



DECEMBER 2023 ACTIVITY PACK



Christmas can be a time for reflection. Reflecting back on the year and of years gone by. We know that for some it can be a difficult time as family and friends may not be nearby or we may have less family and friends as we used to. Family relationships can be difficult and the loss of a loved one, a pet, a job or our health can affect us.

It is important that we exercise our spiritual wellbeing. For some that will be faith and for others it may be other things we are interested in like fishing, football, fitness, reading, knitting, writing, sudoku, spending time in nature.

For a good life we need to do things we are interested in and for each of us it will be different. **Do whatever floats Your boat and gives you passion** because that is what raises your spirit.

Think about ‘What Matters to YOU’ because ‘YOU Matter’

Whatever your circumstances we wish you peace, love and joy in this season in whatever form that comes to you.

Christmas Blessings, Michelle, Scottish Development Manager

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?” Bob Hope



“Christmas is an excuse to forgive and forget. That’s the best gift you can give that money cannot buy.” Dorothy Stewart

P.S. Send your stories by email to Angela at angela@linkinglives.uk

or post to LLUK PO Box 8279, Reading, RG6 9UN.

Inside this pack:

- Christmas jokes
- Acrostic poem
- A Christmas wordsearch
- Panto quiz
- Christmas anagrams
- Christmas colouring
- A Christmas crossword
- Christmas quiz

Christmas Cracker Jokes

What did the Wise Men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? “Wait, there's myrrh.”

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.

What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum — you can't beat it!

What happens if you eat Christmas decorations? You get tinsel-it is.

What do Santa's elves learn in school? The elf-abet.

Share your favourite Christmas joke with someone this week



Acrostic poem

Write an acrostic poem for the word 'Advent' (where each line of the poem starts with the next letter of the word).

A
D
V
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Christmas

WORD SEARCH

I I J L L S D Y R J E I P J J C C V I P
W M V G K N S A V C M R L Z O A A B V J
G R H O G S X D T T D Z C K L K R O D J
B I A Q W L W I C H X K D P L R O I N I
V R I P R X W L T T X N R I Y X L J Q N
O S Q E P D O O M W R E A T H Q E E K G
F T B N E I C H R I S T M A S T R E E L
N G O Q A N N Q L E E X E D J N S O Y E
D A E R B R E G N I G N E L A C T F N B
K I C E N G S T P F G C A M V E Y G Z E
Z Q A N K A S H R A O Y W C L E Q K Y L
P Q L U W Q M G W R P O D T Y R S A A L
H L P C A Z T E A H N E S M Z D T K W S
W J E C D K R T N S Z I R E E D N I E R
O M R A H N I V H T M G U Y N D W A V M
J V I C O O A W P D S N W D O S K Q C S
U T F R N O B L D N O R T H P O L E A S
H L S S F L G M R K L U T H Z B L N Y E
C O B S G E F G U A M W D X Y D T L U D
W O B H B A K B H D G Z O H T A I F K L

JINGLE BELLS

BOW

CANDY CANE

CAROLERS

CHRISTMAS TREE

DECORATIONS

ELVES

FIREPLACE

GARLAND

GINGERBREAD

HOLIDAY

JOLLY

SANTA

MISTLETOE

NORTH POLE

ORNAMENTS

PRESENTS

REINDEER

SNOWMAN

WREATH

WRAPPING PAPER



Pantomime quiz

- 1. What fruit does Snow White's wicked stepmother use to try and poison Snow White?**
 - a. A peach
 - b. A pineapple
 - c. An orange
 - d. An apple
- 2. Which hospital is entitled to all royalties on JM Barrie's Peter Pan since they were signed over by the author in 1929?**
 - a. Great Ormond Street Hospital
 - b. The Royal London Hospital
 - c. South Tyneside District Hospital
 - d. The Royal Victoria Infirmary
- 3. In Jack and the Beanstalk the Giant threatens Jack with – "Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman". In the fourth line he says he will grind his bones down for what?**
 - a. Pie
 - b. Pate
 - c. Tea
 - d. Bread
- 4. What is the name of the lead female character in Beauty and the Beast?**
 - a. Kelle
 - b. Beauty
 - c. Belle
 - d. Ella
- 5. Who eats the Gingerbread House?**
 - a. Aladdin and Wishy Washy
 - b. Hansel and Gretel
 - c. Cinderella and Buttons
 - d. Snow White and the 7 dwarfs

Answers at the back

Christmas anagrams

Unscramble the letters to make Christmassy words.

1. Casual ants?
2. Deplored, he is the odder runner?
3. Anagram wine ya?
4. Knife scanner?
5. Archery mm stirs?

Answers at the back



Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

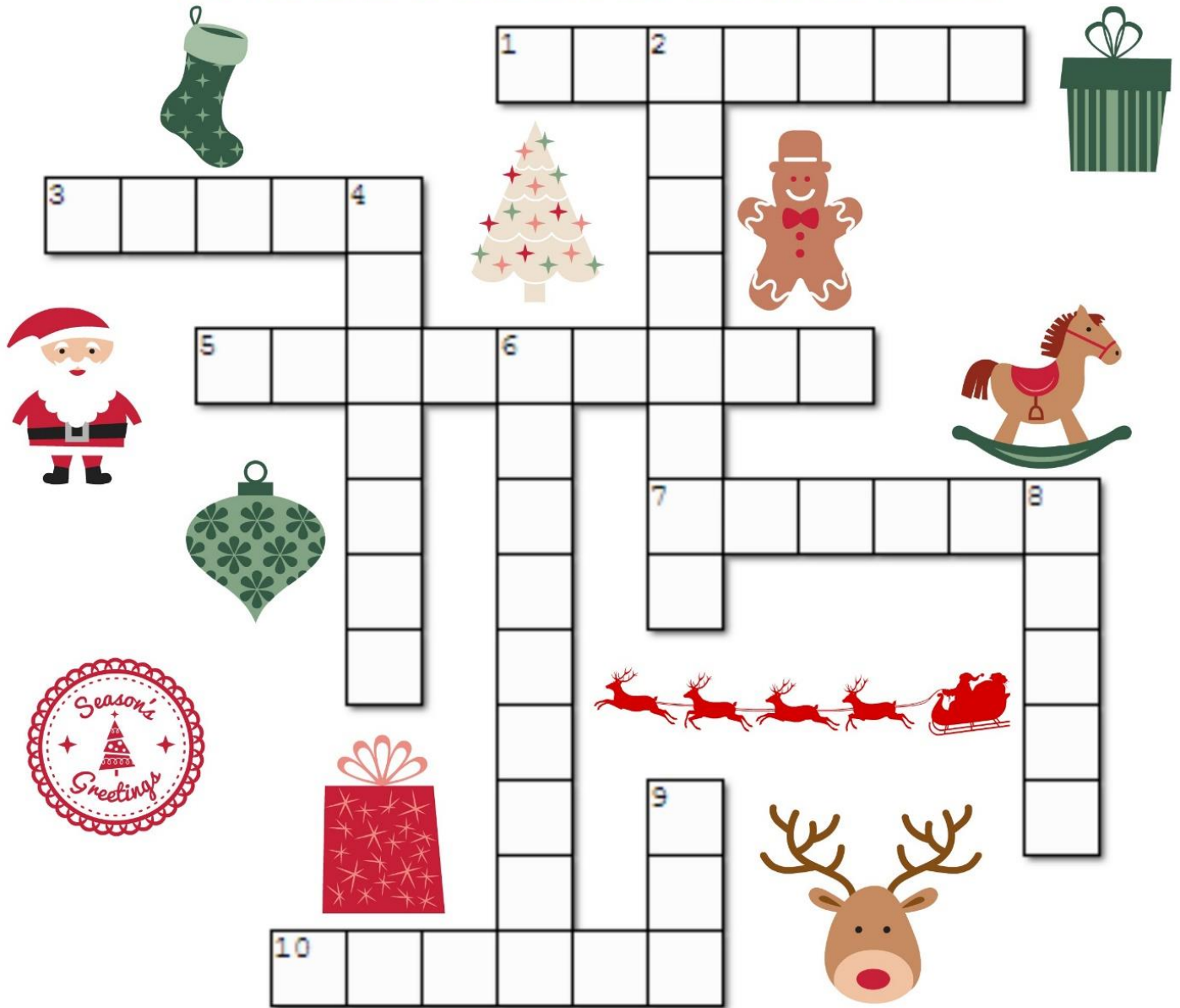
Christmas Quiz

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. In *Home Alone*, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
4. In which country did eggnog originate?
5. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
6. What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' come out?
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
9. In the movie *Love Actually*, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
10. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. ___ to the world!



Nostalgic Christmas Classics



"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was introduced by Judy Garland in a poignant moment in the 1944 movie musical "Meet Me in St. Louis."

The filmmakers complained that in the first version, the song's lyrics were too depressing and commissioned a rewrite that became the most popular interpretation.



The first significant recording of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" was Brenda Lee's version released in 1958.

It didn't become a hit single until Lee's pop breakthrough in 1960. The song has been a holiday favourite ever since.



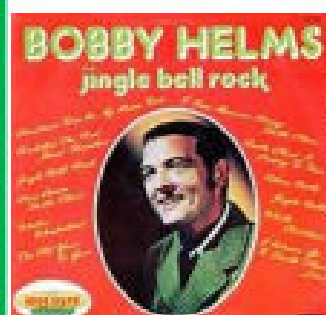
Katherine K. Davis composed "Little Drummer Boy" in 1941. It was popularised in an arrangement by the Harry Simeone Chorale.

An animated TV special was created based on the song's story in 1968. David Bowie and Bing Crosby collaborated for a version televised on a Bing Crosby Christmas special in 1977.



One of Beatle John Lennon's dreams in the music industry was to create a classic Christmas song.

Undoubtedly, he was successful with the song **Happy Christmas (War Is Over)**, which is simultaneously a holiday song and plea for world peace.



Following its release in 1957, **Jingle Bell Rock** topped the Christmas charts five years in a row, making it a holiday classic even by the early '60s.

Today it retains its popularity and has been played in many Christmas movies like Home Alone 2 (1996) and Lethal Weapon in 1987.

CAN YOU FIND 26 SONGS IN THIS STORY?

Rachel was thinking about her little donkey when she was driving home for Christmas. Her donkey liked to fall asleep listening to 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,' and her pet owl liked to waken up at night to 'We Three Kings of Orient are'.

When Rachel arrived home, she sat down at the fireside with a cup of tea in her rocking chair, and then moved it when she was too hot to a place where she could swing whilst simultaneously rocking around the Christmas tree.

'O Little Town of Bethlehem' was playing on the radio which made her feel melancholy. Rachel started writing a letter to Santa. Baby Grace stared at her from the photo frame on the sideboard, and she remembered when she was expecting her last year. Her thoughts then were all I want for Christmas is you, not knowing if she would be a boy or a girl.

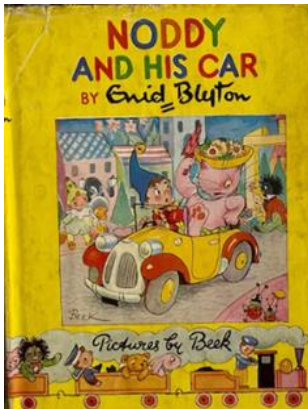
Jingle Bell Rock was playing in the maternity ward when she was born and Away in a Manger always lulled her to sleep when she woke during the night. This time last year was the first Noel for her. It was a silent night tonight as Rachel was the only person in the house. Everybody else was at the cinema.

Last Christmas, Rachel's mum and dad were in Canada rockin around the Christmas tree at her brother's. He lived in Canada so they had a white Christmas. It seemed everyone was having a merry Christmas everyone with mistletoe and wine and celebrating the Saviour's Day and Rachel felt the absence of her family. This year would be different.

On Christmas Day Rachel's mum was singing the Christmas alphabet to Grace while she was laying the holly and the ivy tablecloth. Suddenly the door went ding dong. Merrily on high with excitement Rachel answered the door to her brother and his family, and didn't care that she never had time to deck the halls.

"Do you hear what I hear?" asked her brother on arrival, and jingled some Christmas bells. Whilst singing 'When Santa got stuck up the chimney', Rachel's son blurted out "I saw Mummy kissing Santa Claus!" and then he asked, "How did the virgin baby had a baby boy?"

Dave's Christmas Memory



Christmas when I was young was about waiting for Santa. We would venture into the forestry to find holly with berries to decorate the house. It was exciting to see what was waiting in our stockings on Christmas morning. There was 8 of us. We would always get an apple an orange and colouring book and some small toys. I remember getting a Noddy story book.

We lived on a farm in the country, and every year we heard Carol singers from the church coming towards the house. They would come inside the house and I remember somebody playing the violin.

On Christmas it was tradition for the farmers to cook roast goose over an open fire and I can still remember how good it tasted to this day! There's nothing like your mum's cooking.

Dessert was plum pudding which had a strong taste. We finished off the day with homemade Christmas Cake.

Those were the days.

Dave, 78

In Christian lore, holly is believed to represent the crown of thorns Jesus wore during his crucifixion, with the red berries symbolizing the drops of blood.

The English Christmas carol, "The Holly and the Ivy," uses the holly symbol to celebrate the birth of Christ. One line states "The holly bears a berry/As red as any blood/And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ/To do poor sinners good"

Rhona's Christmas Memory



Does this ring any bells? My grandsons are coming for Christmas. I've hidden the Monopoly box. Every year there used to be ructions because of it.

We all started off promising this year would be different; no fighting, no bad language, no cheating and stick to the time limit. Mayhem always ensued and we usually all fell out or someone went in the huff.

This year, as it should, peace shall reign. I'm too old for that malarkey.

Blessings. 😊 Rhona, 70 and 11 months!



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Answers

Panto quiz answers

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2. Which hospital is entitled to all royalties on JM Barrie's Peter Pan since they were signed over by the author in 1929? Great Ormond Street Hospital.
3. In Jack and the Beanstalk, the Giant threatens Jack with – "Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman". In the fourth line he says he will grind his bones down for what? Bread
4. What is the name of the lead female character in Beauty and the Beast? Belle.
5. Who eats the Gingerbread House? Hanzel and Gretel.

Christmas anagrams answers

1. Santa Claus
2. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
3. Away in a Manger
4. Frankincense
5. Merry Christmas

Christmas quiz answers

1. Germany
2. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.
3. Paris
4. Britain
5. 364
6. 1994
7. *The Polar Express*. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus.
8. Japan
9. Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy
10. Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner.

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