

A Christmas Quiz:

1. *To whom is attributed the idea of a creche, also known as a nativity scene?*

- a. Constantine
- b. St. Augustine
- c. St. Francis of Assisi
- d. Charlemagne

2. *What country is the historical St. Nicholas said to have come from?*

- a. Russia
- b. Turkey
- c. Persia
- d. Italy

3. *Which Roman god is the precursor to Father Christmas?*

- a. Saturn
- b. Mars
- c. Apollo
- d. Mithras

4. *Which name alternative for Santa Clause comes from the German tradition that the Christ-Child, or "Christkindl, " traveled the earth bringing gifts?*

- a. Father Christmas
- b. Saint Nick
- c. Kris Kringle
- d. The Children's Friend

5. *Who is Black Peter?*

- a. a man dressed as the devil being Santa's helper
- b. the elf who cleaned the chimney before Santa went down
- c. a representation of Peter as he denied Christ
- d. a bishop who dressed in black and helped the poor

6. *Who wrote a book on Dutch history in 1808 that greatly influenced the current version of Santa Claus?*

- a. Washington Irving
- b. Charles Dickens
- c. Mark Twain
- d. Sir Walter Scott

7. *Who was Thomas Nast?*

- a. the Puritan governor who outlawed Christmas
- b. the newspaper editor who answered the question, "Is there a Santa Claus?"
- c. the man who wrote "Up on the House Top"
- d. a cartoonist who drew a picture of Santa Claus

8. *What Christmas character(s) got its (their) start in an advertisement for the department store Montgomery Ward?*

- a. Frosty the Snowman
- b. Rudolph
- c. Santa's elves
- d. the little drummer boy

9. *Why was Christmas Day a day of apprehension and even fear in Europe by the 1400's, and as late as the 1800's?*

- a. people rarely had enough to eat
- b. it was feared the animals might speak, communicate, and revolt
- c. violence, rioting, and looting were common
- d. if someone hadn't paid their year-end taxes to the king they would be imprisoned

10. *In which state is the town of Santa Claus?*

- a. Illinois
- b. Indiana
- c. Connecticut
- d. Maine

11. *What animal led to the minor crisis that resulted in "Silent Night" being written? What instrument was used while singing it for its first generation?*

- a. pig/no instrument
- b. horse/harp
- c. mouse/guitar
- d. sparrow/violin

12. *Approximately how many years after its composition was the authorship of "Silent Night" generally known?*

- a. 5
- b. 100
- c. 40
- d. 25

13. *How many baby boys are estimated to have been killed due to Herod's decree?*

- a. 1000
- b. 250
- c. 35,000
- d. 20

14. *What post birth sacrifice indicates that Mary and Joseph were poor?*

- a. the dove
- b. the bull
- c. the lamb
- d. the grain

15. *About how many miles is it from Nazareth to Bethlehem?*

- a. 12
- b. 500
- c. 20
- d. 90

16. *How many places are named Bethlehem in the United States?*

- a. 3
- b. 17
- c. 28
- d. 31

17. *Why did the Puritans outlaw Christmas?*

- a. they associated it with the British monarchy and royal court
- b. the customs of the celebration included "monstrous" parades and disrupted church services
- c. it was a festival full of drunkenness and lewd exhibition
- d. all of the above

18. *During what time period were most of our Christmas "traditions" solidified?*

- a. 1800's
- b. 300's
- c. 1500's
- d. none of the above

19. *Approximately when did the winter celebration begin to include Christ's birth?*

- a. late 1200's
- b. mid 100's
- c. early 300's
- d. early 600's

20. *How may Puritan rejection of the winter festival have helped win the Revolutionary War?*

- a. b and c
- b. Christmas customs were not yet part of the American culture, so it was reasonable to proceed with the war effort on Christmas Day.
- c. the European forces, the British and the Germans, were heavily involved in "celebrating" on a crucial Christmas Day
- d. Americans were so used to rioting on Christmas Day, so fighting on that day was easy.