1 Read the text and put the paragraphs in the correct order for each story.

People in countries around the world celebrate Christmas with different customs and traditions. They have become part of the culture of each country, but have you ever wondered how these traditions started? Let's look at the story behind two of them.



The Cobweb Christmas Decoration

The Legend of the Christmas Spider
(An Eastern European Folk Tale)

A ☐ The children were very excited to have a tree for Christmas, but on Christmas Eve, their mother told them that she didn't have enough money to buy decorations. The children went sadly to bed.

B ☐ When they opened the window, the winter sun shone on the cobwebs and turned them into silver and gold. After that, the family were never poor again. These days, people in parts of Eastern Europe remember the gift of the Christmas Spider by decorating their Christmas trees with sparkly spiders and cobwebs, and gold and silver tinsel.

C ☐ Once upon a time, there was a woman who lived with her children in a tiny little house. They were very poor.

D ☐ When they woke up the next morning, the tree was covered in beautiful cobwebs. The Christmas spider had decorated the tree for them! However, that wasn't the end of the surprise.

E ☐ One day, they found a green pine cone. They planted it and took care of it, and it grew into a tree.



Kissing Under the Mistletoe

The Legend of Frigg and the Mistletoe
(A Norse Myth)

A ☐ Frigg was distraught at her son's death and she cried bitter tears. Her tears became the white berries on the mistletoe plant, and she promised that it would never again be used to hurt someone.

B ☐ Frigg was the Norse goddess of love. She had a son called Baldur and she loved him so much that she asked every living thing to swear an oath not to hurt him. But she forgot to ask one plant - mistletoe.

C ☐ Instead, she made mistletoe a symbol of love, and that is why, when people who love each other pass under it, they should share a kiss.

D ☐ The evil god, Loki, heard about this, and he made a spear from mistletoe wood. Then he tricked another god into throwing it at Baldur, who died instantly.

2 ICT Find a legend or myth from a different country explaining another Christmas custom or tradition.

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