

# The Legend of the Fir Tree

## A French tale from Alsace

**In the past,** They all the trees in the forest kept their leaves as winter approached. Nowadays, only the fir tree remains green in this season. Do you know why?

Around Christmas time, a little bird could not fly to the warmer countries because its wing was broken. How could it withstand the harshness of winter?

Shivering from cold, he took shelter in the foliage of a large oak tree. The oak refused to take him in: "Go away, you'll eat all my acorns" he said.

Despite the snow, he leaves the big tree to take refuge in the branches of the bushy beech. "Don't stay there, you'll eat all my beans" he said.

The terrified little bird escaped to hide in a birch tree, which promptly chased him away: "I don't want you, you'll dirty my branches".

Driven away by all the trees, the little bird lies down in the snow to die. Suddenly, a few steps away, he sees a fir tree beckoning him. With wings frozen by the cold, he drags himself towards the tree. "Here you will be safe, I will protect you", the fir tree says. On Christmas Eve, a terrible wind blew through the forest. All the trees lost their leaves under the force of the wind. Only the fir tree kept its leaves, because it had taken in the sick bird.

**This is why the fir tree is today the generous and protective Christmas tree around which we gather.**



Erasmus+

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