

ABC's...of Christmas

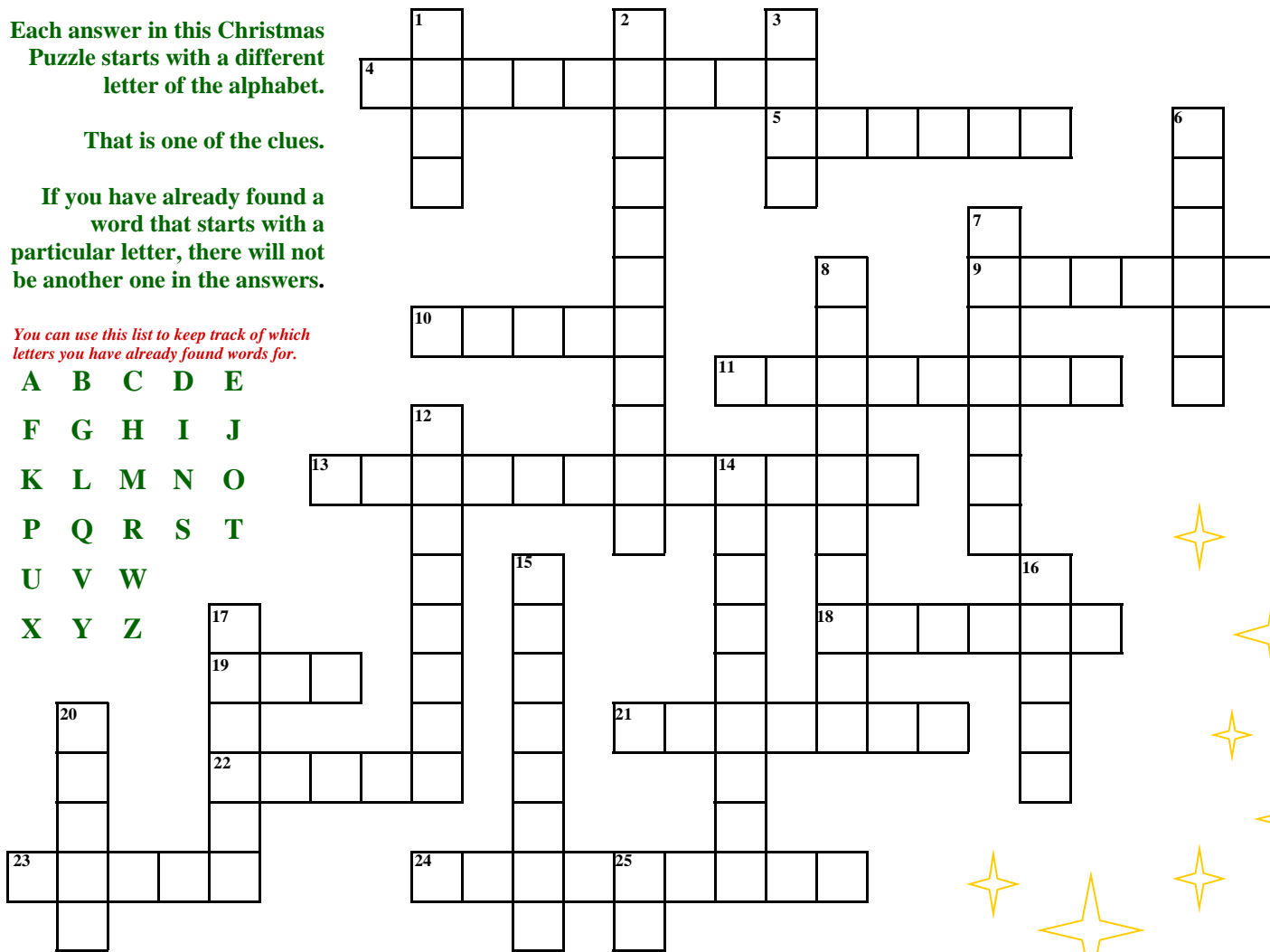
Each answer in this Christmas Puzzle starts with a different letter of the alphabet.

That is one of the clues.

If you have already found a word that starts with a particular letter, there will not be another one in the answers.

You can use this list to keep track of which letters you have already found words for.

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



Across

4. The city that Jesus was born in.
5. Responsible for letting the shepherds know about the birth of Jesus.
9. What you do with Christmas presents.
10. What children need to be when waiting up for Santa to come.
11. If there was an iconic Christmas animal, this would be it.
13. Made from tree resin and used in aromatherapy, is one of the presents that the Wise Men brought to Jesus.
18. This popular tree decoration originated in Germany in the early 1600's and was made from shredded silver...yes, real silver.
19. In Germany, a piece of this popular Christmas greenery was tied to the outside of a Church to protect it from lightning. This plant was believed to be a female plant. An old tradition from the Midlands of England says that if this was brought into the house first over winter, the woman of the house would rule that year! But it was unlucky to bring it into a house before Christmas Eve.
21. This kind of decoration was originally made from flowers or

- leaves. Now they are made from a variety of materials including tinsel and popcorn.
22. In Scandinavia it is known as the Christ Thorn. In pagan times it was hung in the home to ward off evil. This plant was believed to be a male plant. An old tradition from the Midlands of England says that if this was brought into the house first over winter, the man of the house would rule that year! But it was unlucky to bring it into a house before Christmas Eve.
23. As early as A.D. 200, the argument ensued that these travelers, even though they were Astronomers by trade, might be of this royal title.
24. Invented in Germany by Hans Greiner in the 1500's, they replaced apples and pastries as tree decorations.
26. What the Magi followed to find the baby Jesus.

Down

1. A word that means "great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective" can be used to describe many Christmas fans.
2. Queen Victoria declared that it was bad luck to keep these up after the 12th day of Christmas (Jan 5th).
3. This popular holiday shortener comes from the Greek letter Chi which is the first letter of the Greek word "Christ" combined with the Latin-derived Old English word for Mass.
6. Derived from an English word meaning to twist, this item was initially hung on doors in Ancient Rome to represent victory.
7. This European tradition dates back to 1184 and is supposed to be big enough to burn for the entire 12 days of Christmas. However, not all of it is burned. A small portion is saved to light the next year's.
8. Native to Central America, this is popular Christmas plant since it blooms in the winter.
12. St. Francis of Assisi was the one credited for staging the first of this popular scene in 1223.

14. This main decoration was adopted from the pagans and in the old days was sometimes hung upside down suspended from the rafters or chandeliers.
15. This musical pagan tradition that was performed during the Winter Solstice was adopted by the earliest Christians and taken into the streets during the Christmas holiday.
16. The reason for the season.
17. These wonderful decorations became the much safer option to candles on Christmas trees beginning in the 1880's.
20. Something that people do during the Christmas season, especially with their families.
25. A fragrant gum resin obtained from certain trees and used, especially in the Near East, in perfumery, medicines, and incense.

