

Things you should know about Christmas: a Christmas quiz

Just decide if the answer is true, or false. Answers are on page 2. You can find out more in our on line booklet 'A Quick Guide to Christmas'.

Christmas puzzlers	True or false?
1. Christmas starts on the 1 st December	
2. Jesus was born a Jew	
3. Mary and Joseph was Jesus' mother and father	
4. Shepherds visited the baby Jesus in a stable; they were 'unclean' they were unable to keep the Jewish laws because of their occupation, so were outcasts.	
5. Three wise men, kings, usually called magi visited the baby Jesus in the stable where he was born.	
6. Jesus' name was not Jesus (not a trick question, think about it).	
7. All Christians celebrate Christmas Day on the same date.	
8. The Christmas tree is one of the most important Christian symbols.	
9. The Christian Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) all retell the Christmas story.	
10. On Christmas Day bells are rung to celebrate the birth of Jesus and call people to church to worship Jesus as the 'Light of the World'.	
11. In 1947 the UK was called to worship by Bradford Cathedral's bells as they were rung on BBC radio nationwide on Christmas Day.	

12. The Christmas season finishes on the 2 nd February in the calendar used by the Western churches.	
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Some more information	Your answer should have been:
1. Christmas starts on the 25 th December, Christmas day. The preparation starts four Sundays before Christmas. This period of time is called Advent.	False
2. Jesus was born into a Jewish family and brought up as a Jew in the areas now known as Palestine and Israel.	True
3. Mary was Jesus' mother, but Christians believe that God is Jesus's Father. That Mary conceived a child by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Joseph however brought Jesus up as one of his own children.	False
4. According to Matthew's Gospel, Shepherds visited the baby Jesus in a stable; they were unable to keep the Jewish laws because of their occupation, so were outcasts. They recognise Jesus as special, sent by God and this is symbolic of the fact that being able to follow rituals is not important, belief is and that God cares for everyone no matter how poor.	True
5. Luke's Gospel tells us that once Jesus and Mary and Joseph were settled in a house in Bethlehem, SOME , wise men visited the baby Jesus bringing gifts. Three gifts are named, hence the tradition (in some countries) of three kings, representing Jesus coming for the whole world.	False (or at least unclear!)
6. Jesus' name was not Jesus (not a trick question, think about it). The languages Jesus grew up with were Hebrew and Aramaic; his name was Jeshua or Yeshua; Jesus is the Greek translation of this name.	True
7. Christmas Day in the Western Church is celebrated on the 25 th December and in the Eastern Church on the 7 th January as the churches use different calendars.	False
8. The Christmas tree is a Pagan symbol of new life and the cycle of the seasons. It was introduced in this country by the German Kings and Queens of the Regency Period and then popularised by Prince Albert. It is essentially a 200 year	False

<p>Victorian, secular tradition in the UK. Lights are used to symbolise light overcoming darkness and Christians often deck their trees with lights to symbolise Jesus as the 'Light of the World'.</p>	
<p>9. The Christmas story is a combination of narratives that are found only in Matthew and Luke.</p>	<p>False</p>
<p>10. On Christmas Day bells are rung to celebrate the birth of Jesus and call people to church to worship Jesus as the 'Light of the World'.</p>	<p>True</p>
<p>11. In 1947 the UK was called to worship by Bradford Cathedral's Memorial Bells, as they were rung on BBC radio nationwide on Christmas Day.</p>	<p>True</p>
<p>12. The Christmas season finishes on the 2nd February in the calendar used by the Western churches. Candlemas commemorates the time when Jesus would have ideally been presented at the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and his mother would have been able to enter a sacred space again after the birth of her child.</p>	<p>True</p>