

Christmas Timeline Challenge

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| ___ 1. God first promised to send a Savior | a. 1954 AD |
| ___ 2. Irving Berlin's <i>White Christmas</i> premiered | b. 1946 AD |
| ___ 3. The first Christmas card was sold | c. 1892 AD |
| ___ 4. Charles Dickens wrote <i>A Christmas Carol</i> | d. 1843 AD |
| ___ 5. <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> was released | e. 1843 AD |
| ___ 6. Handel's <i>Messiah</i> was first presented | f. 1823 AD |
| ___ 7. First Hanukkah festival was observed | g. 1776 AD |
| ___ 8. Wise men visited the Christ child | h. 1742 AD |
| ___ 9. Michelangelo completed <i>The Holy Family</i> | i. 1518 AD |
| ___ 10. Isaiah foretold the virgin birth | j. 1504 AD |
| ___ 11. Angels announced Christ's birth to the shepherds | k. 1495 AD |
| ___ 12. <i>The Nutcracker</i> premiered | l. circa 300 AD |
| ___ 13. Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas Eve | m. circa 4 BC |
| ___ 14. Leonardo da Vinci painted <i>The Madonna in the Grotto</i> | n. circa 4 BC |
| ___ 15. Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem | o. circa 4 BC |
| ___ 16. Caesar Augustus called for a census to be taken | p. circa 6 BC |
| ___ 17. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously | q. 165 BC |
| ___ 18. Raphael painted <i>The Sistine Madonna</i> | r. circa 700 BC |
| ___ 19. David's Psalms referred to the coming Messiah | s. circa 700 BC |
| ___ 20. St. Nicholas served as a bishop in Asia Minor | t. circa 1000 BC |
| ___ 21. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem | u. 4000 BC or earlier |

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Christmas Timeline Details

- >4000 BC **U-1** God promised to send a Savior, who would conquer Satan (Gen. 3:15)
- c1000 BC **T-19** David's Psalms repeatedly referred to the coming Messiah (Ps. 22, etc.)
- c700 BC **S- 10** Isaiah foretold the virgin birth (Isa. 7:14)
- c700 BC **R-15** Micah prophesied Christ would be born in Bethlehem of the lineage of David (Micah 5:2)
- 165 BC **Q-7** 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 **P-16** Caesar Augustus called for a census to be taken
- c4 BC **O-21** 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 **N-11** Angels announced Christ's birth to the shepherds
- c4 BC **M-8** Wise men brought gifts to the Christ child
- c300 **L-20** 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 **K-14** Leonardo da Vinci painted The Madonna in the Grotto -- This is one of relatively few of his paintings that has survived.
- 1504 **J-9** Michelangelo completed The Holy Family, one of his best known paintings
- 1518 **I-18** Raphael painted The Sistine Madonna
- 1742 **H-6** 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 **G-13** Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas Eve
- 1823 **F-17** "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 **E-4** 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 **D-3** 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 **C-12** The Nutcracker premiered -- This was the last of three ballets written by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, who attended law school before entering the conservatory.
- 1946 **B-5** 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 **A-2** 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.

