

## Christmas Timeline Challenge

Using the number line at left and #1-21, place the following events in chronological order.

1000 BC  
750 BC  
500 BC  
250 BC  
0 AD  
250 AD  
500 AD  
750 AD  
1000 AD  
1250 AD  
1500 AD  
1750 AD  
2000 AD

- \_\_\_ God first promised to send a Savior
- \_\_\_ Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* premiered
- \_\_\_ The first Christmas card was sold
- \_\_\_ Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*
- \_\_\_ *It's a Wonderful Life* was released
- \_\_\_ Handel's *Messiah* was first presented
- \_\_\_ First Hanukkah festival was observed
- \_\_\_ Wise men visited the Christ child
- \_\_\_ Michelangelo completed *The Holy Family*
- \_\_\_ Isaiah foretold the virgin birth
- \_\_\_ Angels announced Christ's birth to the shepherds
- \_\_\_ *The Nutcracker* premiered
- \_\_\_ Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas Eve
- \_\_\_ Leonardo da Vinci painted *The Madonna in the Grotto*
- \_\_\_ Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem
- \_\_\_ Caesar Augustus called for a census to be taken
- \_\_\_ "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously
- \_\_\_ Raphael painted *The Sistine Madonna*
- \_\_\_ David's Psalms referred to the coming Messiah
- \_\_\_ St. Nicholas served as a bishop in Asia Minor
- \_\_\_ Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem



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## Christmas Timeline Details

- >4000 BC (1) God promised to send a Savior, who would conquer Satan (Gen. 3:15)
- c1000 BC (2) David's Psalms repeatedly referred to the coming Messiah (Ps. 22, etc.)
- c700 BC (3) Isaiah foretold the virgin birth (Isa. 7:14)
- c700 BC (4) Micah prophesied Christ would be born in Bethlehem of the lineage of David (Micah 5:2)
- 165 BC (5) The first Hanukkah festival was observed -- After a 3-year struggle, the Jews in Judea defeated the Syrian tyrant Antiochus IV, cleansed the temple of Syrian idols, and rededicated it to God. Only one small cruse of oil was found for lighting the holy lamps, but miraculously provided enough oil to keep the lamp(s) burning for eight days.
- c6 BC (6) Caesar Augustus called for a census to be taken
- c4 BC (7) Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem -- We do not know the actual date. Early Christians considered the celebration of anybody's birthday to be a pagan practice. Records of observing December 25 as the date of Christ's birth do not appear until AD336.
- c4 BC (8) Angels announced Christ's birth to the shepherds
- c4 BC (9) Wise men brought gifts to the Christ child
- c300 (10) St. Nicholas served as bishop of Myra in Asia Minor -- Famous for his generosity to the poor, he was actually persecuted for his Christian beliefs (spent time in jail).
- 1495 (11) Leonardo da Vinci painted The Madonna in the Grotto -- one of relatively few of his paintings that has survived.
- 1504 (12) Michelangelo completed The Holy Family, one of his best known paintings
- 1518 (13) Raphael painted The Sistine Madonna
- 1742 (14) Handel's Messiah was first presented in Dublin -- It was not until George Frideric Handel faced financial ruin due to the failure of his operatic ventures that he turned to writing oratorios, many on Biblical themes.
- 1776 (15) Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas Eve
- 1823 (16) "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was originally published anonymously -- The author was Clement Clarke Moore, a seminary professor of Greek and Oriental literature who wrote the poem for his own children, a year before a friend convinced him to publish it.
- 1843 (17) Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol -- This was the first of five books Dickens wrote between 1843 and 1848 that he called Christmas Books, the others being (in order of publication) The Chimes, The Cricket in the Hearth, The Battle of Life, and The Haunted Man.
- 1843 (18) The first Christmas card was sold -- It was created by John Calcott Horsley, although Christmas cards were not mass-produced and sold on a wide scale until 20 years later (1862).
- 1892 (19) The Nutcracker premiered -- This was the last of three ballets written by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, who attended law school before entering the conservatory.
- 1946 (20) It's a Wonderful Life was released -- Though this film enjoys wide popularity today, it was such a failure at the box office that the makers didn't bother to renew the copyright on it.
- 1954 (21) Irving Berlin's White Christmas premiered-- This was a remake of his 1942 film Holiday Inn; the story line differs, but the set and a couple of the songs remained the same.

