

★ If you received all of the presents in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, you would have a total of 364 gifts that would cost roughly \$135,000 in purchase and hire charges.

★ The first depiction of Santa in a sleigh pulled by reindeer was by Thomas Nast and appeared in *Harper's Weekly* on 3 Jan 1863. Santa was delivering gifts to soldiers fighting in the US Civil War.

★ The poinsettia, traditionally an American Christmas flower, originally grew in Mexico, where it was known as the "Flower of the Holy Night." These were first brought to America by Joel Poinsett in 1829.

★ The popular Christmas Song "Jingle Bells" was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally composed to celebrate the American holiday of Thanksgiving.

★ In New Zealand Santa Claus has traditionally been called "Father Christmas" – in Italy he is called La Befana (the kindly old witch).

★ The Bible does not state that there were three wise men – whatever their number, they brought Jesus three different gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Neither were the wise men present at the birth of Jesus – the book of Matthew states they visited a young child prompting King Herod to murder all the children two and under.

★ In Britain, eating mince pie at Christmas dates back to the 16th century. It is still believed that to eat mince pie on each of the Twelve Days of Christmas will bring 12 happy months in the year to follow.

★ Christmas is a contraction of "Christ's Mass," which is derived from the Old English *Cristes mæsse* (first recorded in 1038). The letter "X" in Greek is the first letter of Christ, and "Xmas" has been used as an abbreviation for Christmas since the mid 1500s.

★ In Poland, spiders or spider webs are common Christmas trees decorations. According to Polish holiday legends, a spider wove a blanket for the baby Jesus.



**"Christmas doesn't come from a store,  
maybe Christmas perhaps means a  
little bit more...."** The Grinch - Dr Seuss

***"How many observe Christ's birthday!  
How few, His precepts!"***

**Benjamin Franklin**



★ According to UNICEF, there are 2.1 billion children under age 18 in the world. If there are on average 2.5 children per household, Santa would have to make 842 million stops on Christmas Eve, travelling 353.6 million kms. To reach all 842 million stops, Santa would need to travel between houses in 2/10,000 second, which means he would need to accelerate to 20.5 billion m/sec on each stop – or roughly seven times the speed of light.

★ Towns exist in Indiana and Georgia, U.S.A., called Santa Claus.

★ In the northern hemisphere, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> is the shortest day of the year with Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> being the first day of increased daylight. For early pagan sun worshippers, this was the reasoning behind making the 25<sup>th</sup> the Feast of Saturnalia. In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I proclaimed Dec 25<sup>th</sup> as the birthday of Christ.

★ The Germans made the first artificial Christmas trees out of dyed goose feathers.

★ The order of the Jewish feast days, the fact the shepherds were out in the fields, and the timetable of the rotation of the temple priests can all be used to independently identify the birth date of Jesus as sometime in September or early October.

#### **Why Was Jesus Born - *According to Jesus Himself?***

***"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*** (Luke 19:10) The bad news is that Jesus says that we are all lost sinners! We have broken God's laws, are separated from Him and destined for an eternity in hell. The good news is that Christ loved you and died on the cross to pay for YOUR sins. He rose again from the dead to prove that he was truly GOD WITH US. Today He offers the FREE GIFT of eternal life to anyone who will believe in him alone as Lord and Saviour. ***"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."*** (John 6:47) *Are you prepared to meet God?*



***“Oh look, another Christmas TV special! How touching to have the meaning of Christmas brought to us by cola, fast food, and beer.... Who'd have ever guessed that product consumption, popular entertainment, and spirituality would mix so harmoniously?”***

**Calvin & Hobbes**

★ The world's largest Christmas stocking measured 32.56 meters long and 14.97 meters wide. It was made by the Children's Society in London in Dec 2007 and held over 1000 gifts.

★ British illustrator John Callcott Horsley (1817-1903) invented the first Christmas card in 1843.

★ Christ was given two names at his birth. Joseph was told the baby should be named JESUS (*Jehovah saves*) because he would save people from their sins. Matthew further stated that his name would be EMMANUEL, meaning *God with us*. The word “Christ” is a title meaning *messiah* or *anointed one*.

★ Mistletoe (Latin: *Viscum album*) is from the Anglo-Saxon word *misteltan*, which means “little dung twig” because the plant spreads through bird droppings.

★ The Old Testament predicted the exact town of Jesus' birth 700 years before the fact – it even correctly predicted which of the two Bethlehem's in Israel (the one in Judah) would have this honour.

★ It is a British Christmas tradition that a wish made while mixing the Christmas pudding will come true only if the ingredients are stirred in a clockwise direction.

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**Would  
You Believe...?**

