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WM Barbara Spence WP Joe Spencer

DECEMBER 2022 WEEKLY READER #2

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December Birthdays 12-12 Paul Sawyer 12 – 25 Carol Ferris Happy Birthday Birthday Firthday

Grab a pencil and piece of

paper. How many words

can you make using the

letters in "Gingerbread" We

December:

Flower: Narcissus/Paperwhite Birthstone: Turquoise Zodiac Signs: Sagittarius (Archer): November 22–December 21 Capricorn (Goat): December 22– January 19

A gingerbread house is a novelty confectionery shaped like a building that is made of cookie dough,



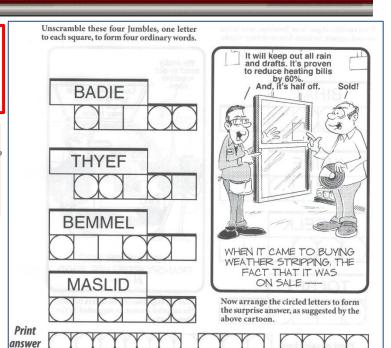
found 83!

cut and baked into appropriate components like walls and roofing. The usual base material is crisp gingerbread, hence the name. Another type of model-making with gingerbread uses a boiled dough that can be molded like clay to form edible statuettes or other decorations. These houses, covered with a variety of candies and icing, are popular Christmas decorations.

Gingerbread refers to a broad category of baked goods, typically flavored with ginger, cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon and sweetened with honey, sugar, or molasses. Gingerbread foods vary, ranging from a soft, moist loaf cake to forms nearly as crisp as a ginger snap.

It is believed gingerbread was first baked in Europe at the end of the 11th century, when returning crusaders brought back the custom of spicy bread from the Middle East. Ginger was not only tasty, it had properties that helped preserve the bread. According to the French legend, gingerbread was brought to Europe in 992 by the Armenian monk Gregory Makar.

(.....cont'd on page 2)



Christmas Cookies

here

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SUGAR	S	Е	Е	0	С	В	S	Ε	L	Κ	Ν	I	R	С
	S	Е	L	D	0	0	D	R	Е	κ	С	Ι	Ν	S
RUGE	D	Α	Е	R	В	Т	R	0	н	S	Α	Ι	Е	В
MACA	I	D	к	L	Ι	Ν	z	Е	R	т	Α	R	т	s
SNICKER	в	т	R	L	Н	с	Α	L	Ε	G	U	R	R	т
OAT	A	S	T	D	I	L	A	E	M	T	A	0	I	H
TEA	A	N	A	0	- U	S	S	L	L	A	В	M	- U	R
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BUCK	0	Е	Ν	0	0	Μ	Α	С	Α	R	0	Ν	S	0

SHORTBREAD BISCOTTI LINZER TARTS SUGAR COOKIES RUGELACH MACARONS SNICKERDOODLES OATMEAL TEA CAKES RUM BALLS CRINKLES MERINGUES PEANUT BLOSSOMS BUCKEYES

(... cont'd)

A gingerbread man is a biscuit or cookie made of gingerbread, usually in the shape of a stylized human being, although other shapes, especially seasonal themes (Christmas, Halloween, Easter, etc.) and characters are common.

"The Gingerbread Man" is a fairy tale about a gingerbread man who comes to life, outruns an elderly couple and various animals, and is devoured by a fox in the end.



According to Real Simple magazine, the ginger root in gingerbread . . .

- ... can aid in digestion (soothing stomach aches),
- ... help with menstrual cramps and morning sickness,
- ... can relieve nausea associated with motion sickness,
- ... and can even assist some with heartburn.

One of the most colorful houseplants there is, the **poinsettia** is a flowering plant. Indigenous to Mexico and Central America, the poinsettia was first described

by Europeans in 1834. It is particularly well known for its red and green foliage and is widely used in

Christmas floral displays. It derives its common English name from Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, who is credited with introducing the plant to the US in the 1820s

Wild poinsettias occur from Mexico to southern Guatemala, growing on mid-elevation, Pacific-facing slopes. Wild poinsettia populations are highly fragmented, as their habitat is experiencing largely unregulated deforestation. They were cultivated by the Aztecs for use in traditional medicine. They became associated with the Christmas holiday and are popular seasonal decorations. Every year in the US, approximately 70 million poinsettias of many cultivated varieties are sold in a six-week period.

> SEALED THE DEAL Jumble answers: ABIDE, KEFTY, EMBLEM, DISMAL

FIND 10 DIFFEPENCES 🚜







If your Poinsettia Plant leaves are falling off it's important to pinpoint the possible cause. Factors such as warm, dry conditions are most often the reason for leaf drop. Stress can also be a factor. Keep the plant in a cool, draft-free area and provide plenty of water.

After the holidays and once blooming has ceased, limit the amount of watering so the plant can go dormant until spring. Then around March or April, regular watering can be resumed, and fertilizing can begin. Prune back the plant to about 6 inches from the top of the container and repot. Poinsettia plants can be kept outdoors in a protected sunny area during summer, if desired. Pinch out the tips to promote branching of new growth until about the middle of August. Once fall returns reduce the amount of fertilizer and bring outdoor plants inside. Once again, limit watering in September/October and give the poinsettia bright daylight temperatures between 65 and 70 degrees F. (16-21 C.) with total darkness at night with cooler temperatures of around 60 degrees F. Once flower has developed definite color, you can reduce the amount of darkness and increase its water.

For more Poinsettia Care – How Do You Take Care Of Poinsettias:

https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/poinsettia/poinsettia-care-how-do-you-take-care-of-poinsettias.htm