

*Why do we burn a Yule log?*

The Yule log comes to us from England before the Christian era, and burning it was originally a pagan rite. At the end of every year (based on the year's shortest day) it was thought that the sun stood still for twelve days. An enormous log was cut, large enough to burn throughout this period and burn away the evil of the past year. Since the pagan Yule and our Christmas so nearly coincide in time, gradually the burning of the Yule log was adopted by Christians and, for hundreds and hundreds of years, has been a favorite custom.

