



Among the Pagan traditions that have become part of Christmas is burning the yule log. This custom springs from many different cultures, but in all of them its significance seems to lie in the iul or wheel of the year. The Druids would bless a log and keep it burning for 12 days during the winter solstice; part of the log was kept for the following year, when it would be used to light the new yule log. For the Vikings, the yule log was an integral part of their celebration of the solstice, the julfest; on the log they would carve runes representing unwanted traits (such as ill fortune or poor honor) that they wanted the gods to take from them.

You can make your own Yule Log.
Protect your workspace, and have an adult help.

Real log version: Supplies: Small log (or driftwood), paraffin wax (you can use hot glue or craft glue, if you are not going to burn the log), pinecones, evergreen branches, wheat stalks, dried flowers, etc. Use your imagination! If you plan on burning it (in a fireplace or campfire), make sure everything you put on it is safe to burn. You can also use it for a table decoration. **AN ADULT MUST HELP WITH THIS!** Melt the paraffin (see the box for directions) and let it cool about a half hour. Put it on the log in a big soft lump and press the ends of the evergreen branches into it. Add pinecones and whatever else you wish. If you are using the log as a table decoration, you can glue tea light candles to the log.

Craft version: Supplies: craft glue, paper towel tube, two soda bottle caps, assorted ribbons, plastic flowers, leaves, jingle bells, etc. Glue the bottle caps to the side of the tube, so when it is laying on its side, the lids make feet. When the glue dries, flip it over onto the feet, and decorate the log anyway you want to. Let the glue dry and enjoy your table decoration!

Edible version: A jelly roll or ice cream roll can be frosted brown and decorated to resemble a yule log. Add candy decorations. Have fun eating it!

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