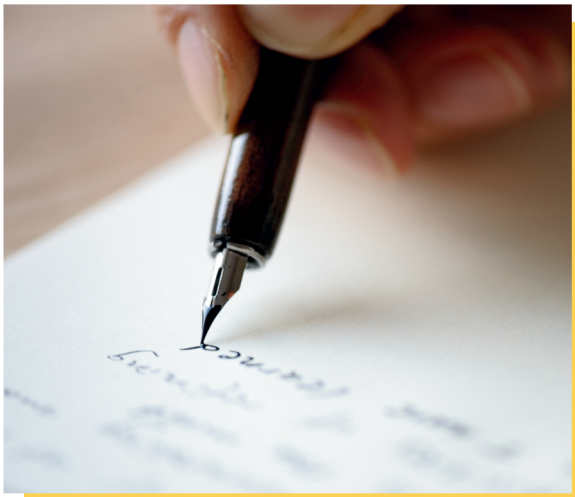
# Daily Delight

**MONDAY • DECEMBER 7 • 2026**

## National Letter Writing Day

With the widespread rise of email and instant texting, handwritten letter writing has gradually become somewhat of a lost art. To be sure, a dedicated few still cherish the simple pleasure of sitting down with a favorite pen and a fresh sheet of paper, carefully jotting down their thoughts, folding the page, sealing it inside a stamped envelope, and dropping it in the mail.

Even so, writing by hand is often viewed as slow or tedious nowadays. So, on Letter Writing Day, help breathe vibrant new life back into this timeless tradition by sending a heartfelt note to someone in your life. With the holiday season just around the corner, it is an especially wonderful time to write to your family and friends, who will undoubtedly appreciate such a personal, meaningful, and delightfully rare gesture.



## Today in History

In 1988, the Texas Rangers signed free-agent pitcher Nolan Ryan to a one-year contract. From 1966 to 1993, he pitched for 4 different teams. Ryan's 5,714 career strikeouts rank 1st in baseball history. He was an 8-time All-Star and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Self-Healing Roman-Inspired Concrete**

Materials scientists reverse-engineered 2,000-year-old Roman maritime concrete, discovering that its durability stemmed from "lime clasts," small white mineral inclusions long dismissed as sloppy mixing. When seawater causes micro-cracks, it dissolves these lime clasts, forming new calcite crystals that naturally seal the fissures. Modern engineers have adapted this ancient chemistry into self-healing commercial cements that extend the lifespan of bridges and seawalls without human maintenance.

## TRIVIA

Which animal was once used to harvest truffles in Italy?

**A** Pigs

**B** Ferrets

**C** Horses

**D** Cows

## TODAY'S FUNNY

What did Arnold Schwarzenegger say to his tomato seeds after watering them for the first time?

*You have been germinated!*

## TODAY'S WISDOM

*"Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words."*
*- Plautus*

# WORD SEARCH

## What's in a Fruitcake

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

Allspice
Apricots
Ginger
Raisins
Brandy
Cinnamon
Nutmeg
Rum
Cherries
Dates
Pineapple
Walnuts

# SUDOKU

**How To Play:**

Each 9x9 box is comprised of 9 smaller 3x3 boxes. Each of these smaller boxes must be filled in with numbers from 1-9. Each row and column of the larger 9x9 box should not have any numbers repeated.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | | | 6 | | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | | 3 | | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | | | 6 | | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| | | 5 | 9 | 1 | | | 3 | 6 |
| | 6 | 9 | | 7 | 2 | | | |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | | | 4 | 6 | | 3 | | |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 |

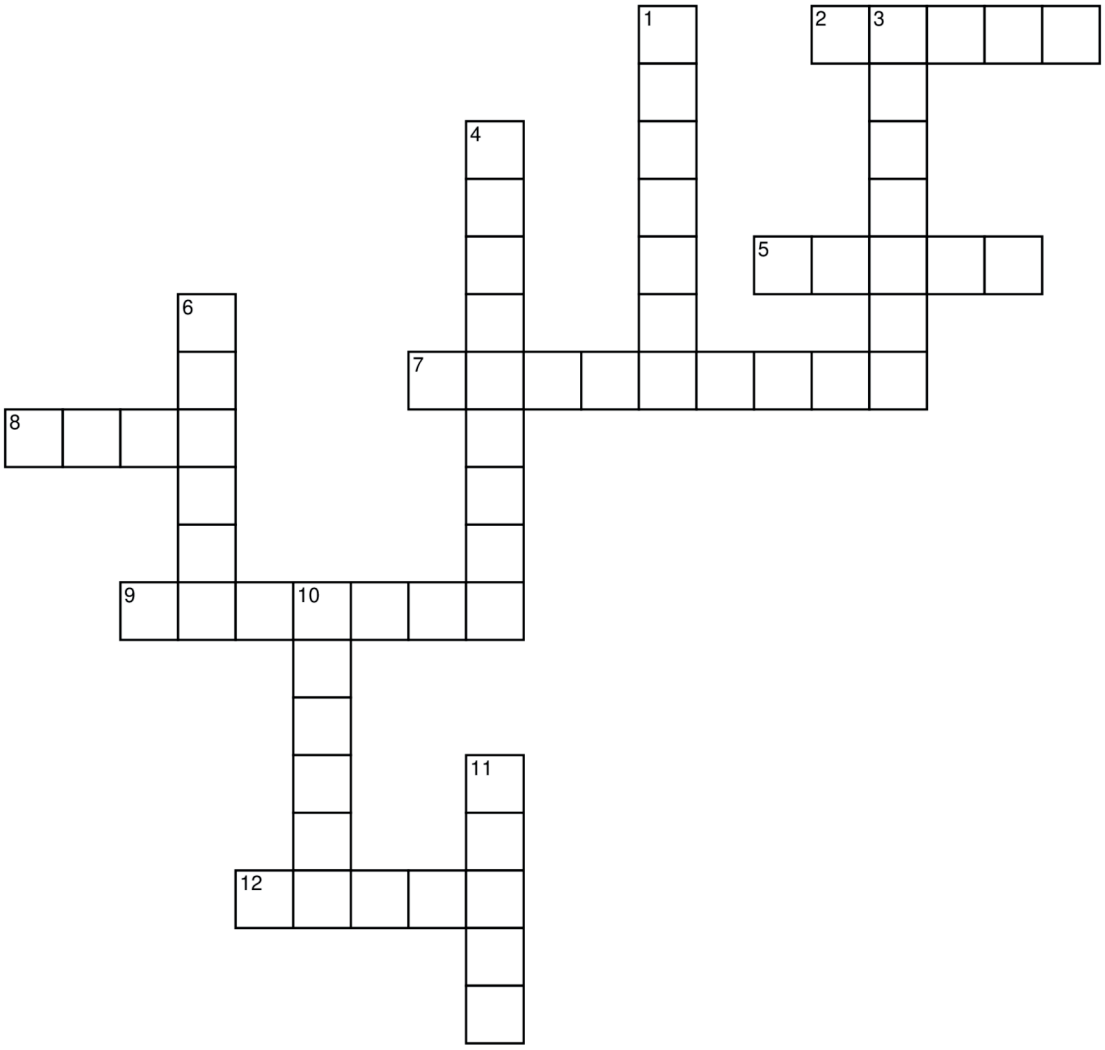
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 2 | | 8 | 1 | 5 | | |
| 3 | | 1 | 9 | | 6 | | | |
| 7 | 8 | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | |
| | 9 | | 8 | 2 | | 7 | | |
| 8 | | | | 9 | | 2 | | |
| 1 | | | | | | 8 | | 9 |
| | 6 | 8 | 4 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | 6 | | |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | | | | 3 | | 2 |

**Helpful Tip:**

If you get stuck, try asking yourself “Where can I place number X in this row or column?” Scan to see if the number is already in that row, column, or box.

# MINI CROSSWORD

## Polar Express



### Across

**[2]** Door chimes
**[5]** What a kettle releases
**[7]** Season of giving
**[8]** Judge's attire
**[9]** Referee carries one
**[12]** Prepare for a race

### Down

**[1]** Sleepy time attire
**[3]** Put into words
**[4]** Top spot for elves?
**[6]** Jingle bells vehicle
**[10]** ___- tongued devil
**[11]** Patron saint of children

# Test Your Knowledge

**Solve the questions below to test your knowledge and give your brain a workout!**

**Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.**

1. The antique vase was _____, having survived in excellent condition for over a century.
A. Common  B. Fragile  C. Rare

2. She decided to _____ the problem from a different perspective.
A. Ignore  B. Approach  C. Expand

3. His _____ sense of humor always brightened the room.
A. Witty  B. Solemn  C. Rigid

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**Solve each problem. Write your answer.**

4. A train travels 180 miles in 3 hours. At the same speed, how far will it travel in 5 hours?

5. A $32 book is on sale for 25% off. What is the sale price?

6. A square garden has a perimeter of 48 feet. How long is each side?



# SOLUTIONS

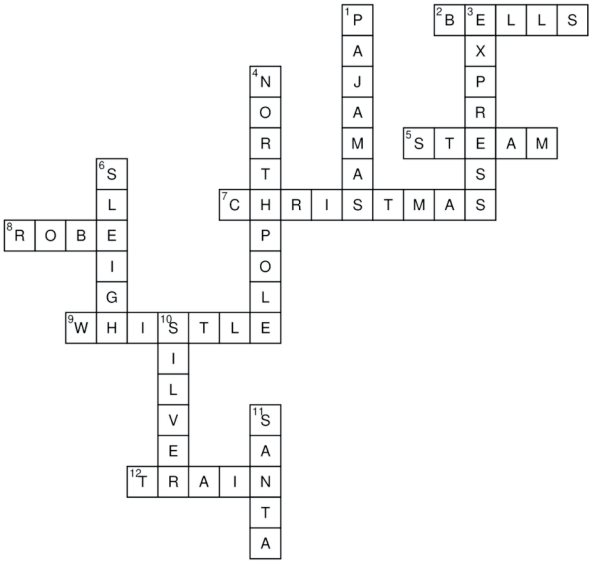
**Trivia Answer: A**

Truffles are a pricey Italian delicacy. Since humans can't smell them, specialized Lagotto Romagnolo dogs now find these fungi, replacing pigs that damaged the ecosystem.




| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2 |




**Test Your Knowledge:**

1. C - Rare
2. B - Approach
3. A - Witty

4. 300 mi. (180 / 3 x 5)
5. $24 ($32 - $8)
6. 12 ft. (48 / 4)