

Holiday Hoopla 2020

Common Ground

Answer: DIADELOSREYES

So if you just read the Mutiny solution (We know. We're sorry.), you probably saw that there was an old version of the chess puzzle. The answer for that is kind of connected to the answer for Common Ground (it was just "REYES").

When we set out to make this puzzle hunt happen, we already knew that these puzzles weren't just going to be focused on Christmas. We tried to include a variety of holidays and themes, and we hope to include more if we manage to pull this off again next year (hopefully it'll be less chaotic!). So, when we started to make this puzzle, we already knew we wanted the answer to be "DIA DE LOS REYES." Now came the hard part: actually making the puzzle.

One of our original puzzle ideas was basically just the phrase "something related to an airport," since so many people fly and travel during the holidays (well, when there isn't a pandemic) and so we pulled that idea to make this tragedy of a puzzle.

Basically, if you put the terminals in order of the corresponding times from earliest to latest, it spells out "THREE KINGS DAY."

Now, you read the flavor text one more time, which says that you shouldn't speak English. When you map out all the flights listed (yes, those are all airport codes), they all fly over Spain. So, this means you have to find the Spanish name for the holiday, which is "DIADELOSREYES."

Shoutout to all the teams that anagrammed the letters that spelled "THREEKINGSDAY" without actually trying to solve it, and then just looked up words relating to that which fit the answer. Or, to the teams who just looked up the date of "January 6, 2021" and found the holiday that matched. Those are both perfectly valid solutions.