



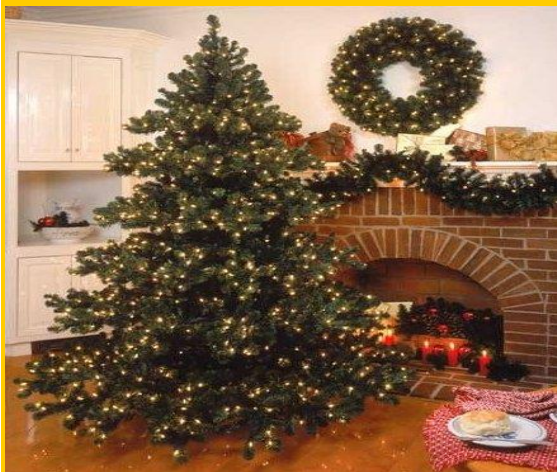
**Critical Thinking Worksheet 5- English**

**Class VIII**

Q1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

**The History of Christmas Trees**

The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come. The Romans used Fir Trees to decorate their temples on the festival of Saturnalia. Christians use it as a sign of everlasting life with God.



Nobody is really sure when Fir trees were first used as Christmas trees. It probably began about 1000 years ago in Northern Europe. Many early Christmas Trees seem to have been hung upside down from the ceiling using chains (hung from chandeliers/lighting hooks).

Other early Christmas Trees, across many parts of northern Europe, were cherry or hawthorn plants (or a branch of the plant) that were put into pots and brought inside so they would hopefully flower at Christmas time. If you couldn't afford a real plant, people made pyramids of woods and they were decorated to look like a tree with paper, apples and candles. Sometimes they were carried around from house to house, rather than being displayed in a home.

According to a legend, once on a cold Christmas Eve night, a forester and his family were in their cottage gathered round the fire to keep warm. Suddenly there was a knock on the door. When the forester opened the door, he found a poor little boy

standing on the door step, lost and alone. The forester welcomed him into his house and the family fed and washed him and put him to bed in the youngest sons own bed (he had to share with his brother that night!). The next morning, Christmas Morning, the family woke up by a choir of angels, and the poor little boy had turned into Jesus, the Christ Child. The Christ Child went into the front garden of the cottage and broke a branch off a Fir tree and gave it to the family as a present to say thank you for looking after him. So ever since then, people have remembered that night by bringing a Christmas Tree into their homes.

i) Complete the following sentences:

a) The Roman used fir trees to

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Early Christmas trees were

\_\_\_\_\_

c) The branch was put in the pot with the hope

\_\_\_\_\_

d) Those who couldn't afford real plants

\_\_\_\_\_

e) The poor little boy was

\_\_\_\_\_

f) The Christ Child gave

\_\_\_\_\_

g) Ever since then

\_\_\_\_\_

ii) The word that means the same as:

a) fable-

b) singing group-

c) a person holding religious beliefs-



Q2. Let us play the Christmas Board Game:



**WRITE THE ANSWERS HERE:**

- |     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 15. |
| 2.  | 16. |
| 3.  | 17. |
| 4.  | 18. |
| 5.  | 19. |
| 6.  | 20. |
| 7.  | 21. |
| 8.  | 22. |
| 9.  | 23. |
| 10. | 24. |
| 11. | 25. |
| 12. | 26. |
| 13. | 27. |
| 14. | 28. |

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BBPS, PITAMPURA