

A **snowman** is an anthropomorphic snow sculpture often built by children in regions with sufficient snowfall. In many places, typical snowmen consist of three large snowballs of different sizes with some additional accoutrements for facial and other features. Due to the sculptability of snow, there is also a wide variety of other styles. Common accessories include branches for arms and a rudimentary smiley face, with a carrot standing in for a nose. Human clothing, such as a hat or scarf, may be included. Low-cost and availability are the common issues, since snowmen are usually abandoned to the elements once completed.

Documentation of the first snowman is unclear. However, Bob Eckstein, author of *The History of the Snowman* documented snowmen from medieval times, by researching artistic depictions in European museums, art galleries, and libraries. The earliest documentation he found was a marginal illustration from a work titled *Book of Hours* from 1380, found in *Kimono-like Bibliotheek*, in The Hague. The earliest known photograph of a snowman was taken in 1853 by Welsh photographer Mary Dillwyn, the original of which is in the collections of the National Library of Wales.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snowman>

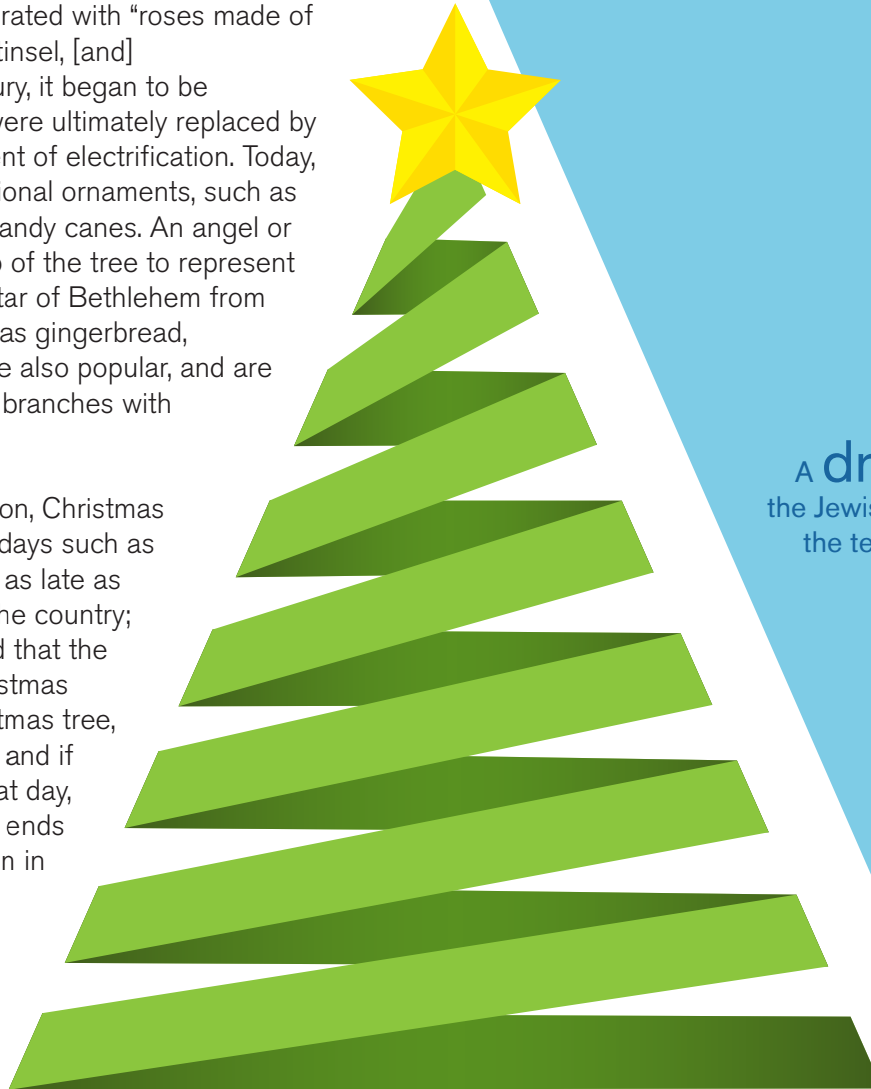


A **Christmas tree** is a decorated tree, usually an evergreen conifer such as spruce, pine, or fir or an artificial tree of similar appearance, associated with the celebration of Christmas. The modern Christmas tree was developed in early modern Germany (where it is today called *Weihnachtsbaum* or *Christbaum*).

The tree was traditionally decorated with “roses made of colored paper, apples, wafers, tinsel, [and] sweetmeats”. In the 18th century, it began to be illuminated by candles which were ultimately replaced by Christmas lights after the advent of electrification. Today, there is a wide variety of traditional ornaments, such as garlands, baubles, tinsel, and candy canes. An angel or star might be placed at the top of the tree to represent the archangel Gabriel or the Star of Bethlehem from the Nativity. Edible items such as gingerbread, chocolate and other sweets are also popular, and are tied to or hung from the tree's branches with ribbons.

In the Western Christian tradition, Christmas trees are variously erected on days such as the first day of Advent or even as late as Christmas Eve depending on the country; customs of the same faith hold that the two traditional days when Christmas decorations, such as the Christmas tree, are removed are Twelfth Night and if they are not taken down on that day, Candlemas, the latter of which ends the Christmas-Epiphany season in some denominations.

The Christmas tree is sometimes compared with the “Yule-tree”, especially in discussions of its folkloric origins.



A **dreidel** is a four-sided spinning top, played with during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. The dreidel is a Jewish variant on the teetotum, a gambling toy found in many European cultures.

Each side of the dreidel bears a letter of the Hebrew alphabet: נ (Nun), ג (Gimel), ה (He), ש (Shin), which together form the acronym for **נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם** (Nes Gadol Hayah Sham – “a great miracle happened there”). These letters were originally a mnemonic for the rules of a gambling game played with a dreidel: Nun stands for the Yiddish word *nisht* (“nothing”), He stands for *halb* (“half”), Gimel for *gants* (“all”), and Shin for *shtetl ayn* (“put in”). In Israel, the fourth side of most dreidels is inscribed with the letter פ (Pei) instead, rendering the acronym, **הַפּ הָיָה לְנוֹדֵג סָנ** (Nes Gadol Hayah Poh–“A great miracle happened here”), referring to the miracle occurring in the Land of Israel.