

WHY DO WE HAVE CHRISTMAS TREES?

FYI
WEEKLY NEWS SHOW

sky kids

CHRISTMAS is less than a month off, and those of you who celebrate might be pestering your parents to put up a tree and decorations.

Or maybe you have your decorations up already! But

have you ever stopped to think – why do we bring a tree inside at Christmas?

This week on *FYI*, presenter Jeriah heads to Windsor Castle to find out!

FYI is a weekly news show from Sky Kids that helps you to stay up-to-date with what's going on in the world. You can watch loads of cool videos from them by heading to first.news/fyi or on the *First News* app.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

To find out why we bring Christmas trees inside, we have to go all the way back to the 1800s. It all started with Queen Victoria, who spent lots of time at Windsor Castle with her husband Prince Albert. It's Albert who is credited with creating many Christmas traditions. For years, British people had brought plants such as holly, ivy and mistletoe into their homes during the festive season, but bringing a Christmas tree inside began in Germany. Prince Albert was German and introduced the idea at Windsor Castle for the first time!



Queen Victoria (pictured above) is the great, great, great grandmother of King Charles III

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS TREE AT WINDSOR

This year's Christmas tree was specially picked from the private grounds at Windsor Castle called Home Park. It's a living tree, which means that it will be replanted once Christmas is over.



All images: Getty

NEWSPAPERS MADE THEM POPULAR

Have you ever read something in *First News* that has inspired you to do something? Well, that's sort of how Christmas trees became popular. Prints of Prince Albert's Christmas trees ended up going in newspapers at the time. People who read them caught onto the idea, and adopted the tradition for themselves. The trend spread and became popular, and today, people all over the country put up trees each year to celebrate Christmas.

DIFFERENCES IN DECORATIONS!

Back in Victorian times, Christmas trees were decorated very differently to how they're decorated today. Nowadays trees have electric lights, baubles and tinsel, but these things were either not as common back then or just didn't exist! Take a look at Prince Albert's tree pictured on the left, which shows the kind of traditional decorations they used at the time. How many of these things can you spot?

- Candles
- Nuts, sweets and other small edible things
- Toys – these were often positioned at the bottom of the tree, with a few hung on the branches



A print of Prince Albert's Christmas tree that featured in newspaper *London News* in 1848



FEATURE ON THE SHOW!

Want to be in an episode of *FYI*? Just ask your teacher to set up a **First News FYI News Club** at your school. You could take part in a Your Shout to have your say,

or create your own report for the show. You might end up on TV, or here in *First News*! Just ask your teacher to head to first.news/FYInewsclub to find out more.

