

# World crafts and traditions:

## Christmas decorating

did you know...?



The modern trend for decorating a Christmas tree is a relatively recent fashion, imported from protestant Germany in the 19th century!

Older ornaments are often kept for years by families. The round bauble is often the most popular kind. Gilt & glass have now been replaced by moulded plastic.



WREATHS come from the pre-Christian Germanic people who kept rings of evergreen leaves as hope for Spring and returning life. Why not decorate a wreath template?

In the **UKRAINE**, spider webs are used as tree ornaments!



In Yugoslavia a gold or silver coin is placed in a cake, and the person who receives the slice which contains the coin is believed to have good luck for the next year. The Christmas ornaments often include figures of angels. Find an angel template or make your own secret Christmas charm!

The Polish papercutting tradition is called 'Wycinanki,' with chains of these intricate decorations hung up at Christmas. Make your own cut-out paperchain!



In ancient times, holly & ivy was thought to ward off winter ghosts and demons. Make a holly & ivy chain!



In Germany, trees are decorated with roses, apples, and candles. German homes generally contain an Advent wreath, as well. Find a candle template or make your own flowers or sweets from the materials.



The **FRENCH** commonly decorate their trees with round glass or plastic ornaments meant to mimic the apples that were hung on ancient Christmas trees.



An **Argentinean** Christmas tree might be bedecked with cotton, to look like snow.



Although mistletoe is thought to be the plant of love, the name derives from 'dung on a twig' from the ancient belief that mistletoe grew from bird droppings!

Traditional homes in Sweden & Lithuania will have Christmas decorations - often animal or doll figures - constructed from straw found on the farms of the countryside.

Make a spiky or soft 3-D decoration! Create a little figure to hang from the tree.

