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With their bright red, pink or white leaves, poinsettias herald the approach of the holiday season. They are beautiful as stand-alone plants or as components of bigger holiday displays. In the United States, we grow poinsettias as indoor potted plants, most in heated greenhouses, but you might be surprised to know that in its native climate, this subtropical species can grow to more than 10 feet tall.

The person responsible for bringing poinsettias to the United States was Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist, physician, and the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. December 12th is officially Poinsettia Day and marks the 1851 death of Poinsett.

Growers cultivate more than 100 varieties of poinsettias, but the red leaf variety is the most popular. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous. The plant was cleared of this charge by the National Poison Center and the American Medical Association. A study at Ohio State University found that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect. However, the leaves have an awful taste, so you probably don't want to make them part of your salad. It's still a good idea to keep pets away from the plants, because consuming them can cause digestive upset.

More than 34 million poinsettias are sold each year, accounting for about a quarter of the sales of all flowering pot-



ted plants. Even though that may seem like a big money-maker for growers, production is a high-risk venture that has significant start-up costs and requires demanding labor and management. Growers must have a heated greenhouse structure. You can use tobacco greenhouses, but poinsettia production in late summer can compete with labor for tobacco harvest, housing and stripping.

The profit margin for most poinsettia growers is very low because of the highly competitive marketing environment of wholesale and retail markets like local garden centers, florists and grocers, roadside stands, farmer's markets, fundraisers, and direct sales from the farm. Another consideration is the short sale window of about six weeks beginning in early November. Still, growers see a value in producing a crop of poinsettias, because it allows for spreading capital investments over the whole year versus having the greenhouse sit idle during later summer and fall. Growers who cultivate multiple varieties can distinguish themselves a bit from the competition and have a market advantage.

Poinsettias will remain beautiful far beyond the holiday season when cared for properly. Keep these tips in mind: 1) choose a plant with small, tightly clustered yellow



buds in the center and crisp, bright, undamaged foliage; 2) at home, put the poinsettia in a room with bright, natural light. Ideally, plant foliage should be exposed to direct sunlight one or more hours daily; 3) avoid locations where there are drafts and close heat sources. Do not put the plant on top of a television set or near radiators; 4) water the plant when the soil becomes dry... drooping leaves may indicate it needs watering. Be sure to discard excess water in the drip saucer; and 5) if you want to keep a poinsettia after the holiday

season, fertilize it with ordinary houseplant fertilizer a few weeks after buying it. For more information, contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557. The Estill County Extension office will be closed December 21st through January 1st for the holidays. We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season!

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Wishing Well®

8	2	3	4	3	6	4	8	3	8	3	5	3
Y	A	P	E	R	A	M	O	A	U	C	W	T
7	2	3	5	6	8	2	4	6	2	6	2	5
T	C	I	A	G	H	H	O	O	A	O	N	Y
2	4	7	3	5	7	8	2	6	4	5	6	3
G	T	R	C	O	U	E	E	D	I	U	M	E
6	4	7	4	5	6	8	6	3	8	5	3	2
O	O	S	N	T	V	E	E	P	D	I	A	I
4	2	5	8	3	5	2	7	4	3	7	2	3
A	N	D	A	T	E	S	T	L	I	I	T	E
5	4	8	7	8	3	7	8	4	2	4	3	7
A	T	D	N	V	N	T	I	A	A	L	C	U
4	2	3	8	7	8	7	2	7	2	7	5	7
K	T	E	C	I	E	T	U	I	S	O	S	N

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: A equals E

ZR CLNALWA TUK U IZKA MUBZAXO
LR NLBUY GBZWQZGYAC, ILJYK
OLJ QUYY ZX AXTZQ KZMABCZXO?

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

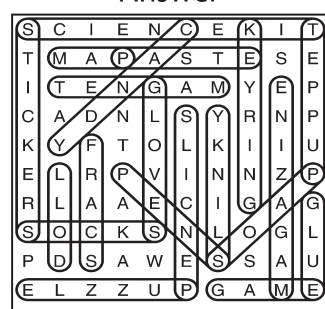
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

Q VHRJ NQR SNHVMR, Q ZQS
NQR ZAQR; ZJVSQKMAI CHSN
QVJ EHVSJ SNJ VKRD.
— XMDMHEM

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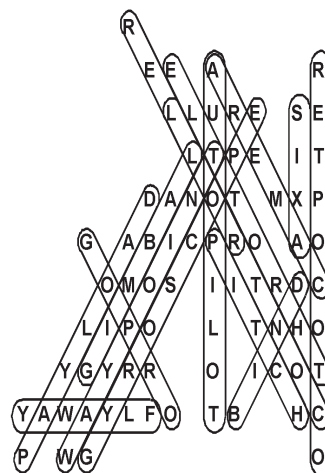
Puzzle Answers December 9, 2020

Puzzles4Kids Answer

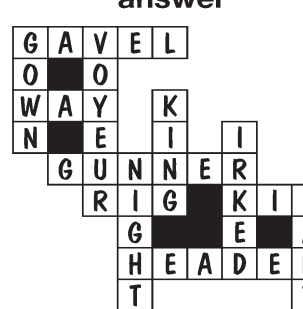


Riddle Answer:
Santa Paws.

DRONE TERMINOLOGY



FEAR & KNIGHT answer

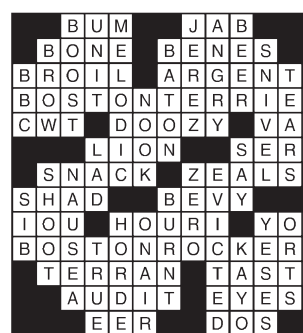


Even Exchange answers

- Cooper, Copper
- Minor, Minot
- Grape, Grade
- Tense, Dense
- Aware, Awake
- Squeak, Squeal
- Bolton, Boston
- Crane, Crate
- Least, Leash
- Hurdle, Huddle

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

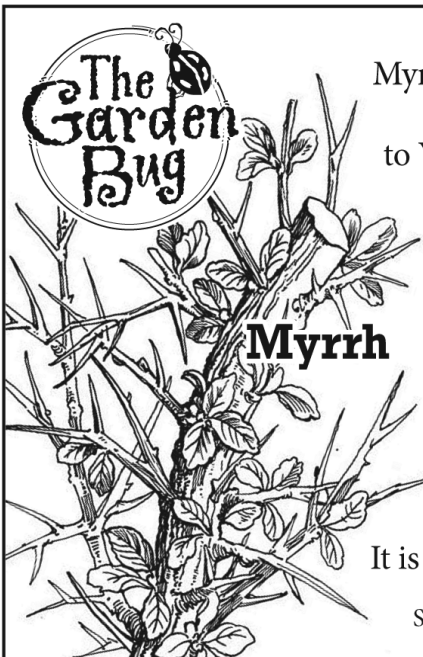
Letter Box Solution

D	O	Y	A	E	R	H	V	C
V	R	C	D	O	H	E	Y	A
H	E	A	V	Y	C	O	R	D
O	D	V	E	H	Y	A	C	R
A	C	E	R	V	O	Y	D	H
R	Y	H	C	D	A	V	O	E
E	A	D	Y	R	V	C	H	O
C	V	O	H	A	D	R	E	Y
Y	H	R	O	C	E	D	A	V

Bible Trivia Answers

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.

ANSWERS (1) Neither; (2) Av-gustus; (3) Does not; (4) Jacob/Hell; (5) Nazareth; (6) Bible not specific;



Myrrh resin is harvested from the species *commiphora myrrha*, which is native to Yemen, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Used medicinally to treat indigestion, ulcers, colds, cough, asthma, lung congestion, cancer, spasms, arthritis pain, leprosy and syphilis, it can also be applied directly to the mouth for gum and tooth problems, and to the skin for wounds, abrasions, and boils, as it is considered effective against inflammation and bacterial infection. It is also used in embalming. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: 1000bibleimages, wikipedia.org, webmd.com

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The Humble Tree
Holiday trees don't have to cost a lot to decorate. Decide on a theme, and then go to your favorite craft store to find the items you need. Bird-related items are very easy to find. Having a tree filled with lights in your home can be very peaceful. Enjoy!

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Puzzle Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Answers

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

If someone had a wide variety of moral principles, would you call it ethic diversity?
answer
CryptoQuip

— Unknown
are worth the risk.
has claws; certainly both
A rose has thorns, a cat
answer
CryptoQuote

Bible Word Search on Page 7

Stickeler's Answer

STICKELERS [sic]
by Terry Stickels

Today we have an alphabetic reminding us that it's almost prom season.

IT'S TIME + TO DANCE
Let E = 5
O = 8
T = 9
No word can begin with zero

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Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 7