

Christmas Symbols

Lapbook



Designed for K-6th Grades



L-XS

Designed by
Cyndi Kinney

Christmas Symbols Lapbook

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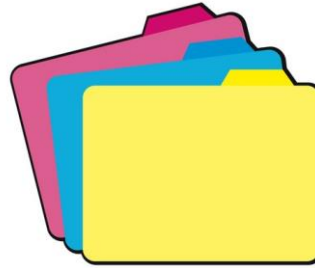
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How do I get started?

First, you will want to gather your supplies.



*** Assembly:

***Folders:** We use colored file folders, which can be found at Walmart, Sam's, Office Depot, Costco, etc. You will need between 1 and 4 file folders, depending on which product you have purchased. You may use manila folders if you prefer, but we have found that children respond better with the brightly colored folders. Don't worry about the tabs...they aren't important. Within this product, you will be given easy, step-by-step instructions for how to fold and assemble these folders. *If you prefer, you can purchase the assembled lapbook bases from our website.*

***Glue:** For the folder assembly, we use hot glue. For booklet assembly, we use glue sticks and sometimes hot glue, depending on the specific booklet. We have found that bottle glue stays wet for too long, so it's not a great choice for lapbooking. For gluing the folders together, we suggest using hot glue, but **ONLY** with adult supervision. These things get **SUPER** hot, and can cause **SEVERE** burns within seconds.



***Other Supplies:** Of course, you will need scissors. Many booklets require additional supplies. Some of these include metal brad fasteners, paper clips, ribbon, yarn, staples, hole puncher, etc.



You may want to add decorations of your own, including stickers, buttons, coloring pages, cut-out clipart, etc. Sometimes, we even use scrapbooking supplies. The most important thing is to use your imagination! Make it your own!!



Ok. I've gathered the supplies. Now how do I use this product?

Inside, you will find several sections. They are as follows:

1. **Layout and Pictures:** This section gives instructions and diagrams that will tell the student exactly how to assemble the lapbook base and where to glue each booklet into the base. Depending on the student's age, he or she may need assistance with this process, especially if you choose to allow the student to use hot glue.

2. **Student Instruction Guide:** This section is written directly to the student, in language that he or she can understand. However, depending on the age of the child, there may be some parent/teacher assistance needed. This section will also tell the student exactly what should be written inside each booklet as he or she comes to it during the study.

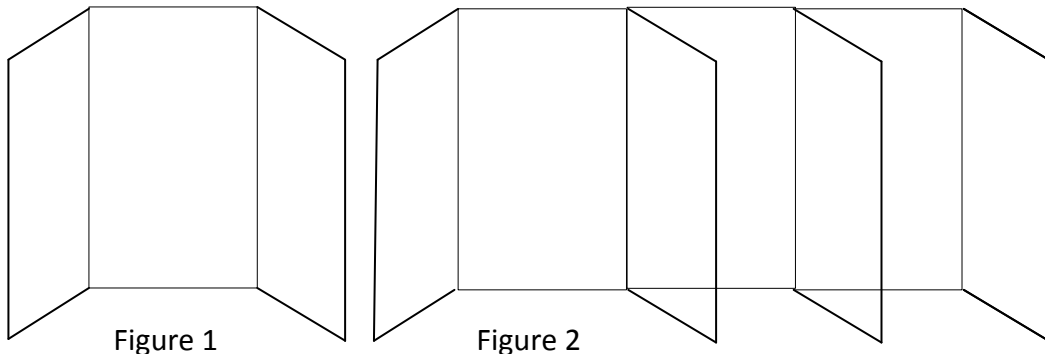
3. **Booklet Templates:** This section includes ALL of the templates for the booklets. These have been printed on colors that will help to improve retention of the information presented, according to scientific research on color psychology.

4. **Teacher's/Study Guide:** This section includes a Study Guide that can be used to teach this subject. It includes all information for completing the booklets in this lapbook.

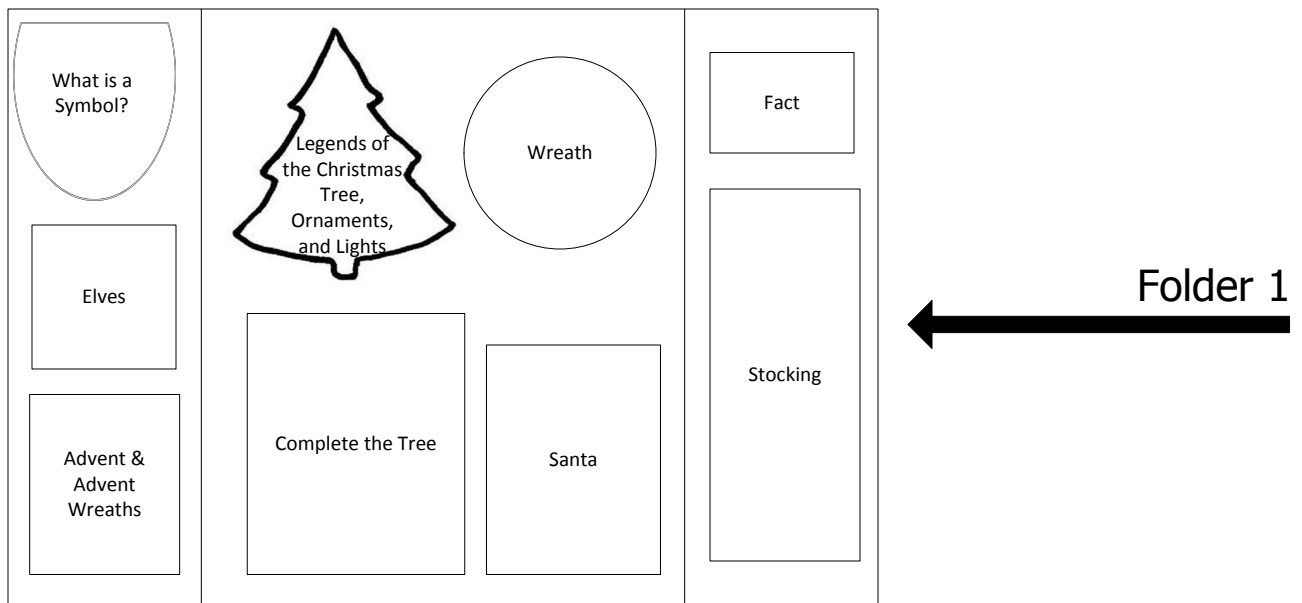
Christmas Symbols Lapbook

Layout & Pictures

You will need 3 folders of any color. For each folder, you will fold both sides toward the original middle fold and make firm creases on these folds (Figure 1). Then glue the folders together along one flap (Figure 2).



This is the "Layout" for your lapbook. The shapes are not exact on the layout, but you will get the idea of where each booklet should go inside your lapbook.



Folder 2



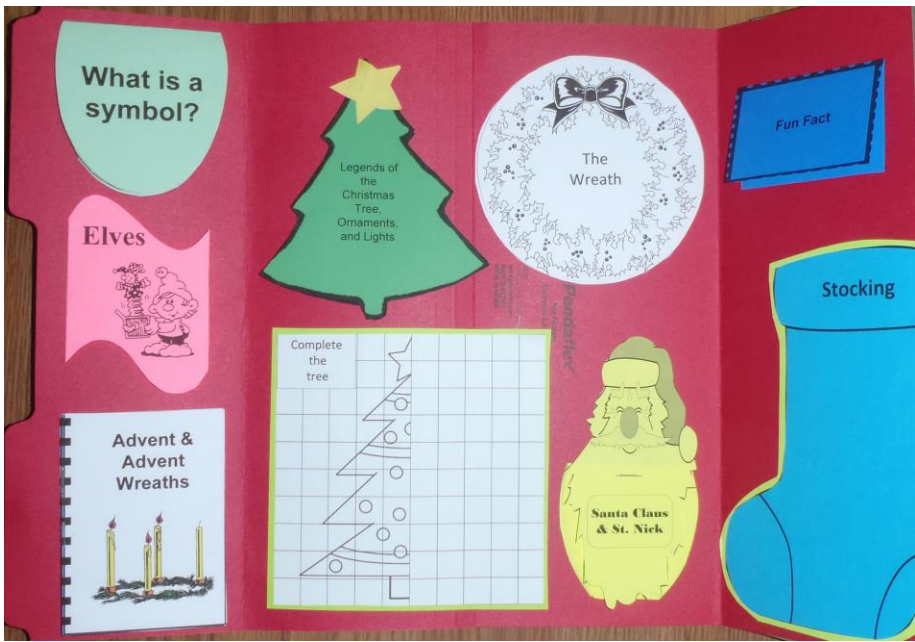
Gift Giving	Star	Fact	Colors of Christmas
Bells		Crackers	
Nativity	Christmas Plants		

Xmas	Christmas Carols	Can you think of any other Christmas symbols?	Other Christmas Symbols
Candy Cane	Angels	My Favorite Christmas Symbols	Candles
Snow			

Folder 3



Below is a picture of a completed lapbook!!! This should help in figuring out how to assemble the booklets and then how to put them all together!



← Folder 1



Folder 2

Folder 3



Christmas Symbols Lapbook

Student Instruction Guide

Booklet 1: What is a Symbol?

Assembly Instructions: Cut out along the outer black line edges of the booklet. Fold along the center line so that the title is on the front.

Completion Instructions: What does the word “Symbol” mean? You may look it up in a dictionary, or use the definition below, and write it inside the booklet.

***Symbol: An object that represents something else, usually something of importance.

****PLACE in Folder #1 (see layout).**

Booklet 2: Legends of the Christmas Tree, Ornaments, and Lights

Assembly Instructions: Cut out along the outer black line edges of each tree, the star, and the ornaments. Stack the trees together so that the title is on the top, and staple at the top. Glue the star over the staple. Color the ornaments, and use them to decorate the tree. Use any other craft supplies to decorate the trees as well.

Completion Instructions: There are many legends about Christmas trees, ornaments, and lights. Tell about them here, and decorate your tree.

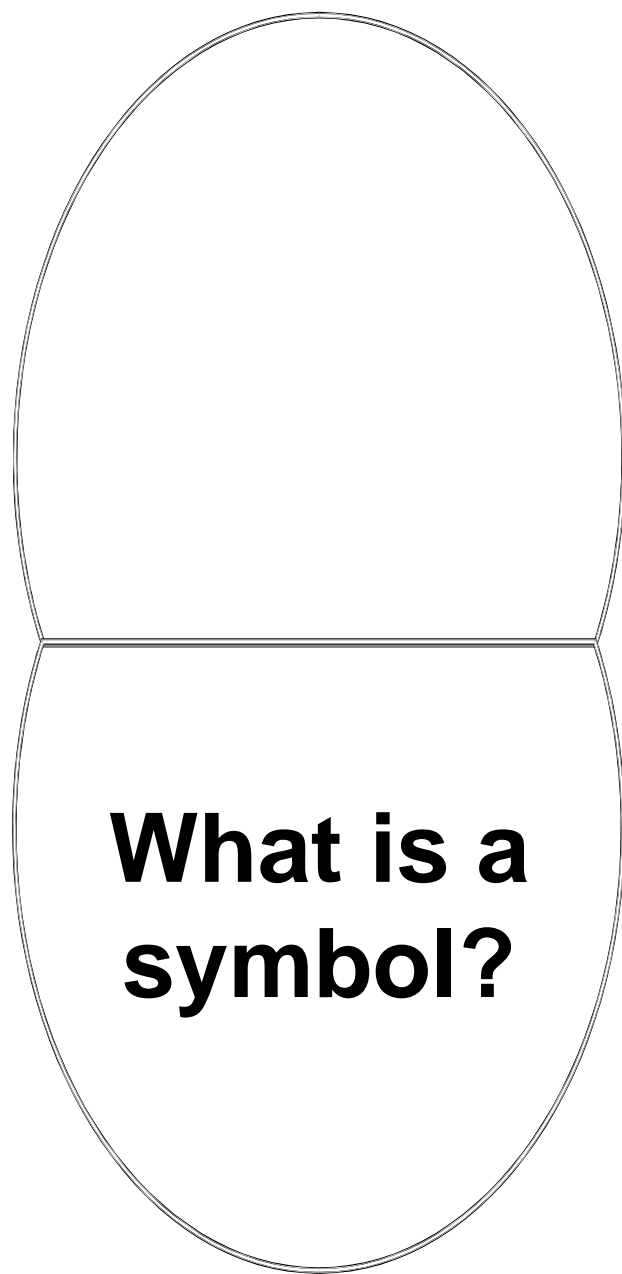
****PLACE in Folder #1 (see layout).**

Booklet 3: Complete the Tree

Assembly Instructions: Cut out along the outer black line edges of the one-page booklet. Glue to a colored piece of paper, and trim around the edges to create a small border.

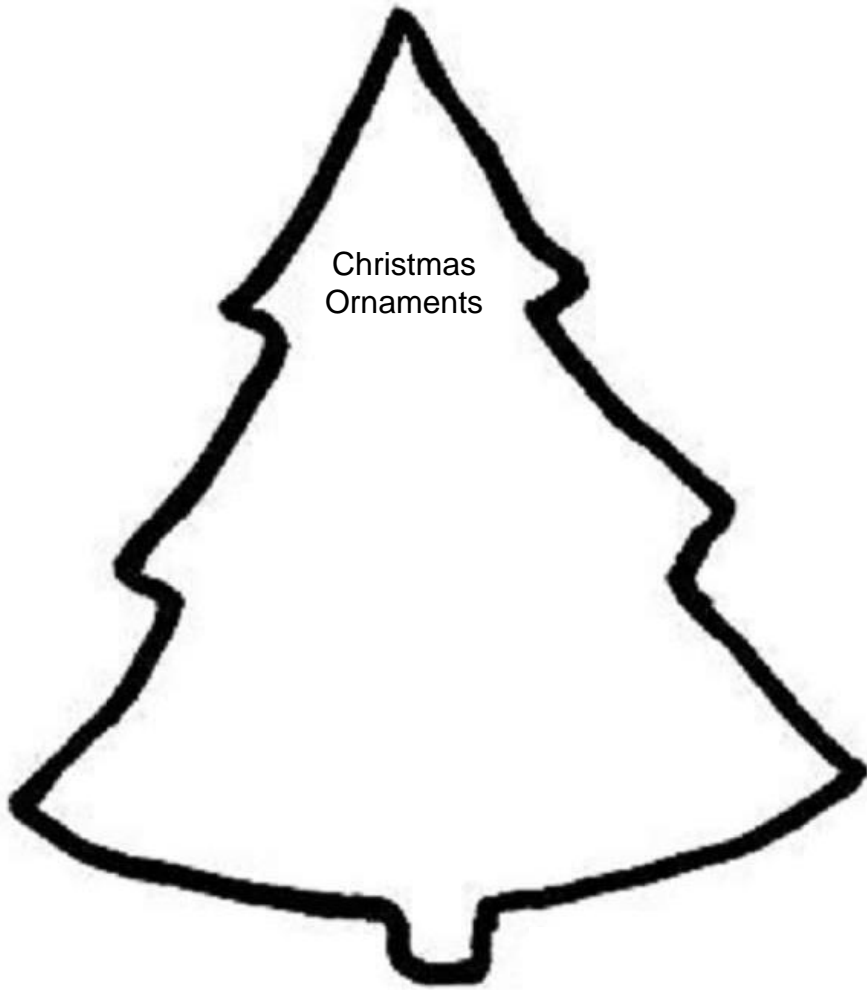
Completion Instructions: Draw the right side of the tree so that it looks just like the left. Use your markers, crayons, colored pencils, and any craft supplies to decorate.

****PLACE in Folder #1 (see layout).**

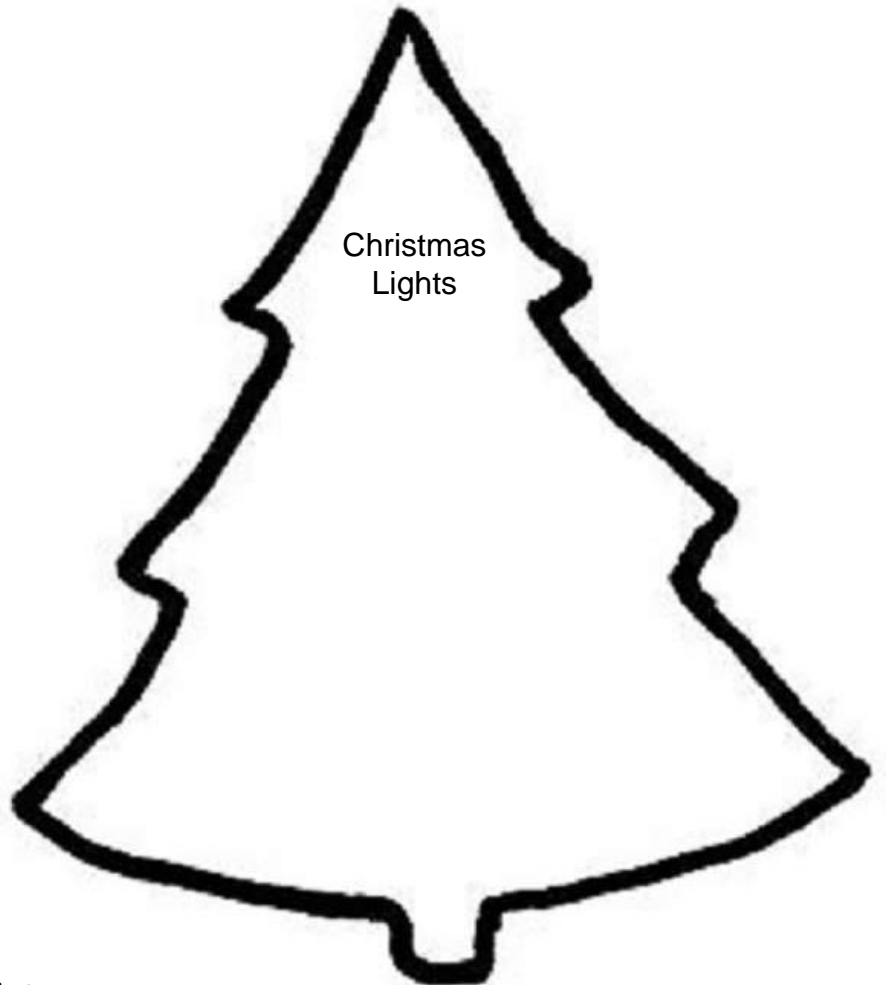


**What is a
symbol?**





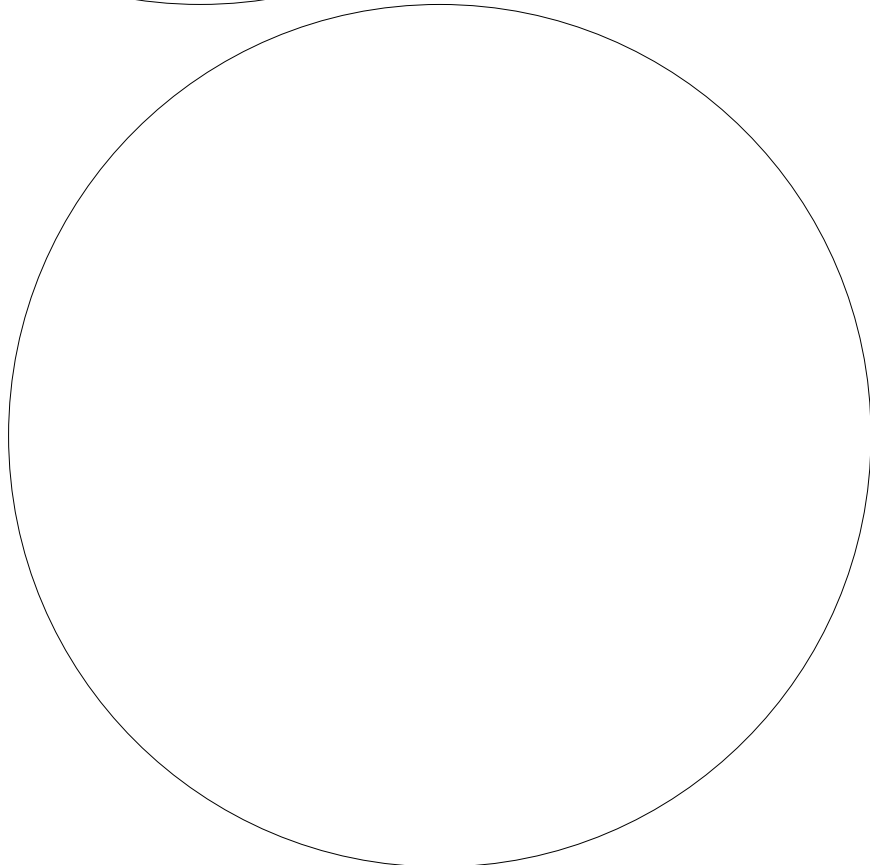
Christmas
Ornaments



Christmas
Lights

These are used
with the tree
booklet from the
previous 2
pages.





Christmas Symbols Lapbook

Study Guide

Christmas Trees

There are many legends involving the use of a tree in celebrating Christmas, and most of them come from Germany. The first involves St. Boniface, a missionary to Germany during the 8th century. According to legend, St. Boniface saw some people who were going to sacrifice a child to one of their gods, who was symbolized by an oak tree. To save the child's life, the saint cut down the oak tree with an ax, and a fir tree sprang from its stump! St. Boniface told the surprised people that the fir tree represented eternal life in Jesus. He also used the three points of the tree—a triangle—as a symbol for the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Another legend involves Martin Luther, a German priest in the 16th century. The story says that he was walking home from a Christmas Eve service. Whether he saw stars shining through the evergreen trees or stars reflected off the icicles, the lights reminded him of Jesus, the Light of the World. The legend says he cut a small tree to take home, placing candles on its branches to replicate his experience.

Two centuries later, Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert, a German, is credited with introducing the custom of Christmas trees to England at Windsor Castle. His trees were placed atop tables, despite being eight feet tall, and decorated with candles, candied fruits, gingerbread and eggs filled with sweetmeats. An angel figurine with outstretched wings topped each tree.

Other stories about the Christmas tree say it was used as a prop in a medieval play about Adam and Eve, which referred to it as the "Paradise Tree." Since apple trees no longer had their leaves or fruit on December 24, when the play was annually performed, an evergreen tree was hung with apples and used instead. In the 1800s, the Reform Church (now Lutheran Church), decorated evergreen trees as a reference to both the cross and everlasting life. Roses adorned the trees to represent the Rose of Sharon, and a single candle at the top stood for Jesus, the Light of the World.

As for the modern Christmas tree, it dates back to the 16th century Germany, when decorations of paper roses, apples, and wafers (to symbolize communion) adorned evergreen trees in homes throughout the country. Candles, candies, and confections were also used to extensively decorate trees prior to the decorations that can be found on store shelves today. A star or angel was put on top of the tree to symbolize what was found in the sky the night Jesus was born. Legend tells us that a poor family was unable to afford decorations for the Christmas tree, so spiders wove webs all over it during the night. Then, according to other traditions, either the rising sun or baby Jesus turned the webs into silver, which is why we use tinsel to decorate Christmas trees.

Glass bulb ornaments were first developed over 150 years ago by a German glass blower to replace heavier ornaments in Lauscha, Germany. Throughout the years, most families in the village became involved in making the shiny blown-glass balls. These ornaments first reached America in 1860, where they were sold on street corners in German communities before being popularized by F.W. Woolworth in his chain of stores. Companies in other countries began to copy them, with Corning Glass eventually mass-producing the glass ornaments by machines.

The 17th century German immigrants brought the Christmas trees traditions to America. The first outdoor tree in a public location was introduced in Finland in 1906. Electric candles lighted it. The first public tree in the United States followed in 1912.

Another legend of the evergreen tree says it was not always the tree we know it as today. According to the story, before the birth of Jesus, evergreen trees lost their leaves each winter, the same as other trees. However, when Mary, Joseph and Jesus were fleeing King Herod into Egypt, they had to hide in a group of cedar trees. To better hide the family, the legend says the trees grew green needles, and the white berries of the cedars turned blue to blend with Mary's blue robe. A related legend tells us that Jesus left his handprint in the fruit of the pine tree that hid the family from Herod's men. If you cut open a pinecone lengthwise, you can see the imprint of the tiny hand.

Commercial Christmas tree farming started in 1901, making it possible for those who don't live close to a forest to have a tree for the holiday. Some people will take their live tree and plant it in their yard after Christmas, saving the trees and beautifying their landscape.

Wreaths

Wreaths can be found in cultures throughout history. The champions of the Greek Olympic Games in 776BC were crowned with laurel wreaths. In ancient cultures, Eastern monarchs wore diadems, or fabric headbands adorned with jewels, as a sign of royalty. Eventually they transitioned to wall decoration, probably to showcase as a souvenir. One legend states that Christ's crown of thorns was actually made of holly with white berries. The story says that when the crown was put on his head, Jesus' blood turned the berries red. Before Jesus was born, Germans gathered evergreen wreaths, which 16th century Christians used to symbolize the hope and everlasting life in Christ.

One legend tells of a poor boy that had no gift to give to baby Jesus, so he made a tiny crown of leaves from a holly bush. When the little shepherd boy presented the crown, he began to cry when he saw the expensive gifts the others had given. According to the legend, when the baby touched the holly crown, the teardrops turned into scarlet berries and the leaves started gleaming.

In modern times, the wreath on a door means "welcome." The fact that wreaths are circular symbolizes everlasting life, the circle of family and God's unending love. The reason for evergreen wreaths at Christmas is to symbolize eternal life in Jesus Christ.

One of the more beautiful uses of the wreath symbol is the Advent wreath, which is thought to be inspired by the Swedish Crown of Lights, a crown adorned with candles worn by young girls on St. Lucia's Day.

Advent is the name for the four weeks before Christmas Day, which is a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. It comes from the Latin "adventus," which means "to come." This season is a reminder to Christians of God's promise in the Old Testament that he would send a savior and of Jesus' New Testament promise that He will come again. Advent is a time for the church to focus on the events leading up to the birth of Christ.

The Advent wreath is an evergreen wreath that holds 5 candles. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candles around the wreath and a white candle in the center. On the first Sunday of Advent, the purple candle is lit. This candle is usually called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Each week on Sunday, another candle is lit. On the second Sunday, the second purple candle is lit. This one represents love, and sometimes it is called the "Bethlehem Candle". On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit, and it is called the "Shepherds Candle" and represents joy. The fourth purple candle, sometimes called the "Angels Candle" represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday. On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit, and it is called the "Christ Candle". It represents the sinless, pure Savior.