



D N H W Q F F S Q ٧ A P P J B Т G Y D M Q S T R G M 1 A A R L F R A X F G R D 0 N K E S A A Q J Υ F S В U G S F A V 0 R N W U 1 M W H H E X W Z C 1 X H A A 1 E K J B E E T Y R S N Z X M B J M V 1 N 1 P M H E G N Y R 0 A U L 1 H H N В H 1 L B Y P G S Z K B N C Z 0 Q J E E Z Z E W 1 M E X Ε Q L M N U M R H Z S K W F E S P 1 M M P N N D Z D E S R В S U A K T H L Α Α D Y G N S S M Q J J J N Y A E S R 1 F Q F T Z X V A N A G F T G T 1 A J C U R Z Z X E U N 0 M G L Z N N F Y M W H R E G W A C

ANGEL ANIMALS BABY BETHLEHEM DONKEY FRANKINCENSE GIFTS GOLD JESUS JOSEPH MANGER MARY MYRRH PEACE SAVIOR SHEPHERD STAR WISE MEN





### THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

From: www.biblestudytools.com

This is a summary of the Biblical account of the birth of Jesus. You can read more in-depth Bible verses from the Scripture at www. biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/birth-of-jesus. html.

### **Angels Visit Mary and Joseph**

Almost 2,000 years ago, a young woman from the town of Nazareth named Mary was visited by an angel named Gabriel. The Angel Gabriel told the Jewish woman that she would have a son named Jesus, who would be God's Son.

"And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:30-33)

Mary then wondered how this was possible since she had not been with a man. The Angel Gabriel then explains the miracle of Christ's incarnation. He was born of a virgin, just as the prophecy had predicted in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

"And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1:34-38)

At this time, Mary was engaged to her soon-to-be husband, Joseph. When told, Joseph was hurt and

confused because he did not believe Mary. The angel Gabriel visited Joseph and told him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit," and her son, Jesus, would save the people from their sins.

"Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:19:21)

#### Birth of Christ in Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because of an order from the Roman emperor that a census, or record, of all people, be taken in their hometown. After traveling pregnant on a donkey for several days, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem and were told there were no places to stay. The inns were full. Seeing that Mary was due at any moment, an inn owner told Joseph they could stay in his stable.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:4-7)

Mary and Joseph settled on the hay in a stable with animals sleeping. Mary went into labor, and Jesus was born in the stable. The only place for the sleeping baby to rest was most likely in the animals' trough, known as the manger.

## SUDOKU

The rules for Sudoku are simple. A  $9\times9$  square must be filled in with numbers from 1-9 with no repeated numbers in each line, horizontally or vertically.

2	7				9		3	1
1	9	5		8			2	7
3		4	1	7	2			
						2		
	5			6		3	1	4
8	4		9		1			
4	8		6	9	3		7	
			8		7		4	3
		7			5	1		8



### HYMN OF THE MONTH

## SILENT NIGHT

Author – Joseph Mohr 1792-1848 English Translation – John F. Young
1820-188

Composer – Franz Gruber 1787 – 1863

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round you virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

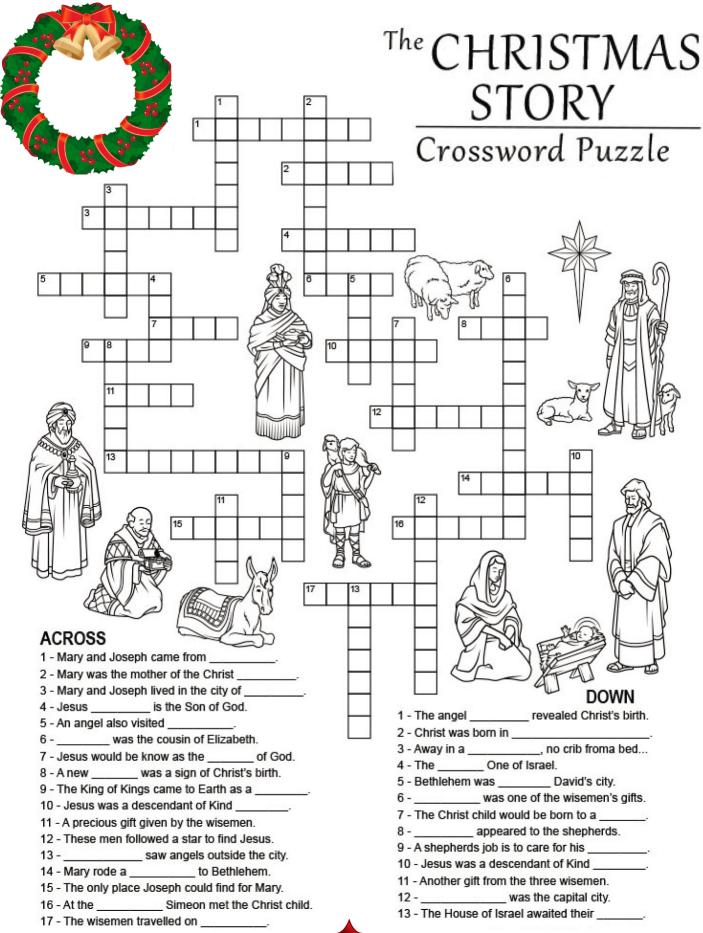
Silent night! Holy night!

Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born."

Joseph Mohr was born in the lovely city of Salzburg, Austria, in 1792. As a boy he was an active chorister in the Cathedral of Salzburg. In 1815 Mohr was ordained to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. Following his ordination, he served various parches in the Salzburg area. It was while serving as an assistant priest in 1818, at the newly erected Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf in the region of Tyrol, high in the beautiful Alps, that Mohr wrote the test for this favorite of all Christmas carols.

Father Mohr and Franz Gruber, the village schoolmaster and church organist, had often talked about the fact that the perfect Christmas hy on had never been written. With this goal in mind, and after he had received word that his own church organist would not function, Father Mohr decided that he must write his own christmas Hymn, immediately, in order to have music for the special Christmas Eve Mass and to a pid disappointing his faithful congregation. Upon completing the text he took he words to Franz Gruber, who exclaimed then he saw them, "Friend Mohr, you have found the right song—God be praised!"

The translation by John F. Young is the version most widely used in this country. Young was born at Pittston, Kennebec County, Maryland, on Chober 30, 1820. He was ordained to the Episcopal Church and served a number of years as bishop in the State of Florida. Throughout his church ministry he had a keen interest in sacred music. This translation of Mohr's German text first appeared in 1863 in Clark Hollisters, Service and tune Book. In addition to this translation of this text, You is also known as the editor of two published hymnal. Hymns and Music of the Young, 1861, and Great Hymns of the Church, published posthumously by John Henry Hopkins, 1887.





### The Shepherds and the Angels

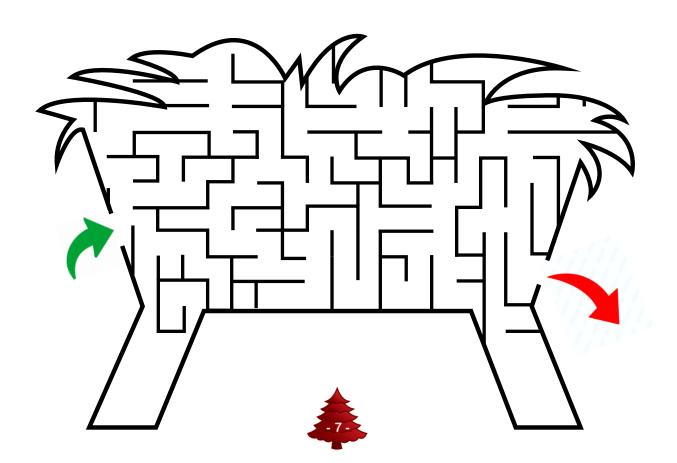
During this time, an angel appeared to shepherds who were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. The angel told them the good news of the birth of the Savior and Messiah, Jesus Christ. The shepherds immediately went to find baby Jesus, whom the angels told them they would find sleeping in the manger.

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:8-14)

### The Magi, Three Wise Men, Bring Gifts

After some time, three wise men, also known as magi, saw the brilliant star in the sky that rested over where Jesus was born. The three wise men traveled from a distant eastern country to find the new king. During the wise men's trip, Herod, the king of Judah, met with the wise men. Herod told them to come back and let him know where the baby king was so that he could also worship him.

The wise men continued to Bethlehem and found Jesus where the star pointed. They knelt and worshiped the Savior and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They then traveled back home a different way, knowing that King Herod did not intend to worship Jesus but planned to kill the baby.



# The Hidden Meaning of the Days of Christmas



A Partridge in a Pear Tree The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ December 26

Two Turtledoves
The Old and
New Testaments

December 27

Three French hens Faith, Hope and Love



The Four Calling Birds Four Gospels December 29

The Five Gold Rings Recall the Torah (Law) the First Five Books of the Old Testament December 30

Six Geese A-Laying Six Days of Creation



Seven Swans A-Swimming Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit January 1

Eight Maids A-Milking Eight Beatitudes January 2

Nine Ladies Dancing Nine Fruits of the Spirit (See Galatians 5)



Ten Lords A-Leaping
Ten Commandments

January 4



Eleven Pipers Piping Eleven Faithful Disciples January **5** 

Twelve Drummers Drumming 12 Points of Belief in the Apostles Creed

The 12 days of Christmas are the 12 days that separate Christmas Day on December 25 and ends on January 5, with the next day being Epiphany, which is celebrated January 6. Depending on the church, January 6 may mark Christ's baptism (in the Catholic tradition), or it may mark the day that the wise men (or the Magi) visited Jesus with their gifts. The Day of Epiphany is when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi. Magi means wise men. From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During that era someone wrote 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church. Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality. Some beliefs believe that the day after Christmas started the 12 Days of Christmas. You also hear some people think its the 12 days that lead up to Christmas. But reality, it starts on December 25, that is the first day.







S Ε G D X S G K N Z Ε 0 S Z E S Υ D M X Z В Н Z S G S Q X S Ε S E 0 E 0 0 Z R S X E E

David Matthew three frankincense cows stable

inn Luke angel myrrh nativity Joseph

clothes Messiah Galilee gold star Mary

swaddling men Nazareth camels **Shepherds** Christmas

**Emmanuel** wise Bethlehem sheep manger Jesus



## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

The final fire sign of the zodiac, SAGITTARIUS, TRAITS are unlike any other sign of the zodiac; they're totally unique to this brazen spirit. As a professional astrologer with almost 10 years of experience, I can honestly say that there is no zodiac sign like Sagittarius. What makes Sagittarius so unique is its dynamic blend of passion, curiosity, intensity, and adaptability. Represented by the archer (a half-man, half-horse centaur), Sagittarius isn't afraid to use its bow and arrow to explore expansive terrain, seeking answers in places and spaces others wouldn't dare venture. Whether they're white-water rafting down a river in some undisclosed location or taking a pilgrimage to a sacred site to uncover secrets about an ancient civilization, Sagittarius' quest for knowledge knows no bounds.

Sagittarians are fun loving, generous and extremely friendly. They very rarely tell lies, in fact they're so open about everything the whole world knows what they're up to. They have marvelous intuitions that they should take notice of.

The last earth sign of the zodiac, CAPRICORNS and their unique spirits are power, to say the least. I've worked with thousands of clients over my nearly-10 year-long career as a PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGER, and I can confirm that there's something that makes Capricorn extremely special. Perhaps it's their fearless ambition? Their limitless resilience? Their ability to keep pushing forward,

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Warren D. Hood – 7<sup>th</sup>

### **CAPRICORN**

- Lisa Henderson 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Debbie Hubb 26<sup>th</sup>
- CeCe Byrd 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Masley Karagbo 30<sup>th</sup>

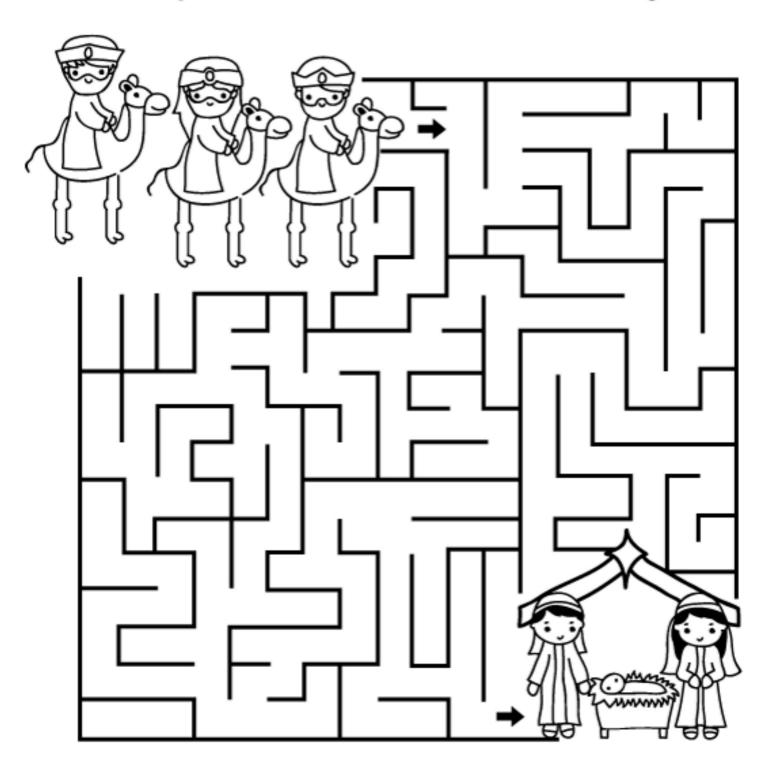
even in the face of challenging adversity and painful strife? Or maybe it's their secret wild side that's very rarely depicted in standard personality assessments, but that rumbles within the soul of every Capricorn: not everyone gets to see Capricorn ordering rounds of tequila, dancing on the table, and staying out until the crack of dawn – but that rebellious, untamed spirit is a Capricorn asset. I mean, how else do you expect this ZODIAC SIGN to let loose and have fun?

Interestingly, Capricorns are said to age backward: they become increasingly youthful, optimistic, and playful as they mature. Indeed, inside every earnest Capricorn is a mischievous troublemaker through this earth sign may seem a bit conservative and restrained at first, Capricorn's closest friends and lovers know that these sea goats love to party.



## Nativity Maze

Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.







### Top 5 Favorite Holiday Movies

1. "Home Alone"	36.3%
2. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"	34.6%
3. "A Christmas Story"	34.0%
4."Elf"	33.1%
5. "A Charlie Brown Christmas"	29.4%

### Top 5 Most Anticipated Holiday Cocktails

1. Eggnog	28.6%
2. Irish coffee	11.8%
3. Spiked hot chocolate	11.2%
4. Christmas punch	11.0%
5. Mimosa	9.7%

of respondents open presents with family on Christmas Day

while 23% open presents on Christmas Eve.

of respondents eat their Christmas dinner on Christmas Day

while 26% eat it on Christmas Eve.

### How does your family approach gift exchanges?

Traditional Limited spend No gift Secret Santa Charitable gift exchange exchange exchange exchange donations Other



The average American will hear Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" **33 times** this holiday season. \$126.38

On average, Americans spend \$126.38 on holiday decorations each year, and over \$7,000 over a lifetime.