Christmas Math Riddles

Cut out the cards. Read carefully: some riddles are trickier than they look!

1 GRADES 3–5

Santa's sleigh is pulled by 9 reindeer, and Santa is sitting in the sleigh. How many legs are touching the snow?

Answer: _____

2 GRADES 3–5

Double me and you get the date of Christmas Eve. What number am I?

Answer: _____

3 GRADES 3–5

An elf wraps 6 presents every 10 minutes. How many presents does she wrap in 1 hour?

Answer: _____

4 GRADES 3–5

How many presents can Santa put into an empty sack?

Answer: _____

5 GRADES 3–5

A baker makes 20 gingerbread men. All but 7 get eaten. How many are left?

Answer: _____

6 GRADES 6–8

I'm a two-digit number. My digits add up to 7 and multiply to 10. Swap my digits and you get Christmas Day's date. What am I?

Answer: _____

7 GRADES 6–8

A tree and a star cost $110 together. The tree costs $100 more than the star. How much is the star?

Answer: _____

8 GRADES 6–8

Frosty is 3 snowballs stacked up. Each one is half as wide as the one below it, and the bottom one is 80 cm wide. How tall is Frosty?

Answer: _____

9 GRADES 6–8

A $40 sweater is 25% off before Christmas. After Christmas, its new price goes up by 25%. Is it back to $40?

Answer: _____

10 GRADES 6–8

An elf gets 1 cookie on December 1, and the number doubles every day. How many cookies on December 25?

Answer: _____

Christmas Math Puzzles

Brain teasers for early finishers. Show your thinking!

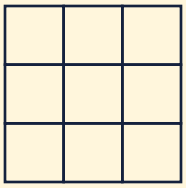
11 PUZZLE

In the 12 Days of Christmas, you get 1 gift on day 1, 1 + 2 on day 2, 1 + 2 + 3 on day 3, and so on. How many gifts in all 12 days?

Answer: _____

12 PUZZLE

Put the numbers 1 to 9 in a 3 × 3 grid so every row, column and diagonal adds up to 15.



Answer: in the grid

13 PUZZLE

10 elves are at a party. Every elf high-fives every other elf exactly once. How many high-fives?

Answer: _____

14 PUZZLE

Ornaments hang on a triangle tree: 1 on the top row, 2 on the next, 3 on the next… How many ornaments on a tree with 7 rows?

Answer: _____

15 PUZZLE

In Santa's stable there are 30 heads and 100 legs. Every one is a reindeer (4 legs) or an elf (2 legs). How many reindeer?

Answer: _____

Answer Key

Christmas math riddles and puzzles 1–15

1	36 (9 × 4). Santa's legs are in the sleigh!
2	12, because 12 × 2 = 24
3	36 (6 groups of 10 minutes × 6)
4	One. After that, the sack isn't empty!
5	7 ("all but 7" means 7 survive)
6	52 (5 + 2 = 7, 5 × 2 = 10, swapped: 25)
7	$5 (tree $105). $10 is the classic wrong answer.
8	140 cm (80 + 40 + 20)
9	No. $40, then $30, then $37.50
10	16,777,216 cookies (2 to the 24th power)
11	364 (one for almost every day of the year)
12	2 7 6 / 9 5 1 / 4 3 8 (5 always goes in the middle)
13	45 (10 × 9 ÷ 2)
14	28 (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)
15	20 reindeer and 10 elves