

The latest from Denny & Claire,

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, isn't it? It is a time full of traditions, colors, terrific music, delicious food items, festivity, spiritual significance, and heart-tugging memories. For Claire and I, many of the most profound memories we've collected in our lives revolve around Christmas time. And I suspect that's true of many of you as well.



Some of those memories go way, way back -- even as far as my early childhood. For instance, the Christmas photo above comes from that time when my family was living in a small trailer house in southern Illinois. Shown here are my Dad; my older sister, Linda; and my pal, Teddy. (What an imaginative name for a Teddy Bear, right?) Obviously, we didn't have much money or social standing but that was okay. We added 3 other kids to the family and we were very happy. And just a few years later, my parents moved the family to Colorado. We didn't have much money or social standing there either but by then it didn't matter a bit because we were, after all, living in Colorado! How can you complain when you've got the Rocky Mountains practically in your backyard! It was a fantastic place to grow up and my Colorado Christmas memories are the best.



Claire, bless her heart, didn't have that blessing. She grew up here in the Plains...specifically, in the capital city of Lincoln. And, strangely enough, even without mountains, she grew up pretty happy too! This Christmas photo

shows Claire (she's the one with the page boy hairdo) with her siblings. Well, a few of them anyhow. Her family would also grow a bit larger with 3 more kids. And her memories of home, school, friends, and, of course, Christmas are of the dearest quality too. But while we have a cup of tea and compare a few of those memories, you can tackle **Number 42** in our ongoing series of activity packets. Merry Christmas!

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) What was Zorro's preferred weapon?
 - A) Winchester rifle
 - B) Bowie knife
 - C) Colt 45 pistol
 - D) Sword
- 2) Who played the male lead opposite Ann-Margret in the 1964 movie *Viva Las Vegas*?
 - A) Elvis Presley
 - B) Frankie Avalon
 - C) Warren Beatty
 - D) George Peppard
- 3) The first group to receive a "formal announcement" of Jesus' birth were common laborers who were looked down upon as social inferiors. Who were they?
 - A) Fishermen
 - B) Shepherds
 - C) Tax collectors
 - D) Roman soldiers
- 4) True or False -- The National Park that draws the most visitors each year is Yellowstone. _____
- 5) Finish the title of this 1936 song written by Billy Hill which was first a hit for Shep Fields, Kitty Kallen, and later Dean Martin: "In the Chapel..."
 - A) "...by the Sea"
 - B) "...Where I Met My Love"
 - C) "...in the Moonlight"
 - D) "...They Pledged Their Hearts"
- 6) The details we have about the Advent of Jesus come from what New Testament books?
 - A) Isaiah & Jeremiah
 - B) All four of the Gospels
 - C) Romans, Ephesians, Colossians
 - D) I and II Peter
- 7) This fellow studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, served in WWII as a bombardier on a B-29, and worked as a disc jockey before becoming a successful country singer.
 - A) Buck Owens
 - B) Jimmy Dean
 - C) Hank Williams
 - D) Tennessee Ernie Ford
- 8) True or False -- In both Idaho and Indiana there is a town named Santa Claus. _____
- 9) Four years before Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray starred in *Double Indemnity*, they played a shoplifter on parole and a prosecuting D.A. in this charming 1940 Christmas movie.
 - A) *Shop Around the Corner*
 - B) *Holiday Affair*
 - C) *Remember the Night*
 - D) *Christmas in July*
- 10) Which pair of words are most synonymous with "higgledy-piggledy"?
 - A) Unorganized & confused
 - B) Elusive & quick
 - C) Childlike & innocent
 - D) Fearsome & menacing

11) In the Guy Lombardo hit song, “Boo Hoo,” a poor guy is left “in the lurch” while he is...

- A) “secretly fishing for perch”
- B) “waiting at the church”
- C) “still out on a search”
- D) “out on the limb of a birch”

12) December 26 (the day after Christmas) is known as Boxing Day in England and elsewhere. It is also a holy day associated with what saint?

- A) St. Stephen
- B) St. Nicholas
- C) St. Boniface
- D) St. Jerome

13) The Christmas song “Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” is sometimes called:

- A) “Felize Navidad”
- B) “The Shepherd’s Song”
- C) “O Du Fröhliche”
- D) “Adeste Fideles”

14) In 1942, a 19th Century march was reworked by Jerry Gray into a swing number that paid homage to America’s military. The Glenn Miller band made it into a Top 20 hit.

- A) “Buttons & Bows”
- B) “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy”
- C) “American Patrol”
- D) “I’ll Be Home for Christmas”

15) True or False -- In 1970, Debbie Reynolds was the highest paid woman on television yet she quit her NBC show because she wanted even more money. _____

16) The capital city of Poland is?

- A) Helsinki
- B) Warsaw
- C) Prague
- D) Krakow

17) True or False -- “The Gift of the Magi,” a sad (but inspirational) short story telling of a loving couple making great sacrifices to buy each other a Christmas present, was written by Mark Twain. _____

18) This traditional Christmas item was popularized by St. Francis of Assisi in 13th Century Italy.

- A) Crèche (nativity scene)
- B) Advent calendar
- C) Mistletoe
- D) Holly wreathes

19) This famous jazz artist learned to play the horn in a youth detention center and later sharpened his skills in New Orleans honkytonks.

- A) Al Hirt
- B) Billy Eckstine
- C) Harry James
- D) Louis Armstrong

20) In 1972, this celebrity went public about undergoing a mastectomy which had a tremendous effect in breaking the stigma of breast cancer and encouraging women with symptoms to seek diagnosis and treatment.

- A) Kim Novak
- B) Grace Kelly
- C) Shirley Temple
- D) Joanne Woodward

21) In Charles Dickens' story "A Christmas Carol," which spirit leads Ebenezer Scrooge to a cemetery?

- A) Christmas Past
- B) Christmas Present
- C) Christmas Future
- D) None. He went all on his own.

22) True or False -- The Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was actually written for Thanksgiving. _____

23) This fellow joined the New York Yankees in 1934 and played until 1951. Projected to be the replacement for Babe Ruth, he pretty much was.

- A) Mickey Mantle
- B) Joe DiMaggio
- C) Lou Gehrig
- D) Bill Dickey

24) This country singer/songwriter, known as "The Storyteller," had his biggest hit with "Old Dogs, Children and Watermelon Wine."

- A) Ralph Emery
- B) Kris Kristofferson
- C) Roy Acuff
- D) Tom T. Hall

25) This hotel chain began with two motels in the Washington, D.C. area in the 1950s. They now have around 600 hotels and resorts around the world including those under the brands Fairfield, Residence Inn, Ritz-Carlton, and St. Regis.

- A) Marriott
- B) Hilton
- C) Hyatt
- D) Wyndham

26) In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Linus reads about the real reason for the season from what book?

- A) The gospel of Luke
- B) "A Christmas Carol"
- C) "The Night Before Christmas"
- D) "Oliver Twist"

27) True or False -- In the early 1800s, long before Ellis Island became a famous "port of entry" for people immigrating to America, it was known as "Gibbet Island" and was a place where pirates and mutinous sailors were hanged. _____

28) Which of these celebrities was **NOT** born in Nebraska?

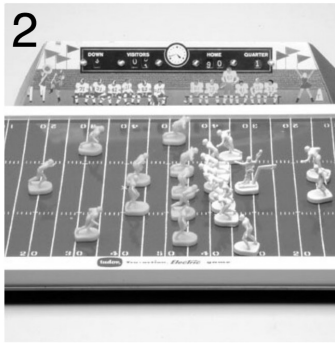
- A) Fred Astaire
- B) Marlon Brando
- C) Donna Reed
- D) Henry Fonda

29) One of the marvelous adventures of the great detective Sherlock Holmes, is set in the Christmas season. The story involves:

- A) The murder of a man disguised as Father Christmas
- B) A valuable gem discovered in a dead goose
- C) A secret message hidden in a child's doll
- D) A bomb in a Yule log designed to assassinate the King of England.

30) True or False -- According to the song, on the 8th Day of Christmas "my true love gave to me eight lords a-leaping." _____

Can You Name These Popular Christmas Toys & Games from the Good Old Days? (Part 1)



1) _____

6) _____

2) _____

7) _____

3) _____

8) _____

4) _____

9) _____

5) _____

10) Which of these has been offered on Ebay for \$50,000?

Can You Name These Popular Christmas Toys & Games from the Good Old Days? (Part 2)



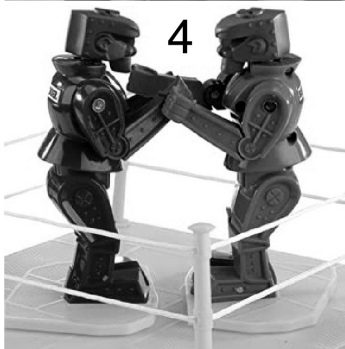
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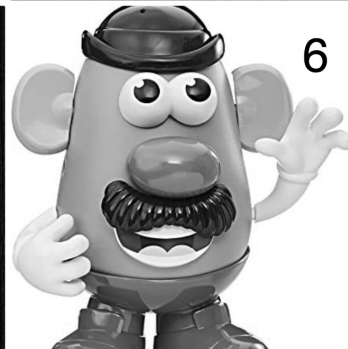
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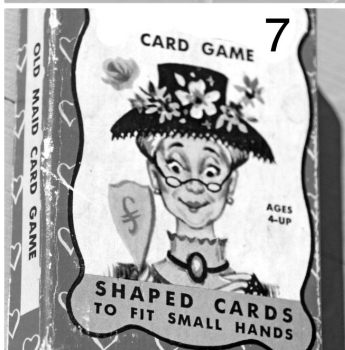
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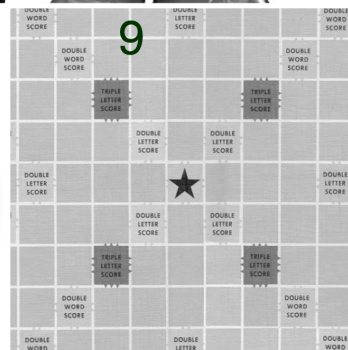
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7



8



9

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) Which of these was invented in the early 1940s by an American naval engineer?

Christmas Points to Ponder

“Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall,
the genial flame of charity in the heart.” (Washington Irving)

“He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.”
(Roy L. Smith)

“‘But there was no room at the inn.’ The inn is the gathering place of
public opinion; so often public opinion locks its doors to the King.”
(Bishop Fulton Sheen)

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His
glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
(John 1:14)

“Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like
a shawl. But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your
heart...filled it, too, with a melody that would last forever.
Even though you grew up and found you could never quite bring back the
magic feeling of this night, the melody would stay in your heart always --
a song for all the years.” (Bess Streeter Aldrich, *Song of Years*)

“Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree.
In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.” (Larry Wilde)

“How many observe Christ's birthday. How few, His precepts.”
(Benjamin Franklin)

“For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us
and the government will rest on His shoulders.
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

What Comes Next in This Song Lyric?

- 1) “I’m dreaming of a white Christmas just like the ones I used to know...
- 2) “Later on we’ll conspire as we dream by the fire...
- 3) “Just hear those sleigh bells jingling, ring ting tingling too. Come on, it’s lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you...
- 4) “O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem...
- 5) “You will get a sentimental feeling when you hear voices singing ‘Let’s be jolly; deck the halls with boughs of holly’...
- 6) “O holy night; the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining...
- 7) “It doesn’t show signs of stopping and I’ve brought some corn for popping...
- 8) “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, toys in every store...
- 9) “Said the king to the people everywhere, ‘Listen to what I say. Pray for peace, people everywhere. Listen to what I say...
- 10) “Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heaven’s all gracious King...

The Answers!

Multiple Choice

- 1) **D**
- 2) **A**
- 3) **B**
- 4) **False** – Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- 5) **C**
- 6) **B**
- 7) **D**
- 8) **True**
- 9) **C**
- 10) **A**
- 11) **B**
- 12) **A**
- 13) **D**
- 14) **C**
- 15) **False** – It’s because the network kept running cigarette commercials during her show.
- 16) **B**
- 17) **False** – O. Henry
- 18) **A**
- 19) **D**
- 20) **C**
- 21) **C**
- 22) **True**
- 23) **B**
- 24) **D**
- 25) **A**
- 26) **A**
- 27) **True**
- 28) **C**
- 29) **B**
- 30) **False** – It’s 8 maids a-milking.

Toys & Games (Part 1)

- 1) Frisbee
- 2) Electric football game
- 3) Beanie Babies bear
- 4) Easy Bake Oven
- 5) Ken & Barbie dolls
- 6) Hula Hoop
- 7) Cabbage Patch doll
- 8) Chinese Checkers
- 9) G.I. Joe action figure
- 10) **3**

Toys & Games (Part 2)

- 1) Raggedy Ann & Andy
- 2) Lincoln Logs
- 3) Matchbox car
- 4) Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robots
- 5) Monopoly game
- 6) Mr. Potato Head
- 7) Old Maid card deck
- 8) Slinky
- 9) Scrabble
- 10) **8**

What Comes Next in this Song Lyric?

- 1) “...Where the treetops glisten and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow.”
- 2) “...To face unafraid the plans that we’ve made walking in a winter wonderland.”
- 3) “...Outside the snow is falling and friends are calling ‘Yoo Hoo.’ Come on, it’s lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with you.”

4) “...Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

5) “...Rocking around the Christmas Tree, have a happy holiday. Everyone’s dancing merrily in the new old fashioned way.”

6) “...Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”

7) “...The lights are turned way down low. Let it snow; let it snow; let it snow.”

8) “...But the prettiest sight you’ll see is the holly that will be on your own front door.”

9) “...The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night. He will bring us goodness and light. He will bring us goodness and light.”

10) “...The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.”