

Do you put up Christmas trees in your home or town? It's traditional to put up Christmas trees in Britain but nowadays most people prefer artificial ones, not real ones. Watch this video to find out where they come from and how they're made!

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|----|--|
| 1..... | PVC | a. | a building where products are made with machines |
| 2..... | a branch | b. | a knife or a sharp edge |
| 3..... | a needle | c. | polyvinyl chloride, a kind of plastic |
| 4..... | a factory | d. | a thin, sharp leaf on a tree |
| 5..... | a blade | e. | an arm of a tree |
| 6..... | a trunk | f. | the main body of a tree |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the correct answers.

- What country did the tradition of having Christmas trees come from?
 - Britain
 - China
 - Germany
- Who made them popular in Britain?
 - Queen Victoria
 - Shakespeare
 - King Henry VIII
- In Chinese, what does *sheng dan shu* mean?
 - Christmas tree
 - factory
 - Father Christmas
- What are the Christmas trees made of?
 - PVC and wood
 - PVC and metal
 - wood and metal
- Why are the branches pulled through a small coil?
 - to stick the needles together
 - to separate the needles
 - to cut the branches down to size
- Why are the branches cut by hand?
 - because a machine would break the needles
 - because a machine would bend the needles
 - because a machine would flatten the needles

2. Check your understanding: ordering

Write a number (1–6) to put these sentences in order.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| | The branches are attached to the tree trunk and the Christmas tree is finished! |
| | The shredded PVC is twisted around a metal wire and the needles are separated. |
| | The branches are cut to size by hand. |
| | First of all, flat strips of PVC are stuck together. |
| | Then the PVC is shredded by a circular blade to make the needles. |
| | Any sharp edges on the branches are bent over. |

3. Check your grammar: gap fill – passives

Complete the sentences with the passive form of the verb in brackets.

1. The tradition of having a Christmas tree _____ to have begun in Germany around the 18th century. (BELIEVE)
2. Queen Victoria _____ standing next to a Christmas tree with her family. (PICTURE)
3. Millions of Christmas trees _____ in China. (MANUFACTURE)
4. Strips of PVC _____ by a circular blade. (SHRED)
5. Then they _____ around a metal wire. (TWIST)
6. The needles _____ by pulling them through a small coil. (SEPARATE)
7. The branches _____ to size by hand. (CUT)
8. Sharp edges _____ over so children don't hurt themselves. (BEND)

Discussion

Do you put up a tree at Christmas?

Is Christmas an important holiday for you and your family?

Do you have lots of plants and flowers in your house? Why or why not?