



Counting Down to Christmas



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephanie Jacobs

Mini Fact:
Hanukkah begins on Dec. 2 this year.

Kwanzaa begins on Dec. 26.

$16 \div 4 =$ _____	$30 - 7 =$ _____	$13 - 11 =$ _____	$12 + 5 =$ _____
$24 - 16 =$ _____	$2 \times 8 =$ _____	$3 \times 6 =$ _____	$12 - 5 =$ _____
$2 + 8 =$ _____	$31 - 12 =$ _____	$40 \div 2 + 1 =$ _____	$9 - 8 =$ _____
$4 + 2 =$ _____	$9 \div 3 =$ _____	$8 \times 3 =$ _____	$19 - 6 =$ _____
$81 \div 9 =$ _____	$60 \div 3 + 2 =$ _____	$4 \times 5 =$ _____	$17 - 5 =$ _____
$44 \div 4 =$ _____	$28 \div 2 =$ _____	$3 \times 5 =$ _____	$100 \div 20 =$ _____

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An Advent challenge

Does your family use an Advent calendar? These fun calendars let you mark the days and build up the excitement before Christmas!



Advent is a period of time observed in many Christian churches leading up to Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth. Traditionally, there are four Sundays in Advent.

Try The Mini Page's Advent calendar this year! Our calendar has 24 math problems to solve, starting on Dec. 1. You'll have to do a bit of figuring to know which square to fill in the answer for each day. The answers are upside-down and backward below; use a mirror to see them if you need help!

10 - 0 = 10	0 - 8 = 1
58 ÷ 5 = 11	13 - 11 = 2
2 × 2 = 4	0 ÷ 3 = 0
5 × 8 = 40	10 ÷ 4 = 2
15 + 2 = 17	100 ÷ 50 = 2
2 × 0 = 0	4 + 5 = 9
21 - 15 = 6	15 - 2 = 1
4 × 2 = 8	54 - 10 = 4
40 ÷ 5 + 1 = 9	81 ÷ 9 = 9
00 ÷ 3 + 5 = 5	5 + 8 = 13
20 - 1 = 19	44 ÷ 4 = 11
8 × 3 = 24	11 - 2 = 9

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Resources



At the library:

- "Walk This World at Christmastime" illustrated by Debbie Powell
- "24 Stories for Advent" by Brigitte Weninger
- "Christmas Elf" by Arnie Lightning

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of winter holidays are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

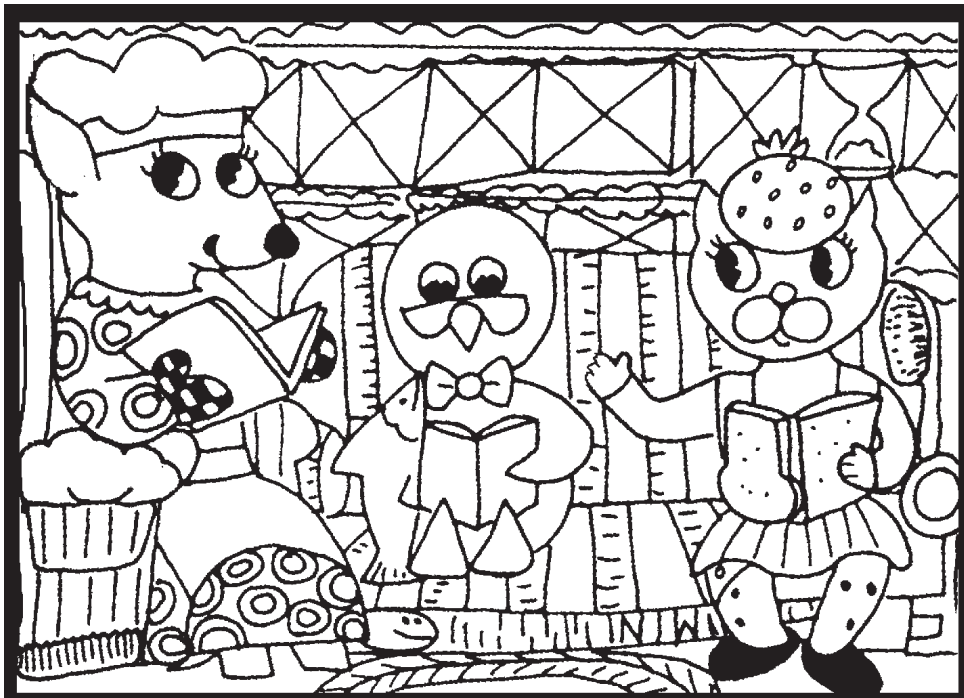


ADVENT, BIRTH,
CALENDAR, CELEBRATION,
CHRISTIAN, CHRISTMAS,
COUNTING, DAYS,
DECEMBER, EXCITEMENT,
FAMILY, FUN, HANUKKAH,
JESUS, KWANZAA,
OBSERVE, SOLVE, SUNDAY,
TRADITION.

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

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are enjoying some new books. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

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- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| • strawberry | • turtle | • brush | • fish |
| • word MINI | • comb | • kite | • key |
| • number 8 | • hourglass | • muffin | • letter V |
| • mushroom | • slice of bread | • ruler | |

Mini Jokes



David: What do you call Santa if he climbs down a hot chimney?
Diane: Krisp Kringle!

Eco Note



Dog lovers around the world may be disappointed to hear that researchers have found that "man's best friend" is probably not as smart as they think. Researchers compared the brain power of dogs with wolves, bears, lions and hyenas, and found that the abilities of canines were at least matched by several species in each group. "Dogs are special, but they're not exceptional," says Britta Osthaus of Canterbury Christ Church University.

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For later:

An Advent calendar is a holiday tradition. Look in your newspaper for other traditional holiday events and products.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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