

And... that's a wrap!

Thank you to all the teams who participated in Holiday Hoopla! We hope you had a wonderful time, and we can't wait to see you back next year<3

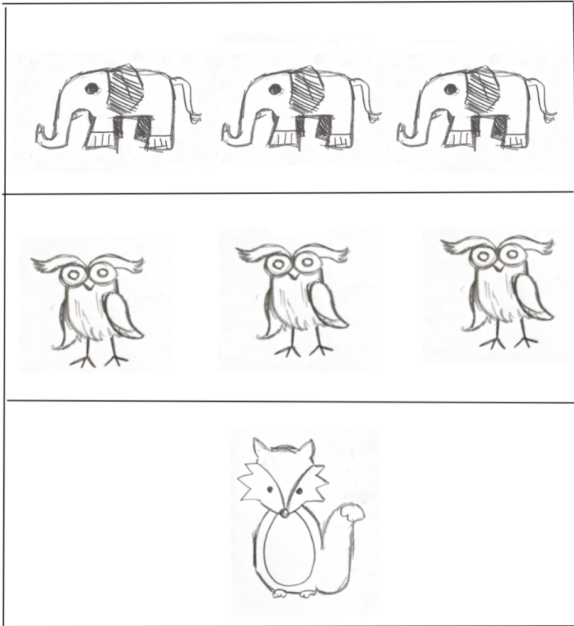
A special congratulations to teams WASLaplace, Axolotls Boxing, and Cult of Idiotic Avians, who completed Holiday Hoopla 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively! Plus, a shout-out to any teams who returned to our puzzle hunt for the third time this year. Whether you solved all the puzzles or none, we hope you know we're incredibly proud of you.

Lastly (but most certainly not least), thank you so much to the incredible Team Cheatahs for all of your priceless testsolving help, as well as for allowing us to use your puzzle, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," in this hunt! We couldn't have puzzled it off without you.

Solutions are below.

Winter Sculptures

In this puzzle, the number of animals in each section is used to index the name of each animal.



(3) ELEPHANT = E

(3) OWL = L

(1) FOX = F

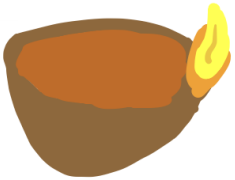
This spells out "ELF."

Diya Dilemma

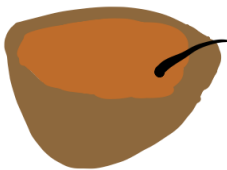
Morse code based on the size of the flame!



is a dash



is a dot



is a space

This gives you

-. . . . - - -

which translates to “CELEBRATE” !

Candelabra

This is a simple puzzle with only a few steps. In the flavor text, “as ciip” clues to the ASCII chart (and can be read as “as cheap”). Using the numbers on the candles, ignore the first two numbers on each candle (“19”), and you’ll have the following list of numbers:

77
69
78
79
82
65
72

Then, using the ASCII chart, change each decimal number (as seen in the flavor text “decimal yourself”) to the corresponding letter.

77 = m
69 = e
78 = n
79 = o
82 = r
65 = a
72 = h

Therefore, the answer is
“MENORAH.”

Decimal - Binary - Octal - Hex – ASCII Conversion Chart									
Decimal	Binary	Octal	Hex	ASCII	Decimal	Binary	Octal	Hex	ASCII
0	00000000	000	00	NUL	32	00100000	040	20	SP
1	00000001	001	01	SOH	33	00100001	041	21	!
2	00000010	002	02	STX	34	00100010	042	22	"
3	00000011	003	03	ETX	35	00100011	043	23	#
4	00000100	004	04	EOT	36	00100100	044	24	\$
5	00000101	005	05	ENQ	37	00100101	045	25	%
6	00000110	006	06	ACK	38	00100110	046	26	&
7	00000111	007	07	BEL	39	00100111	047	27	'
8	00001000	010	08	BS	40	00101000	050	28	(
9	00001001	011	09	HT	41	00101001	051	29	)
10	00001010	012	0A	LF	42	00101010	052	2A	*
11	00001011	013	0B	VT	43	00101011	053	2B	+
12	00001100	014	0C	FF	44	00101100	054	2C	,
13	00001101	015	0D	CR	45	00101101	055	2D	-
14	00001110	016	0E	SO	46	00101110	056	2E	.
15	00001111	017	0F	SI	47	00101111	057	2F	/
16	00010000	020	10	DLE	48	00100000	060	30	0
17	00010001	021	11	DC1	49	00100001	061	31	1
18	00010010	022	12	DC2	50	00100010	062	32	2
19	00010011	023	13	DC3	51	00100011	063	33	3
20	00010100	024	14	DC4	52	00100100	064	34	4
21	00010101	025	15	NAK	53	00100101	065	35	5
22	00010110	026	16	SYN	54	00100110	066	36	6
23	00010111	027	17	ETB	55	00100111	067	37	7
24	00011000	030	18	CAN	56	00110000	070	38	8
25	00011001	031	19	EM	57	00110001	071	39	9
26	00011010	032	1A	SUB	58	00110010	072	3A	:
27	00011011	033	1B	ESC	59	00110011	073	3B	;
28	00011100	034	1C	FS	60	00111000	074	3C	<
29	00011101	035	1D	GS	61	00111001	075	3D	=
30	00011110	036	1E	RS	62	00111010	076	3E	>
31	00011111	037	1F	US	63	00111011	077	3F	?
64	01000000	100	40	@	74	01001010	112	4A	J
65	01000001	101	41	A	75	01001011	113	4B	K
66	01000010	102	42	B	76	01001100	114	4C	L
67	01000011	103	43	C	77	01001101	115	4D	M
68	01000100	104	44	D	78	01001110	116	4E	N
69	01000101	105	45	E	79	01001111	117	4F	O
70	01000110	106	46	F	80	01010000	120	50	P
71	01000111	107	47	G	81	01010001	121	51	Q
72	01010000	110	48	H	82	01010010	122	52	R
73	01010001	111	49	I	83	01010011	123	53	S
74	01010010	112	4A	J	84	01010100	124	54	T
75	01010011	113	4B	K	85	01010101	125	55	U
76	01010100	114	4C	L	86	01010110	126	56	V
77	01010101	115	4D	M	87	01010111	127	57	W
78	01010110	116	4E	N	88	01011000	130	58	X
79	01010111	117	4F	O	89	01011001	131	59	Y
80	01010000	120	50	P	90	01011010	132	5A	Z
81	01010001	121	51	Q	91	01011011	133	5B	[
82	01010010	122	52	R	92	01011100	134	5C	\
83	01010011	123	53	S	93	01011101	135	5D	]
84	01010100	124	54	T	94	01011110	136	5E	^
85	01010101	125	55	U	95	01011111	137	5F	_
86	01010110	126	56	V	96	01100000	140	60	`
87	01010111	127	57	W	97	01100001	141	61	a
88	01011000	130	58	X	98	01100010	142	62	b
89	01011001	131	59	Y	99	01100011	143	63	c
90	01011010	132	5A	Z	100	01100100	144	64	d
91	01011011	133	5B	[	101	01100101	145	65	e
92	01011100	134	5C	\	102	01100110	146	66	f
93	01011101	135	5D	]	103	01100111	147	67	g
94	01011110	136	5E	^	104	01101000	150	68	h
95	01011111	137	5F	_	105	01101001	151	69	i
96	01100000	140	60	`	106	01101010	152	6A	j
97	01100001	141	61	a	107	01101011	153	6B	k
98	01100010	142	62	b	108	01101100	154	6C	l
99	01100011	143	63	c	109	01101101	155	6D	m
100	01100100	144	64	d	110	01101110	156	6E	n
101	01100101	145	65	e	111	01101111	157	6F	o
102	01100110	146	66	f	112	01110000	160	70	p
103	01100111	147	67	g	113	01110001	161	71	q
104	01101000	150	68	h	114	01110010	162	72	r
105	01101001	151	69	i	115	01110011	163	73	s
106	01101010	152	6A	j	116	01110010	164	74	t
107	01101011	153	6B	k	117	01110011	165	75	u
108	01101100	154	6C	l	118	01110100	166	76	v
109	01101101	155	6D	m	119	01110101	167	77	w
110	01101110	156	6E	n	120	01110100	170	78	x
111	01101111	157	6F	o	121	01110101	171	79	y
112	01110000	160	70	p	122	01110101	172	7A	z
113	01110001	161	71	q	123	01110101	173	7B	{
114	01110010	162	72	r	124	01111000	174	7C	
115	01110011	163	73	s	125	01111001	175	7D	}
116	01110010	164	74	t	126	01111010	176	7E	~
117	01110011	165	75	u	127	01111111	177	7F	DEL

Line Up

This puzzle contains a list of clothing items, representing people in a line. The flavor text mentions “first” and grouping people together, so you first want to group the different clothes by the same first letter. Then, you want to cross out any repeating words, because you need to “ignore twins.”

Pants
Argyle sweater
Plaid jacket
Elevator shoes
Pantyhose tights
Apron
Adidas tights
Derby hat
Ankle gown
Rain hat
Romper
Embroidered sweater
Running shorts
Pink shirt
Dance shoes
Armband
Aviator jacket
Ascot tie
Elegant tie
Red shirt
Dress
Art smock
Evening gown
Athletic shorts
Denim smock
Ear-muffs

After crossing out the doubles, you’re left with a list of clothes whose first letters spell out “PARADE.”

Vitamin See

This puzzle was written strictly for the enjoyment of cheese enthusiasts.

If you phonetically sound out the phrases we gave you, they each sound really similar to a type of cheese. An easy way to go about this if you weren't sure would've been to type your best guess of the actual spelling into Google to see what it came up with. Then, you index the number into the actual name of the cheese. Here's what you get:

p -- Époisses -- ay pwas (2)
o -- Mozzarella -- mot tzar ella (2)
i -- Vacherin -- vosh uh ren (7)
n -- Manchego -- mahn shay go (3)
t -- Fontina -- fun teen uh (4)
s -- Asiago -- ah see ah go (2)
e -- Roquefort -- roke fert (5)
t -- Camembert -- cam ahm bear (9)
t -- Burrata -- Brrrr at ah (6)
i -- Havarti -- have art ee (7)
a -- Gouda -- good ah (5)

The answer is, of course, "POINSETTIA"

The Bookstore

Riddles! Each clue is an easy riddle!

SUGAR

How to Bake: I sweeten everything in a natural way.

TEA

Beverages Through the Centuries: I'm ancient, from Asia.

OSTRICH

Ornithology for Beginners: I'm flightless, but at least I run fast.

RAGE

The Emotion Dictionary: I have four letters and describe extreme anger, but people can also fly into me.

YOU

The Secret Romantics: It's me and ____, forever.

RABBIT

Life in the Prairie: I hop, hop, hop, I have long ears, and I have six letters.

EAGLE

Scary Birds: Sometimes I'm bald, but sometimes I'm just a massive and scary bird of prey.

DANDELIONS

Flowers and Fields: I am a fragile yellow thing, but when I'm in my white form, I can be easily blown away.

NAPKIN

Etiquette: I sit quietly folded until mealtime, and then I clean up your individual messes.

ORANGE

Fruits: I'm a lovely little fruit, and I have the same name as the color of a traffic cone.

SLEEP

Biology for the Concerned: I am an action that you do every night, and I help you recharge for the next day.

ELEPHANT

Welcome to Africa: I have really large ears, and also a trunk.

BOOKS

Literature for the Curious: I am a collection of pages, the very thing sold at the store you are currently visiting.

RING

Jewelry in the Modern World: I am worn on a finger, and I am often made of metal and diamonds.

OATMEAL

Breakfast Foods: I am healthy for the eater, and am made of oats. Some people may take me with milk or fruits.

WALL

Architectural Basics: I am the very tall thing that divides two rooms, but I do not swing open. I can also enclose a space, and I am sometimes made of plaster.

NIGHTGOWN

How to Dress for All Situations: I'm a dress, but you wear me when it's time to sleep.

QUINOA

The Healthy Cookbook: I'm like rice but rounder and healthier for you, and I'm secretly a bunch of little seeds.

UMBRELLA

The Weatherman: I shield you from the rain, but you don't wear me -- you hold me.

IGLOO

Life in the Cold: Think of me like a little round hut that could melt if you place me in the wrong weather.

HOOD

How to Survive Canadian Winter: You put me up over your hair when it's cold, but I'm also at the very front of your car.

Then, you plug the first letters of each section in to the blanks at the bottom, and get one final riddle, whose answer is "RUDOLPH"

Dessert Dilemma

You can link each letter to a number, like so:

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50

Each of the given phrases refers to changing the number you are currently on.

1	CHEF ABBA:	Well, of course, you start at the beginning.
6	Chef Queen:	Ok, fine, but you then have to go to the number of letters in Newton's second law and third law quantity, and then one more than that.
7	CHEF ABBA:	You're so pretentious. Sure, but then you have to go one forward.
8	Chef Queen:	Fine, but only if you go one more forward after that.
13	CHEF ABBA:	Then, I vote that we add the number of letters in the name of a famous dance from Buenos Aires to where we already are.
18	Chef Queen:	Hm. Add that same quantity again.
17	CHEF ABBA:	You know what? Just for you, let's subtract one.
22	Chef Queen:	Fine, move. But the n is a v.
27	CHEF ABBA:	Not to copy your last instructions, but you now need to move by the number of letters in $PV=nRT$ (a very solid equation).
32	Chef Queen:	Sure. Do that one more time.
33	CHEF ABBA:	You're so boring! Go to the first odd prime number multiplied by the first double digit prime number.
34	Chef Queen:	Add the number of steps in a waltz sequence, divided by three, to that.
29	CHEF ABBA:	How about subtracting five from that?

30	Chef Queen:	Yeah, yeah, whatever. Move forward one, though.
35	CHEF ABBA:	Oh, oh, I know! Move by the number of lettes in the name of this famous hyphenated dance form, but minus one (a hyphen isn't a letter, to be clear).
40	Chef Queen:	Okie dokie. Move forward by the number of letters in the name of the most condensed of the three states of matter that we talk most often about.
45	CHEF ABBA:	I'll make this one easy. Just add five.
50	Chef Queen:	Obviously, we'll end with a square five, but two times.

1, C	2, A	3, F	4, R	5, E
6, H	7, O	8, C	9, O	10, L
11, D	12, Y	13, O	14, T	15, I
16, T	17, A	18, L	19, J	20, B
21, E	22, T	23, E	24, K	25, B
26, F	27, E	28, G	29, G	30, E
31, D	32, F	33, U	34, D	35, P
36, M	37, S	38, D	39, P	40, I
41, N	42, U	43, D	44, I	45, E
46, C	47, V	48, H	49, A	50, S

When you mark the squares with corresponding numbers, it spells out
“CHOCOLATEFUDGEPIE”

Card Games

Each drawing on the cards in this puzzle represents a different winter themed movie. After you have the list of movies, use the number on the card to index for the final answer.



Home Alone - 1 - H

The Polar Express - 5 - O

Elf - 2 - L

How the Grinch Stole Christmas - 9 - I

Rise of the Guardians - 14 - D

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles - 3 - A

The Holiday - 10 - Y

A Charlie Brown Christmas - 2 - C

The Nutcracker - 9 - A

The Nightmare Before Christmas - 11 - R

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - 3 - D

Klaus - 5 - S

This spells out "HOLIDAYCARDS."

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Thank you to The Rammer from our wonderful test solving team, The Cheatahs, for sending us this puzzle!

Each grid basically works as a word search for numbers 1-12 (“ONE,” “TWO,” ..., “TWELVE”). Once you find all the numbers, there’s one square left in each grid, and these squares spell out “SNOW”

N	E	V	E	S	T		N	E	V	E	S	O		N	E	I	G	H	T		N	T	H	G	I	E
T	E	N	S	I	W		E	V	E	N	I	N		N	E	V	E	S	W		E	E	R	H	T	E
H	R	V	I	X	E		V	L	V	R	X	E		F	I	V	E	O	E		V	N	V	U	W	V
G	H	U	E	N	L		E	E	I	G	H	T		S	O	N	E	T	L		E	W	I	E	O	I
I	T	W	O	L	V		L	W	F	N	W	T		I	W	U	E	L	V		S	I	X	N	L	F
E	V	I	F	F	E		E	T	F	O	U	R		X	T	H	R	E	E		T	W	E	L	V	E

Pls Help Me Choose What To Get In My Hot Chocolate Thx

Each pair of words works like this: they anagram to the same word, but they each have one letter wrong. For example, a pair that fits the word “red” could be “bed” and “rad.” For each pair, the word they anagram to is a cooking ingredient, or *flavor*.

caramel

caldera - m

miracle - a

sugar

usage - r

guard - s

thyme

empty - h

ethyl - m

vanilla

villain - a

valiant - l

lemon

demon - l

lumen - o

cashews

crashes - w

watches - s

When you take the missing letters from each anagram, it spells out “MARSHMALLOWS.”