

# YOU and the U.S.



## December 2014

Welcome to the winter edition of You and the U.S. We mark the centenary of the start of World War I, and also delve into *A White House Christmas*.

And ... we have included a bumper pack of puzzles to help keep you entertained over the holiday season!

*Did you know...?*

*...that you can track Santa on his Christmas Eve journey? The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) follows Santa's journey across the world! Check it out [here](#).*

## Quick Trivia

- Who was the President of the United States during World War I?
- Which State holds the record for the lowest temperature in Winter?
- What is the alternative name for the Jewish Festival of Lights?

*More information for teachers can be found on our [blog - Education Matters!](#)*



## World War I Centenary

It has been 100 years since the beginning of World War I. The War started in Europe on July 28 2014 and ended on November 11 1918.

The U.S. entered the battle in 1917. President Woodrow Wilson requested a declaration of war against Germany on April 2 1917, as a result of the targeting and sinking of several American ships, killing American passengers and members of the Navy and the “*Zimmerman telegram*” (see below).

The U.S. Senate voted in support of President Wilson’s request on April 4, with the House of Representatives in agreement two days later. The U.S. later declared war on Austria-Hungary on December 7 1917.



*World War I Trenches in France (U.S. Department of State Office of the Historian)*

The “*Zimmerman Telegram*” was discovered by British intelligence on January 19, 1917. It was a telegram that was sent by German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmerman to the German Ambassador in Mexico. The telegram promised the Mexican Government that it would help them get back the land they had lost to the U.S. during the Mexican-American War. In return the Germans wanted support from Mexico in WWI. The British passed the telegram onto the Americans to help gain support from American officials to join the war.

In his War Message to Congress, President Wilson declared the American objective “*is to vindicate the principles of peace and justice in the life of the world.*”

## A White House Christmas

The White House celebrates Christmas with a theme each year. Last year's theme was 'Gather Around', celebrating the traditions and stories that bring people together at this time of year. In 2014, the theme is 'A Children's Winter Wonderland'. It celebrates the pureness of the holidays, as seen through a child's eyes.



*The White House Christmas tree arrives!*

This year's decorations commemorate the Armed Forces and their families, with a Christmas tree in the West Wing adorned with gold stars, honoring the fallen. The official Christmas tree is in the blue room and carries the theme of 'America the Brave'. It comes from Crystal Springs Tree Farm in Leighton, Pennsylvania. It has ornaments decorated by military children living on U.S. military bases across the world.

There are 26 Christmas trees in total around the White House and a 300 pound Gingerbread House that even has a skating rink and reindeer!



*First Lady Michelle Obama with the 2014 White House Christmas tree*

Quick trivia answers: a) President Woodrow Wilson; b) Alaska; c) Hanukkah

### Christmas Quiz

- 1) On which day of the week is Christmas Day 2014?
- 2) How many days of Christmas are there in the famous song?
- 3) Who traditionally pulls Santa's sleigh?
- 4) How many days on a traditional Advent Calendar?
- 5) What is the last day of Christmas called?
- 6) Which fruit is traditionally used for a Christingle?
- 7) How many of Santa's reindeer begin with the letter 'D'?
- 8) How many presents are given, in total, in the song "12 Days of Christmas?"
- 9) How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
- 10) What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
- 11) What do you call a man who claps at Christmas?

### General Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Which Disney character was created by Gepetto?
- 2) Who stole Christmas according to Dr. Seuss?
- 3) What is Harry Potter's owl called?
- 4) Who is running late in Alice in Wonderland?
- 5) Where do the Flintstones live?
- 6) Who are Harry, Louis, Zayn, Niall and Liam collectively known as?
- 7) How many planets are in our solar system?
- 8) Can you name all the colours of the rainbow?
- 9) What is the capital city of Australia?
- 10) What sort of fantasy creature is the video game character Spyro?
- 11) How many goals make a hat-trick in soccer?

Winter Sports

*Snowboarding*

*Skiing*

*Tobogganing*

*Skeleton*

*Ice Skating*

*Curling*

*Bobsleigh*

*Ice Hockey*

*Luge*

*Speed Skating*

*Ski Jumping*

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

Holiday Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words? The first letter of each answer can be used to spell out another word associated with December!

EKFNRINECANS

LSMITTEOE

KURETY

GEALSN

VYI

YLOLH

NATAS SLCAU

NIGEHCLTSIR

NBOIR

TIDNIOTAR

SLEVE

WONNMAS

DRSENEIRE

VDTENA

HKAUNKAH

Hidden word (1<sup>st</sup> letter of each word unscrambled):

Pairs

Which two words can be paired together by association?

Red

Fireplace

Menorah

Mistletoe

Snow

Presents

Fir

Rudolph

Winter

Bauble

Stocking

Candle

Letter to Santa

Tree

Decoration

Sledge

Kiss

Wonderland

**Christmas Quiz answers:**

- 1) *Thursday*
- 2) *12*
- 3) *The reindeers!*
- 4) *24*
- 5) *Twelfth Night*
- 6) *Orange*
- 7) *3 – Dasher, Donner, and Dancer*
- 8) *364*
- 9) *Deep pan, crisp and even!*
- 10) *Frostbite!*
- 11) *Santaplause!*

**General Knowledge Quiz answers:**

- 1) *Pinocchio*
- 2) *The Grinch*
- 3) *Hedwig*
- 4) *The White Rabbit*
- 5) *Bedrock*
- 6) *One Direction*
- 7) *9*
- 8) *Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet*
- 9) *Canberra*
- 10) *Dragon*
- 11) *3*

**Holiday Word Scramble:**

<i>Frankincense</i>	<i>Mistletoe</i>
<i>Turkey</i>	<i>Angels</i>
<i>Ivy</i>	<i>Holly</i>
<i>Santa Claus</i>	<i>Christingle</i>
<i>Robin</i>	<i>Tradition</i>
<i>Elves</i>	<i>Snowman</i>
<i>Reindeers</i>	<i>Advent</i>
<i>Hanukkah</i>	

**Pairs:**

*Red – Rudolph*

*Menorah – Candle*

*Snow – Sledge*

*Fir – Tree*

*Winter – Wonderland*

*Stocking – Fireplace*

*Letter to Santa – Presents*

*Decoration – Bauble*

*Kiss - Mistletoe*