

MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS

King Richard III, Queen Anne and their son Prince Edward are celebrating Christmas in 1483. Can you spot which items would NOT be part of a medieval Christmas. Answers are at the bottom of the page.



1) People ate roast boar, beef or goose at Christmas time, only the King was allowed to eat roast swan! Turkeys were not brought over to England until 1526. King Henry VIII was the first king to eat turkey at Christmas.
 2) This is wrong - Christmas trees were not popular until the Victorian times, 400 years later.
 3) Presents were exchanged at Christmas time, Prince Edward might have received a toy bow and arrow, or maybe a musical instrument. Books were still copied out by hand, so would have been a very valuable and special present.
 4) This is wrong - Christmas cards were not invented until the Victorian times, 400 years later.
 5) A large log was brought into the house at the start of the Christmas period, it was burnt over the 12 days of Christmas and then the last little bit was saved to light the next year's yule log.

6) Whilst Christmas trees would not have been seen for many years yet, people brought greenery in to decorate their houses. Holly and ivy were popular as well as other evergreens, they helped people remember that the days would start to get lighter after Christmas as they moved towards spring.
 7) Mistletoe was brought inside to decorate homes - we still do this today!
 8) Mince pies contained minced meat as well as fruit and spices in medieval times - this is where they get their name from. Pies would have been rectangular in shape, like the Baby Jesus's crib.
 9) This is wrong - Christmas crackers were not invented until the Victorian times, 400 years later.