

Cedar Chips

It's holiday season- See our handy guide so you don't miss any festivities!

Flying foxes? WHAT?! Ask Ximena

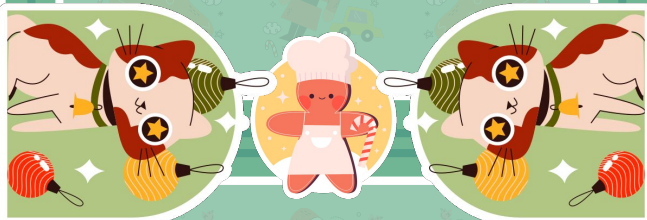
The Pandas have left the zoo. Melanie has the tissues!

Dinosaurs...or NOT? Patrick knows

Our first basketball game is coming- get ready to cheer!

Thanks to all for a tasty Thanksgiving luncheon. Nom, nom, nom!

Happy Holidays!



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Holiday Traditions

Each year we look forward to the holidays, because we remember fond memories from the past. Got a special way your family celebrates Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or the New Year? Share it with us! Need something new to jazz up your holidays? Read our list for ideas!

1. Sing holiday songs or go caroling
2. Look for the Elf on the Shelf or the Mensch on a Bench
3. Scatter food for the reindeer
4. Reflect on your year
5. Reflect on the Kwanzaa principle of the day
6. Write Santa a note
7. Honor your ancestors
8. Open one present each night of Hanukkah
9. Save the stockings for last
10. Read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
11. Give gelt
12. Drive around and look at the lights
13. Play dreidel
14. Give gifts
15. Gather for brunch
16. Make New Year's resolutions
17. Go to the CLS Winter Music Show
18. Send out greeting cards
19. Bake cookies!
20. Go see the Nutcracker or a holiday movie



Jaliel, Osi, and Harmony perform during the CLS Winter Music Show.

THE PROS AND CONS OF TRAVELING ON A CRUISE

By Ximena D.

A cruise is a large ship that is commonly used for traveling from one destination to various others (depending on the length of the vacation,) typically for pleasure and to tropical locations around the world. A cruise line is the product of companies that own and are in charge of operating the ship, and selling it to potential customers. Some of the most popular cruise lines are: Norwegian, Disney, Carnival, and Royal Caribbean. The pros and cons of a cruise should be taken into consideration when purchasing tickets for your travels, whether or not you're traveling with your family, you should still be informed on what to expect:

PROS:

- Fun activities for those of all ages! Such activities are: water sliding, swimming, tanning, rollercoastering, mini-golfing, eating, and gaming.
- Depending on the ship, your cruise will most likely have many levels, this means that elevators will be provided, more room for buffets, casinos, pools, families, and even childcare.
- If you're a fan of the views, then a cruise can give you one! If you're a fan of itineraries or schedules, or just being informed, then you're in luck! Your cruise will most likely have an announcer to tell you what to look forward to or your room T.V. will have a channel/option to view the written itinerary.
- You can also expect to have adult only lounging areas and even clubs/rooms for children, tweens, and teens.
- While you can eat at the buffets, restaurants, and even tea time levels of your cruise, you should also look out for room service and/or self-serve ice cream on the deck of the ship!
- You can also expect the cruise to have private islands/areas for you to visit through private transportation, all provided by the cruise!
- If you're looking to relax, why not try the spa? And if you're looking for a little bit of a thrill, walk on over to the arcade!
- Ran out of sunscreen or need a new pair of shades? Head on down to the shopping center!
- If you're a fan of the warm weather and live somewhere cold, then a cruise is a great way to get away from it all and enjoy the tropics!
- Room service does a great job at keeping the cruise clean, so make sure to thank them! If you're a fan of animals, they can surprise you with a swan, frog, crab, cat, and more, entirely made out of towels!
- Do you enjoy trivia? Well, these cruises are just for you! Whether you're a fan of Disney, sitcoms, cartoons, superheroes, etc. you, too, can participate in a game show.
- Are you looking to stay active? No problem! Your cruise has areas for you to workout, rejuvenate, and participate in ziplining or a rope course.

CONS:

- While a cruise can be fun, a long cruise may become boring for some.
If you've ever experienced car sickness or plane sickness, then you can probably also experience sea sickness, which is not very fun.
- Because cruises include areas for you, your family, and others to have fun, that also means it can get quite noisy, even at night. For example, on the Carnival cruise, there's a nighttime club/party for the children, which can go on for a couple of hours. And the Disney cruise is mainly catered to children, so keep that in mind.
If you're afraid of traveling or have a (severe) fear of the ocean, this may not be the best choice for you.
- You will be getting on and off the cruise and island, which isn't a bad thing, but you are required to come back at a certain time, which means you might not be able to do all the fun things you had planned.
- You may encounter scams or overly pushy people on the islands you visit, this is because you are a tourist and they know you are a tourist because of where you got off (this can help or hurt your situation at times, ex: the scams being offered/pushed onto you = negative, finding tour guides and transportation easily = positive.)



Depending on the type of person you are and people traveling with you, anything can be a pro or a con. Know who you are and what you do and don't like to do, make compromises, and most importantly, be safe and have fun!

MAX VERSTAPPEN IS CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

By Melanie T.

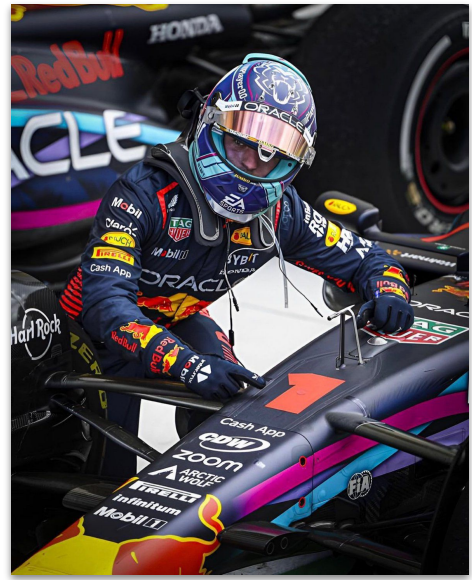
The 2023 Formula 1 season has come to an end, and Max Verstappen has just completed an insanely dominant season. Every race came with a new record for him to break. Here's a look into some of the incredible things he accomplished on his way to winning his third championship in a row.

Even though the final race was on November 26 in Abu Dhabi, Max Verstappen secured his championship back on October 7. After the sprint race in Qatar, Max was declared the World Champion despite having six races left to go.

First of all, Max was victorious in 19 out of 22 races. This means he won 86% of the Grand Prix this season. This surpasses the previous record of 15 wins, which was set by Max himself last year.

Starting in Miami on May 5 and continuing until Italy on September 3, Max won 10 consecutive races. This record was previously held by Sebastian Vettel in 2013 with nine. Carlos Sainz ended the streak when he won the Singapore Grand Prix on September 17 and became the only non-RedBull driver to win a Grand Prix this season.

The most points a driver was able to achieve was 620. Max scored 92.74% of the optimal points when he finished the season with a total of 575 points. For reference, Mercedes finished second in the Constructor's Championship with 409 points. Therefore, Max had 166 more points than an entire team.



Max points at the number 1 on his car, indicating he won the race and reminding us that he is the defending World Champion, which entitles him to display the number 1 as his number for the year. He'll be number 1 again next year. His original number is 33.

Max was the only driver to complete every single lap of every single race this year. He also became the first driver to ever lead 1000 laps in a single season. Many times, the gap between him and the second-place driver wasn't even close when crossing the finish line. At the Hungarian Grand Prix, he finished 33.731 seconds ahead of the runner-up. Furthermore, he won six races by over 15 seconds this year.

Max may be 26, but his name is already in the mix with some of the greats like Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton, and Sebastian Vettel. He still has many racing years left, and I can't wait to see what he does next. Many people complained about him winning every race, and how it made the season feel boring, but I think we should just step back and admire the season for what it is. This will probably never happen again.

Holiday Ho Ho Ho's



1. What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?
2. Where do snowmen keep their money?
3. How did Scrooge win the football game?
4. How do you make a snow fort?
5. How does a snowman get to work?



1. A cookie sheet 2. Snowbanks 3. The ghost of Christmas passed 4. You igloo it together 5. By icicle

2023 in Review

By Patrick L.

Politics

In the world of Politics, many events happened this year. In April, Finland held elections to its 39th Parliament, which were won by the center-right National Coalition, establishing a coalition government including the far-right Finns Party. In May, Turkiye held a presidential election, where incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan came out victorious against opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu. In the Argentine presidential election in November, self-proclaimed Anarcho-Capitalist Javier Milei won against incumbent economy minister Sergio Massa. As well, in December, Polish opposition leader Donald Tusk was appointed Prime Minister of Poland.

Donald Tusk, appointed PM of Poland after the ruling Law and Justice Party lost its parliamentary majority in October.



War

2023 saw not just the continuation of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, but the beginning of a war in Sudan and an escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. In April, the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary force and faction of the Sudanese military government, began a conflict with the Sudanese Armed Forces for control of the country. Since the beginning of the conflict, 9,000 to 10,000 people have died and millions have been displaced. As for Israel and Palestine, an attack led by the militant group Hamas on 7 October has resulted in intense fighting between Palestinian militants and the Israel Defense Forces, resulting in the deaths of over 20,000 people and the displacement of over a million Palestinians.



Khartoum International Airport, which has seen large amounts of conflict.

Astronomy

2023 saw multiple space launches and the return of other missions. In April, the European Space Agency (ESA) launched the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE), which will study Jupiter and its ice-covered moons once it arrives at the Jovian system in 2031. A new record of humans in space was reached on 25 May, with 20 people in space, though not all were in orbit. The Indian lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 was launched in July, and made a successful soft landing on the Lunar South Pole on 23 August, the first mission to reach the location.



Artist's rendition of JUICE. JUICE will study Jupiter and its largest moons.



Cyclone Freddy at peak intensity on 19 February.

Weather and Climate Change

In February, Cyclone Freddy, a tropical cyclone in the southern hemisphere, became the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record at 37 days, surpassing the previous record held by Hurricane John, which lasted for 30 days in 1994. Throughout the Year, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been making numerous statements about how close we are to catastrophe, most notably his statement on 27 July: "The era of Global Warming has ended. The era of Global Boiling has arrived." As well, multiple climate change panels, namely the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (commonly known as COP) have met multiple times, and have made calls to transition from fossil fuels, but have not presented solutions on combating climate change.

Best Pop Holiday Songs

1. Last Christmas
2. Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song
3. All I want for Christmas is You
4. Do they know it's Christmas?
5. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
6. Let It Snow!
7. Dreidel song
8. Jingle Bell Rock
9. Sleigh Ride
10. Silver Bells



12 Things To Do Over Winter Break

- ★ Ice Skating
- ★ Watch holiday movies
- ★ Go to a museum
- ★ Get a gingerbread or holiday kit
- ★ Bake cookies
- ★ Organize something
- ★ Play a board game
- ★ Do a puzzle
- ★ Read a book
- ★ Spend time with friends and family
- ★ Go to a holiday themed show or concert
- ★ Check out a light show



Hugs  **&**

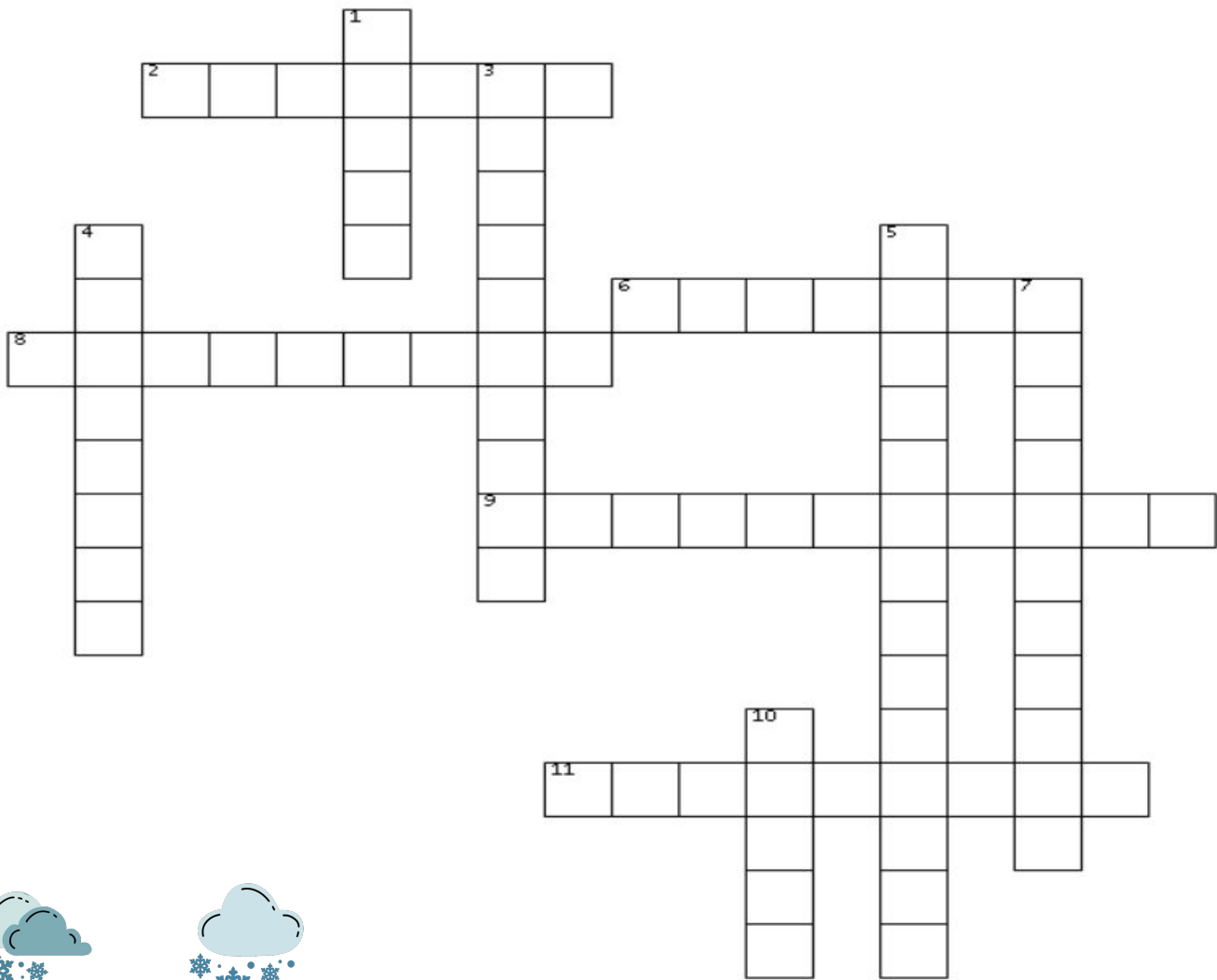
Hits 

- 😊 Playing in the snow
- 😊 Being cozy by the fire
- 😊 Snow days!
- 😊 Peppermint
- 😊 Decorating for the holidays
- 😊 Shopping
- 😊 House displays at night

- 😞 Soggy socks from the snow
- 😞 When your dog needs a walk in the cold
- 😞 Year without snow days
- 😞 Being out of money
- 😞 Static electricity
- 😞 Shopping
- 😞 Old, brown snow



C.C. Crossword



ACROSS

2. - One of, if not, the most famous reindeer in existence, especially during the winter time.

6. - The early time of day that most people do not enjoy, unless it's Christmas.

8. - This natural event can also be called a blizzard (if it's winds are strong enough.)

9. - New York drops the ball for this event. A countdown is also related to this event.

11. - This holiday is going to be on a Monday. This holiday commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ. _____ eve. _____ day.

DOWN

1. - Another one of Santa's reindeer, its name also means cosmic snowball of frozen gases, rock, and dust that orbits the Sun.

3. - This herb can be use in drinks such as lattes and milkshakes. This herb is is a hybrid species of mint, a cross between water mint and spearmint.

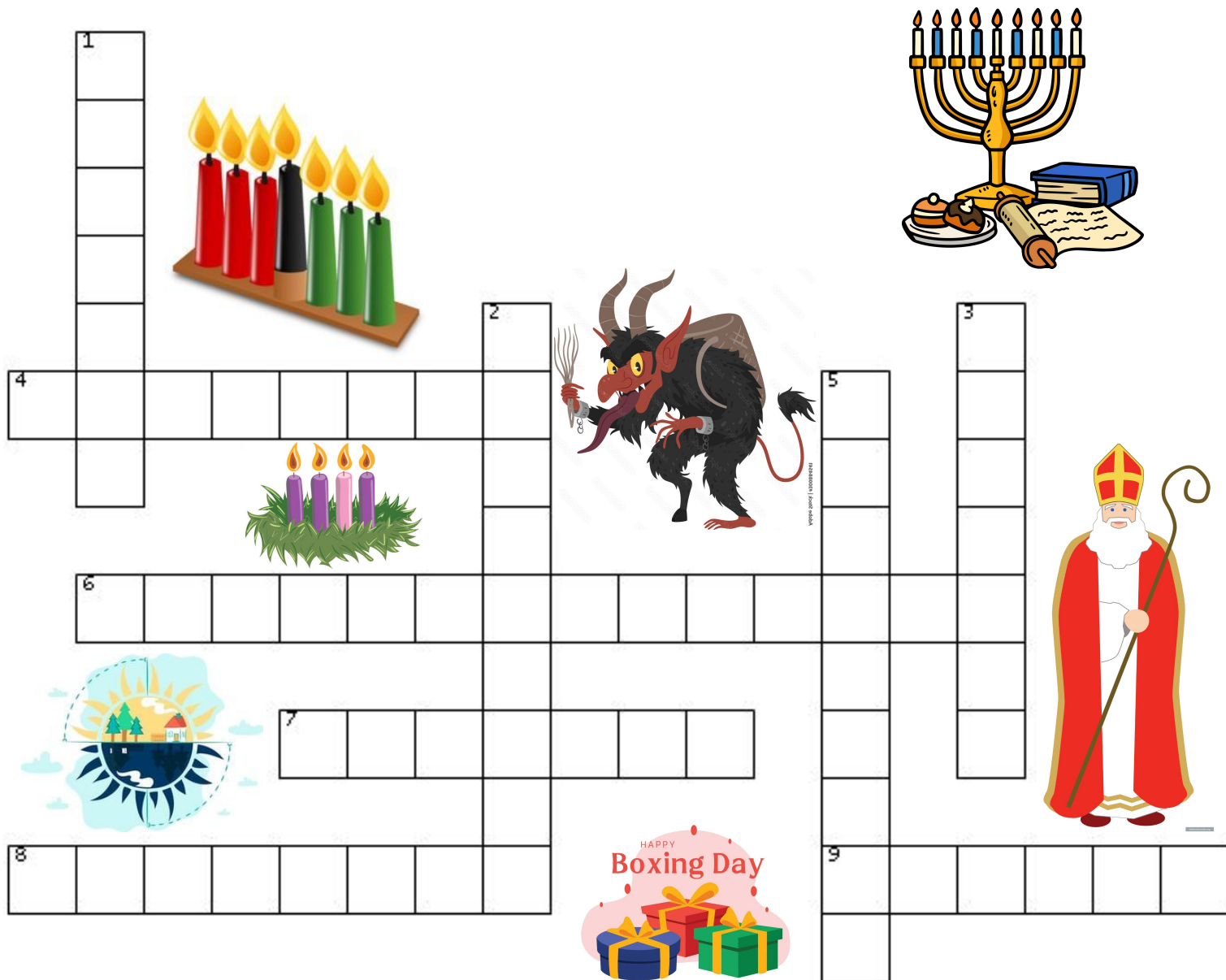
4. - This is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the recovery of Jerusalem. This holidays symbol is the nine-branch candelabra.

5. - This event marks the the first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. This day has the fewest hours of sunlight in the entire year.

7. - Typically flavored with ginger, cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon and sweetened with honey. Can be a moist cake or a cookie/snap.

10. - One of Santa's reindeer, its name also means female fox.

Holidays Crossword



ACROSS

4. Jewish holiday lasting for eight nights celebrating the recovery of Jerusalem from the Seleucid Empire
6. Beginning of winter
7. Horned figure in Alpine folklore who visits children who have misbehaved
8. Christian saint whom Santa Claus is based on
9. period on the Christian Calendar culminating on 24 December

DOWN

1. African-American holiday based on native African celebrations
2. Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus
3. Secular holiday celebrated at the end of December
5. Holiday in the Commonwealth of Nations celebrated on 26 December

C.C. Coloring!



Winter Wonderland

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

Candles

Gifts

Menorah

Peace

Snowflake

CandyCane

Grinch

Mittens

Peppermint

Snowman

Caroling

Holiday

NoiseMaker

Reindeer

Snowstorm

Family

HotChocolate

NYCBall

Rudolph

Stocking

Frosty

Icicle

Ornaments

Sleigh

Unity