

13. Was Jesus really born on Dec 25?

- The Romans celebrated _____, worship of Saturn the god of peace and plenty, on Dec 17-24. The celebration was a time of drunkenness and debauchery
- In _____, Roman emperor Aurelian proclaimed Dec 25 as *Natalis Solis Invicti*, the Birth of the Invincible _____
- In _____ AD, Pope Julius I declared December 25 to be Christ's birth and the celebration of the "Birth of the Invincible _____"
- As one theologian asserted in _____, "We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it"
- St. John Chrysostom preached the first known Christmas sermon entitled, "Homily on Christmas Morning," in Antioch on December 20, _____ AD

14. Was the Star of Bethlehem Halley's comet or a supernova?

15. What person could not die before the first Christmas?

16. What are swaddling clothes?

17. Is the word "Christmas" Catholic?

- "mas" is Latin (missio) = _____
- "mas" = _____

18. Is Xmas an "un-Christian" way to spell Christmas?

- The word for _____ in Greek is "Xristos"
- The X was called the _____
- During the 16th century, Europeans began using the first initial of Christ's name, _____ (Greek "chi") in place of the word Christ in Christmas as shorthand form of the word

19. Was there really a Santa Claus?

- _____ was born in the 4th century AD in Patara, Lycia (modern Turkey) and served as a bishop in Myra until his death in 343 AD
- He was a _____
- When his parents died, they left him a great deal of _____ which he freely shared with the needy – especially children
- He bought the freedom of the three daughters of a bankrupt businessman in Patara by throwing three bags of gold into the man's house through an open window each time one of the daughters was about to be sold into slavery
- Diocletian _____ him and had him _____ him until Constantine allowed him to go free
- As a _____ of the faith he was seen as a great Christian & was venerated after his death
- He was adopted as the patron saint of _____ who help the needy by offering them loans (the three bags of gold are symbolized by the three golden balls that have adorned pawnshops for centuries)
- Those who knew of him & kept Nicholas's memory alive as an example of godliness & generosity

- The Dutch spelled St. Nicholas Sint Nikolaas which was corrupted to _____, and finally, to _____ in English
- Martin Luther wanted to refocus the German people from St. Nicholas to the Christ Child, pronounced in German as “_____” and was later pronounced “_____.” Luther taught that Christ was the giver of all gifts and our gift-giving should be performed in remembrance of the great gifts Christ gave us.
- In 1822, Clement C. Moore composed his famous poem, “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” which was later published as “The Night Before Christmas” and is credited with creating the modern image of Santa Claus as a jolly fat man in a red suit.

20. Are Christmas trees pagan?

- What we know as the Christmas tree originated in Germany as an oak tree and St. Boniface replaced the oak with a fir tree in the _____ AD
- It originated from two Christian symbols found in homes at Christmas time
 - the first was a “_____,” an evergreen which was hung with apples which represented the tree of life in the Garden of Eden
 - the second symbol was a “_____” which a triangular shelf holding Christmas figurines and decorated with a star and about the 16th century these two symbols had been combined into the Christian Christmas tree
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- Martin Luther is credited with adding “lights” to the tree in _____
- The Christmas tree was not widely used in Britain until the _____ century and it was brought to America by the Pennsylvania Germans in the _____

21. Why do we use holly and mistletoe?

- The evergreen was used because it represented _____
- The word “holly” is actually a derivative of “_____”
- Holly was incorporated into the Christmas celebration by the early European Christians because the prickly leaves represented the _____ Jesus wore and the red berries represented His _____
- _____ came from victory laurels that were worn by the Romans and Persians
- The use of _____ from the Scandinavians who believed it had healing and relationship-mending properties

22. Where did the “12 Days of Christmas” come from?

23. Why do the Russian communists date their calendar from the birth of Jesus?

Russia was Christian for over _____ years before being taken over by the Communists in 1919

24. How should Christians deal with the non-Christian symbols of Christmas?

25. What is the greatest mistake Christians can make at Christmas and what is the greater miracle than the virgin birth?