. The tree itself is traditionally 20 – 25 metres tall and the sight of it decorated in white light has become an iconic London Christmas image. The lighting ceremony is traditionally attended by the Lord Mayor of Westminster formally announcing the arrival of the tree in London from the forests surrounding Oslo.



Christmas Eve

- The fun starts the night before, on the 24th of December. Traditionally this is the day when people decorate their trees. Children hang stockings at the end of their beds, hoping that Father Christmas will come down the chimney during the night and fill them with toys and sweets.



Merry Christmas

and Happy new Year