

HumanProgress



These are tough times economically. According to one poll, around 60 percent of Americans plan to cut back on gift-giving this season due to inflation.

However, we shouldn't forget our history. Even in this relatively bad year, Christmas will be **far more abundant** than it used to be.

To learn more about how Christmas has changed over time, check out our articles below.



Before electric lights, people lit their Christmas trees with candles.

Unfortunately, this tradition led to countless horrific fires. By 1908, many insurance companies refused to cover fires started by Christmas trees.

Today, thanks to electric lights, we can light up the holiday season without risking our homes.

[Read more.](#)



Electric power gives us more than safer holiday decor—it also keeps our homes warm and bright, even in the dead of winter.

Lest we forget, all humans once faced wintertime without electricity—even royalty. Accounts from 17th century Versailles tell of a palace “so bitterly cold that the wine as well as water freezes in the glasses at the King’s table.”

[Read more.](#)



Many take the "Jingle Bells" refrain, "Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!" at face value.

But the song is actually rather cynical about sleigh rides, and for good reason. Victorian era horse-drawn vehicles were twice as deadly as modern cars.

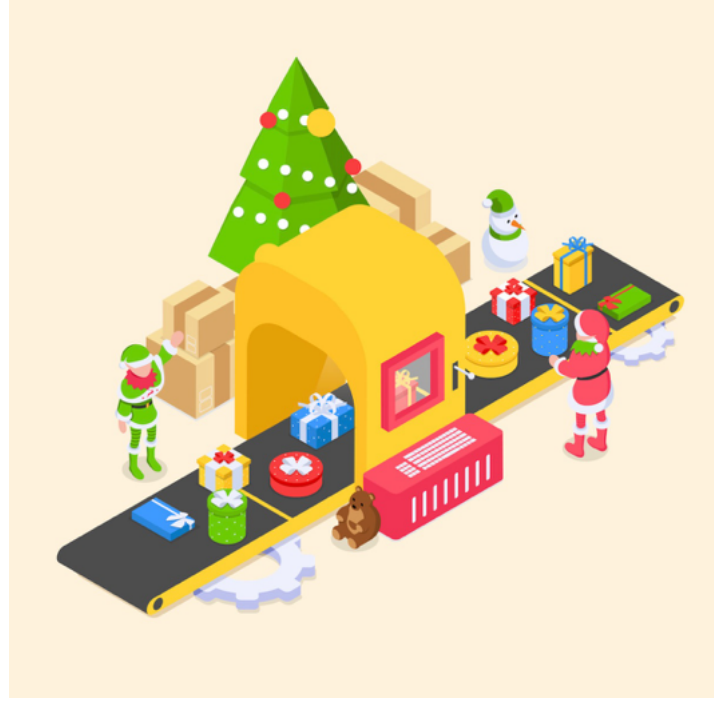
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Within the classic holiday tale "A Christmas Carol," there is an under-appreciated commentary on overpopulation that is still relevant today.

In the story, the misanthropic Ebenezer Scrooge complains about "the surplus population" but is eventually persuaded otherwise by visions of commercial abundance.

[Read more.](#)



What would Christmas be without toys?

You could ask **Edna Brannan**, whose family, in the early 1900s, "never could afford" any.

Thankfully, there is no shortage of toys in wealthy countries today. In the years between 2016 and 2021 alone, toys became 67 percent more abundant.

[Read more.](#)

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