

Holiday facts

■ The first printed reference to Christmas trees was in Germany in 1531.

■ Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday in 1836.

Oklahoma was the last, doing so in 1907.

■ The first Christmas cards were created in London in 1843 for Sir Henry Cole, who was too busy to write the more traditional Christmas letter to friends and family. Today, Americans exchange roughly 2 billion Christmas cards each year. (CNS)

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