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

- ❑ CHRISTIANITY
- ❑ XMAS
- ❑ ASTROLOGERS
- ❑ MAGICIANS
- ❑ ROYALTY
- ❑ WORSHIP
- ❑ BURIAL
- ❑ JESUS
- ❑ MESSIAH
- ❑ SHEPHERDS
- ❑ TESTIMONY
- ❑ CAROLS
- ❑ TWELVE
- ❑ PARTRIDGE
- ❑ BOXING



Twelve days. One true love. How many gifts?

The Twelve Days of Christmas is a song featuring many gifts that become increasingly extravagant. If a partridge in a pear tree is one gift, and two turtle doves are two gifts, etc, by the second day the true love has given four gifts in total: Day 1: 1 gift Day 2: 4 gifts Day 3: 10 gifts.

By the twelfth day how many gifts in total have been given? ____

Name: _____

The gift of Jesus at χmas

Christians historically believe that the Son of God took on human form and was born to Mary in Bethlehem. Hence these words in John 3:16:

> *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

At Christ's birth, pagan astrologers (called *Magi* or *kings* or *wise men*), travelled from the East with gifts for the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:11). Traditionally called "three kings", they were astrologers or magicians. Nor is their number given in the Bible - although three gifts are named that were in fact of equal value at the time of Christ:

- *Gold* - which traditionally is associated with royalty;
- *Frankincense* - a yellow aromatic resin connected to worship;
- *Myrrh* - a red-brown spice, used to prepare the dead for burial.

Sadly, *Christmas* has taken on a secular, hedonistic and materialistic meaning, and the culture uses phrases such as "happy holidays" and tritely writes *Xmas*, though the Greek letter *chi* [χ]designates Christ. However, the singing of Christmas carols, the enjoyment of nativity plays and the sharing of greeting cards or presents, help the culture to appreciate the gift of Christ - since "Jesus is the reason for the season".

People in Christian-based countries share presents at Christmas. In a previous era in Britain and beyond, they were given on "Boxing Day" - 26th December - the Feast of Stephen (the first Christian martyr). On that day of charity, boxes of food were given to the poor. The custom of gift-giving is celebrated in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

The Twelve Days of Xmas

Published in England in 1780, the song celebrates the giving of gifts on the twelve days of Christmas - 25th December to 5th January inclusive. The song enumerates the repetitive giving of extravagant gifts.

The twelfth verse summarises the previous eleven verses, as follows:

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me
twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping,
nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming,
six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds,
three french hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.







