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# Spirit of Christmas

## Create a traditional holiday symbol

The wreath, which has become a heart warming symbol of Christmas to people around the world, has been made from many different materials throughout the years.

Initially, wreaths were made of holly, because people believed that Jesus wore a crown of holly on the cross.

Later, others made wreaths out

of straw to represent the hay found in the baby Jesus' manger. Some people added sprigs of mistletoe, because they believed it would help protect them from evil spirits.

However, most wreaths were made from evergreens, thought to symbolize eternal life. While most plants die in the winter, evergreens maintain their beauty.

Today, people make wreaths out of various materials, from evergreens to eucalyptus to flowers to fruit.

No matter what they're made of, these beautiful decorations all have one thing in common: They represent the joy and unity of the holiday season.

Please see 'Make a' on page 9

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