

DECEMBER 2023



Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

The Queen and the First Christmas Tree

by Nancy Churnin

The true story of the kind, unconventional queen who introduced the Christmas tree to her adopted country.

Queen Charlotte brought her family's festive holiday yule bough from Germany to England. While planning a Christmas Day party in 1800 at Windsor Castle for over 100 children, she realized a single bough isn't enough. So she brought in the whole tree instead, making it the first known Christmas Tree in England. This story tells a little known fact about a favorite holiday tradition.



Fun Facts:

- Murray Cypress is one of the most popular trees grown in the south and is the No. 1 Christmas tree grown in Georgia.
- Georgia grows about 1,400 acres of Christmas trees at a value of just over \$9 million.
- For every Christmas tree cut in Georgia, five are planted in its place. Georgia is consistently ranked the Top Forestry State in the Nation.
- The first Christmas tree farm was started in 1901 when W.V. McGalliard planted 25,000 Norway spruce on his farm in New Jersey.
- Approximately 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold each year in the United States.
- It takes about 6-8 years for the Christmas trees to grow to a marketable height.
- The first record of a Christmas tree being displayed in an American home was in the 1830's by German settlers.
- "Jingle Bells" was written by James Lord Pierpont in the 1850's. Two different cities claim to be the place where Pierpont wrote the song. Medford, Massachusetts claims that Pierpont wrote the song in a tavern while watching sleigh races take place outside. Savannah, Georgia claims that Pierpont wrote the lyrics prior to leading a sing-along of the song at a local church in 1857.

Videos:

- [Ag-Ventures: Berry's Tree Farm in Newton County](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Ranger Nick - Growing Christmas Trees / Trees For Troops](#)
- Farm Monitor: [Georgia Christmas Tree Farm Helps Create Holiday Spirit](#)
- [Christmas Tree Farm | Nature Boom Time](#)

Activities:

- [Handprint Christmas Tree Card](#)
- Lesson: [Discover Christmas Trees K-2 and 3-5](#)
- [Gumdrop Christmas Tree Challenge](#)- Build, then measure to see what group has the tallest gumdrop tree
- [Popsicle Stick Christmas Tree Frame Ornaments](#)
- [Christmas Trees Made from Ice Cream Cones](#)
- [Air Clay Ornament](#)- Use pine needles to decorate the tree shaped ornament
- [Salt Dough Christmas Ornament](#)
- Christmas Tree [Bookmark](#) and [Color Page](#)
- Recipes: [Christmas Tree Waffles](#) [Christmas Tree Dirt Cups](#)



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