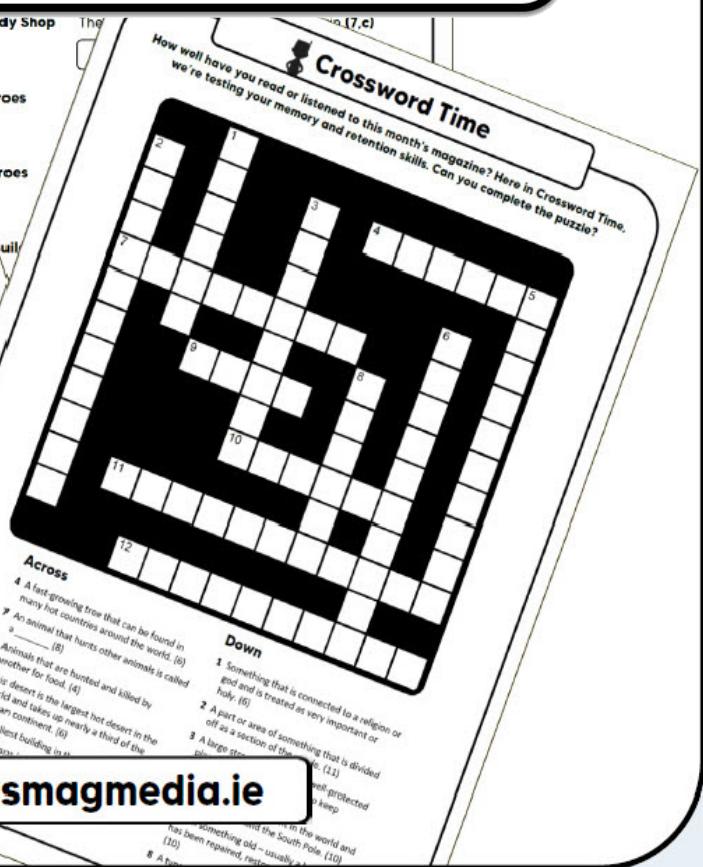
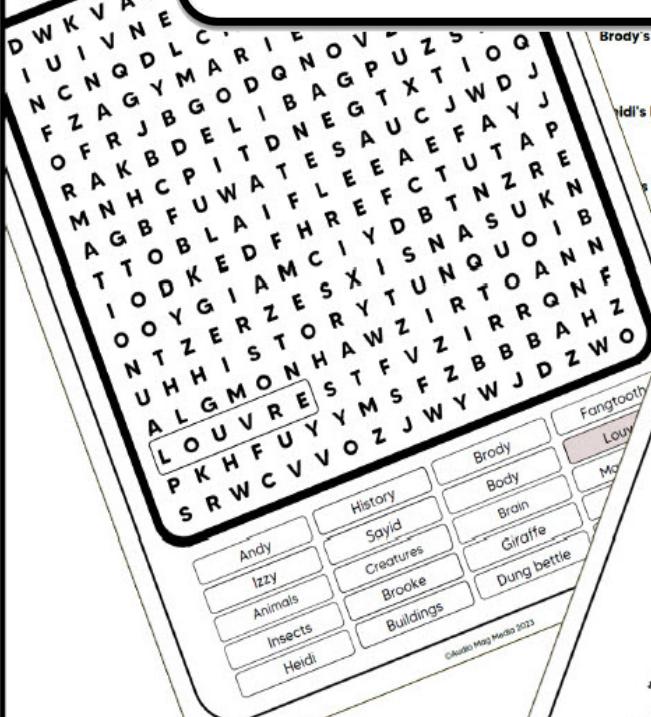


# News Flash

## Teacher Resource Pack

Teacher Resource Pack  
December 2025  
Issue #99



[www.newsmagmedia.ie](http://www.newsmagmedia.ie)



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## New 68-PAGE AG MAG OUT!

We're delighted to let you know that AG MAG, Ireland's brand-new farming magazine for children, has just launched! Packed with stories, facts, interviews and safety tips, AG MAG is created especially for pupils who are curious about farming life and the world of agriculture.

Want to find out more? Visit [www.agmag.ie](http://www.agmag.ie)

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For queries relating to resources, email [stephen@newsmagmedia.ie](mailto:stephen@newsmagmedia.ie)



**20%  
OFF**



## The Fact Factory Reading Kit Available to SETs

Having collaborated with the Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI) and the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), News Mag Media have proudly created the world's first audio-print magazine for children with print disabilities - dyslexia, visual impairment, reluctant readers, children with ASD and EAL being the most common. The purpose of the kit is to empower marginalised readers, inspire engagement with text, instil a love of reading and, ultimately, help every child, regardless of needs, feel included when it comes to reading. We hope (and believe) you will see the potential that the kit and magazines hold for print-disabled children.

“ We love *The Fact Factory* magazine and pen kit! It's a fantastic child-friendly resource. We have children with reading difficulties and dyslexia, as well as children with visual impairments, who absolutely love this resource!

**Catherine, SET, Athlone**

**IDEAL FOR CHILDREN WITH ...**

 **DYSLEXIA**  **VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**  
 **EAL**  **RELUCTANT READERS**

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## Fill in the Blanks #1

Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then, read the article. Make sure you think about the best place to put a word, not the first place. Careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

### King Tutankhamen

pharaoh

afterlife

world

history

know

treasures

statues

mask

responsibilities

King Tutankhamen, often called King Tut, was one of the most famous pharaohs of ancient Egypt. He became ruler at a very young age, and many adults helped him make important decisions for his kingdom. King Tut lived during a time when Egypt was filled with grand temples, powerful priests, and strong beliefs about the \_\_\_\_\_ (1). Because he was only a child when he became pharaoh, he needed guidance from trusted advisers who understood the \_\_\_\_\_ (2) of ruling a large land.

When King Tut died at around eighteen, he was buried in a tomb packed with valuable \_\_\_\_\_ (3). For thousands of years, his resting place remained hidden beneath the desert sands. In 1922, the explorer Howard Carter discovered the tomb after years of searching, and he was amazed by the golden \_\_\_\_\_ (4) and beautiful objects inside. One of the most famous items was the stunning burial \_\_\_\_\_ (5) that covered King Tut's face.

The discovery of the tomb helped historians learn more about ancient Egyptian life. They studied the objects carefully to understand what people valued and how they prepared for death. Today, King Tut remains an important \_\_\_\_\_ (6) who continues to fascinate people around the \_\_\_\_\_ (7). Museums display his treasures to help visitors understand Egypt's long \_\_\_\_\_ (8) and rich culture. His story shows how one discovery can change what we \_\_\_\_\_ (9) about the past.



## Fill in the Blanks #2

Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then, read the article. Make sure you think about the best place to put a word, not the first place. Careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

### Frida Kahlo

true  
traditions  
feelings  
colours  
artist  
museum  
style  
paintings  
strength

Frida Kahlo was a famous Mexican artist known for her bright colours, bold ideas, and powerful paintings. She was born in Mexico City in 1907 and grew up in a lively home filled with music, stories, and traditional art. When Frida was a teenager, she was badly injured in a bus accident, and she spent many months recovering in bed. During this time, she began to paint more seriously, using brushes, mirrors, and her imagination to express her \_\_\_\_\_ (1).

Frida often painted self-portraits, which showed her face, emotions, and the world around her. Many of her paintings included animals such as monkeys, parrots, and dogs, which she kept as pets. She also used bright \_\_\_\_\_ (2) inspired by Mexican clothing and festivals. Frida's artwork became known for its honesty, strength, and unique \_\_\_\_\_ (3).

As she grew older, Frida continued to paint even when she was in pain. She travelled to the United States and Europe, where people admired her talent and invited her to show her \_\_\_\_\_ (4) in exhibitions. Today, Frida Kahlo is remembered as an important \_\_\_\_\_ (5) who encouraged people to be proud of their identity and culture. Her home, called the Blue House, is now a \_\_\_\_\_ (6) that many people visit each year. Frida's art continues to inspire those who value creativity, courage, and staying \_\_\_\_\_ (7) to oneself. Children learn about her to understand how art can express feelings, tell stories, and share \_\_\_\_\_ (8) from different cultures. Frida Kahlo's life teaches us that challenges can be turned into \_\_\_\_\_ (9).



## Fill in the Blanks #3

Read through the words in the Word Bank first and make sure you understand them. Then, read the article. Make sure you think about the best place to put a word, not the first place. Careful as you go, as some words may fit in more than one place, while other words will only suit one.

### Irish Christmas Traditions

religious

kindness

brandy

family

year

vegetables

walk

reindeer

streets

Christmas in Ireland is a joyful time filled with special traditions that have been passed down through many generations. Families begin preparing early in December by decorating their homes with holly, candles, and colourful lights. One old Irish custom is to place a bright candle in the window on Christmas Eve. This candle is meant to welcome travellers and remind people of the importance of showing \_\_\_\_\_ (1) to others.

Many Irish families enjoy going to a Christmas market, where they can buy handmade gifts, ornaments, and warm festive treats. A popular food during the season is the Christmas pudding, which is often made weeks beforehand and filled with spices, fruit, and a little \_\_\_\_\_ (2) for flavour. On Christmas Eve, some children leave out a mince pie and a glass of milk for Santa, along with a carrot for his \_\_\_\_\_ (3).

On Christmas morning, families open presents together before sharing a big meal that often includes turkey, ham, and roasted \_\_\_\_\_ (4). The following day, many people take part in St Stephen's Day traditions, such as meeting friends, listening to music, or going for a long winter \_\_\_\_\_ (5). Some towns still celebrate the Wren Boys, who dress in colourful costumes and parade through the \_\_\_\_\_ (6).

Throughout the season, Irish people enjoy singing carols, visiting neighbours, and spending time with \_\_\_\_\_ (7). Many families also attend church to remember the \_\_\_\_\_ (8) meaning of Christmas. These traditions help everyone feel connected, joyful, and ready to welcome a new \_\_\_\_\_ (9).



## All the Mistakes #1

Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the nine spelling mistakes.

### Egypt's New Museum

Egypt has opened one of the most extraordinary museums the world has ever seen – the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) – and King Tutankhamun is the star attraction. The huge new building, which cost about \$1 billion to create, sits right beside the famous Pyramids of Giza and is already drawing in thousands of visitors every day.

Inside, the museum holds around 100,000 artefacts from ancient Egypt, including more than 5,000 items from Tutankhamun's tomb which, for the first time ever, are all displayed together. Visitors can see his glittering golden sarcophagus (coffin), his famous burial mask and treasures that were hidden underground for more than 3,000 years.

The museum itself is breathtaking. It was designed by Dublin architect Róisín Heneghan and her partner Shih-Fu Peng, who won an international competition against more than 1,500 other entries.

At the heart of the museum stands a colossal 83-tonne statue of the great pharaoh Ramesses II, and nearby scientists work behind glass walls restoring a 4,500-year-old wooden boat.

Officials hope the museum will attract millions of visitors and help boost Egypt's tourism industry. One thing is certain – Tut's new home is truly fit for a king.

#### Correct spelling


Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.




## All the Mistakes #2

Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the nine spelling mistakes.

### \$54.7 Million Painting

A rare panting by the famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo has sold for a massive \$54.7 million. That is more monie than has ever been payed for a painting by a female artist.

The picture is called *El sueño (La cama)*, which means 'The Dream (The Bed)'. Kahlo painted it in 1940. It shows her sleeping in a wooden bed that looks like it is floating. Green vines wrap around her body. Above her, a spookey skelaton lies on top of the bed, holding sticks of dinamite. It gives the painting a dreamy feel.

The painting was sold at an auction in New York. It beet the old record of \$44.4 million, set by the American artist Georgia O'Keeffe in 2014. They're are not many of Kahlo's paintings in private hands.

In Mexico many of her artworks are protected as national treasures, which means they are not allowed to be sold abroad. Some art experts are worried that this painting might vannish into a private collection again. It has not been seen in public since the 1990s.

We do not know who bought it. However, museums in New York, London and Brussels have already asked to borrow the painting so people can see it on display.

#### Correct spelling





## All the Mistakes #3

Read through the article taken from this month's issue and see if you can spot the nine spelling mistakes.

# Our Ocean's New Mysteries

Scientists exploring deep in the Southern Ocean have discovered 30 brand-new species – including a meat-eating sea sponge shaped like a ball. The sponge, found more than 3.6 kilometers below the surface, has tiny hooks that allow it to grab other animals. Because of its round shape and deadly hunting style, researchers nicknamed it the 'death-ball' sponge.

The discoveries were made during two research expeditions earlier this year on the *R/V Falkor* (too), a Schmidt Ocean Institute ship. Scientists used a remote-controlled underwater robot called SuBastian to travel down to the sea floor, where it took photos, filmed video and collected nearly 2,000 animal samples.

Among the new species is a type of 'zombie worm'. These worms are harmless to humans but survive by eating the marrow inside the bones of dead whales and other large sea creatures. Several new sea stars and worms were also found, including species that live in extreme conditions near underwater volcanoes.

The team has only identified about 30 per cent of the samples collected so far, with many more discoveries expected. The project aims to find 10,000 new species over the next decade.

### Correct spelling


Choose three of these words and put them into sentences.




## Word Workout #1

Find the page, fact or story to find the word that solves the clue to its meaning. The number of letters and the starting letter of the word are in brackets after each clue.

Page	Article/Paragraph	CLUE (number of letters, first letter)	
3	The Nature Notebook	Red-leafed plant popular at Christmas	(10, p)
4	Egypt's New Museum	Egyptian King	(7, p)
4	... Bee Discovered	Extremely importantly	(10, c)
5	\$54.7 Million Painting	Structure inside your body	(7, s)
5	... New Mysteries	To live	(7, s)
6	This Month in History	Something you do on a trampoline	(7, j)
6	This Month in History	Difficult conditions to live in	(5, h)
7	Art to Heart	A celebration	(5, p)
8	A Game Designer	Quick drawings	(8, s)





## Word Workout #2

Find the page, fact or story to find the word that solves the clue to its meaning. The number of letters and the starting letter of the word are in brackets after each clue.

Page	Article/Paragraph	CLUE (number of letters, first letter)	
9	NF Book Club	A show	(7, c)
10	... for December	Customs or beliefs that have existed for a long time	(10, t)
10	... for December	Schoolwork that is done at home	(8, h)
11	... for December	Someone famous	(9, c)
14	Farm Life	People who travel to places and discover things	(9, e)
15	Feel Good!	Bad-tempered and miserable	(6, g)
18	Around the World	Relating to a whole country or nation	(8, n)
19	Around the World	A place	(8, l)
21	Alphabet Animals	Walking or standing in shallow water for fun	(8, p)





## Quiz 24

This month's 24-question quiz is based on the 24 pages of *News Flash*. The question number corresponds to the page it is taken from. For example, the answer to Q.7 can be found on page 7 and the answer to Q.14 can be found on page 14.

1. What can you win if you enter the Christmas colouring competition?
2. What did Flashy win in the school raffle last year?
3. When is the shortest day of the year?
4. What did one person pay at auction for a ticket to *The Toy Show*?
5. What does 'La cama' mean?
6. When was Sitting Bull born?
7. What do Americans call 'party favours'?
8. Why does Mario in Super Mario wear a hat?
9. How many books are currently in the Milly McCarthy series?
10. How many questions are in the quiz?
11. How many times, since 1961, has it snowed in Ireland on Christmas Day?
12. When is the closing date for the Christmas colouring competition?
13. How many presents are under the Christmas tree?
14. What is a group of turkeys called?
15. How many hours of sleep do kids aged between eight and 12 need?
16. How many objects are hidden in the Eye Spy picture?
17. What type of puzzle is on page 17?
18. When was the island of Surtsey created?
19. What would your second name be if you were Icelandic?
20. What speed could the early steam trains reach?
21. How many times does a xantus's hummingbird beat its wings per second?
22. In which year was Troy Parrott born?
23. Where will the 2027 Women's World Cup be held?
24. How many points did J-Mac score in the final game of the season?



# Word Search Maker

Here's your chance to create a word search for your friend or classmate to complete. Fill in the 12 words in the word search grid (they can go backward, forward or diagonally) and then list them in the word boxes underneath the puzzle. Fill in all the other squares with random letters so your words become hidden. Perhaps you could include a secret word (not in the list) that your friend must try and find on their own.

A 10x10 grid of black lines on a white background. The grid consists of 9 horizontal rows and 9 vertical columns, creating a total of 81 equal-sized squares. The lines are thin and black, with the grid centered on the page.




## Sudoku Time

Each of the 9 boxes must contain the numbers 1 – 9. When you fill them in, you will then see that each line going across and each line going down also contains the numbers 1 – 9.

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

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



## Poster Print Time

For this month's poster challenge, we want you to create a poster for a party celebrating 2025. It can be whatever you want it to be! Remember to be both informative and creative – you want people to know about it AND look forward to it!



## Crack the Joke

In this month's Crack the Joke on Page 17, a funny joke is waiting to be cracked. When you solve the code and reveal the gag, see if you can come up with a drawing/illustration that you think best captures the joke.



## My Favourite Facts

Every issue of **News Flash** is packed full of facts and figures. Why not record the top four things that you learned from this issue? When you do, make sure to draw an illustration to go with each one. When you are finished, share and discuss your choices with your classmates. We have added one of our favourite ones below.

In 2023, Katie McCabe became the first Irish woman ever nominated for the Ballon d'Or. Just last month, she was once again nominated for Fifa's Women's World 11.



1

2

3

4



## Talk Time

Based on articles from this month's magazine, we want you to think about some of the issues that arise. Remember, when you are trying to put forward an opinion, or an argument, make sure you know your facts and figures and be clear in how you feel about a certain topic and why.

Here are some questions and statements you and your class might like to consider thinking about and discussing. Some you will agree with, some you clearly won't!

1. Children should present *The Toy Show*.

2. If someone spends millions on a painting, half should be donated to charity.

3. Game designing should be a subject that is taught at secondary school.

4. It is a waste of time sleeping for a third of our lives.

5. Ireland will make it to the World Cup in 2026!



## What's in the News?

How well have you read this month's paper? Here in 'What's in the News', as well as testing your memory and retention skills, we also test your imagination and creative skills. We base this activity on our News Desk section on pages 3, 4 & 5. Read the articles and answer the following

1. Who is the star of the Grand Egyptian Museum?

2. How much did the museum cost to create?

3. In which city in Western Australia is Curtin University?

4. In which year did *The Toy Show* start?

5. In how many countries is *The Toy Show* streamed?

6. Where was Frida Kahlo from?

7. What happened to Frida Kahlo when she was 18?

8. How do 'zombie worms' survive?



## Know Your Sport

How well have you read this month's sports news? Here, in Know Your Sport, we're testing your memory and retention skills. We base this activity on the pages from our sports section. Read the articles and answer the following questions.

1. Which Irish player scored a hat-trick against Hungary?
2. Who do Ireland's men's soccer team play in the semi-final play-off in March 2026?
3. Which Irish county won a record 13th league title last year in the Ladies National Football League?
4. What is Scot McTominay's nickname, given to him by the fans of his club team, Napoli?
5. Who scored the goal that saw the Irish women's soccer team promoted to League A of the UEFA Women's Nations League?
6. Which other teams are in Ireland's group for the qualifiers of the 2027 World Cup?
7. Who are Ireland's two number 10s in the men's national rugby team?
8. How old is Folarin Balogun?



## Word Search

This word search contains words to do with Zambia! Can you find them all ... including the secret term not listed below. Clue: *What Zambia was known as before gaining independence in 1964.*



ARCTIC FOXES

BLUE LAGOON

EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL

FISHING

FJORDS

GEOTHERMAL

GEYSERS

GLACIERS

HALLO

HOT SPRINGS

ICELANDIC

KRONA

NORTHERN LIGHTS

PUFFINS

REYKJAVIK

SKAFTAFELL

SURTSEY

VIKING

VOLCANOES

WATERFALLS

Front Cover Design Time: Issue 99, December 2025



Cover designed by:





# Answers

## Fill in the Blanks #1

1. afterlife
2. responsibilities
3. treasures
4. statues
5. mask
6. pharaoh
7. world
8. history
9. know

## Fill in the Blanks #2

1. feelings
2. colours
3. style
4. paintings
5. artist
6. museum
7. true
8. traditions
9. strength

## Fill in the Blanks #3

1. kindness
2. brandy
3. reindeer
4. vegetables
5. walk
6. streets
7. family
8. religious
9. year

## All the Mistakes #1

1. Extraordinary
2. Museums
3. Create
4. Visitors
5. Artefacts
6. Tomb
7. Breathtaking
8. Architect
9. Restoring

## All the Mistakes #2

1. Painting
2. Money
3. Paid
4. Spooky
5. Skeleton
6. Dynamite
7. Beat
8. There
9. Vanish

## All the Mistakes #3

1. Exploring
2. Kilometres
3. Discoveries
4. Expeditions
5. Collected
6. Marrow
7. Whales
8. Sea
9. Identified

## Word Workout #1

1. Poinsettia
2. Pharaoh
3. Critically
4. Skeleton
5. Survive
6. Jumping
7. Harsh
8. Party
9. Sketches

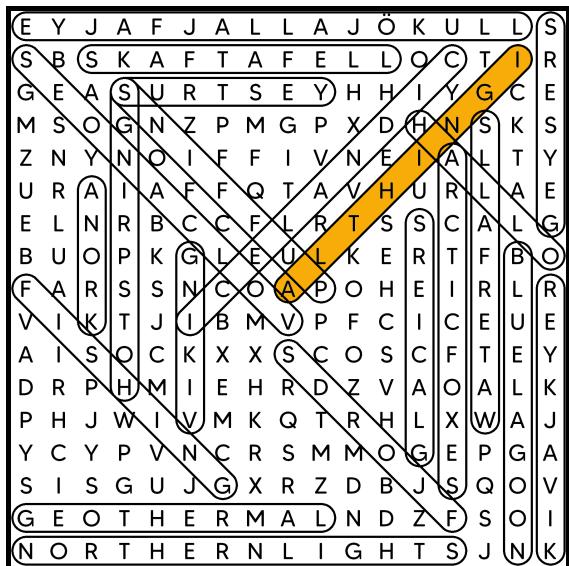
## Word Workout #2

1. Concert
2. Traditions
3. Homework
4. Celebrity
5. Explorers
6. Grumpy
7. National
8. Location
9. Paddling



# Answers

## Word Search



## Quiz 24

1. A News Flash hoodie and a yummy selection box
2. A Christmas bauble
3. December 21
4. €1,500
5. The bed
6. 1831
7. Christmas crackers
8. Because his creator found drawing hair too difficult
9. Six
10. 25
11. 17
12. December 16, 2025
13. Three
14. A rafter or a gaggle
15. Nine to 11 hours
16. 20
17. A word search
18. 1963
19. Your dad's first name followed by 'son' (son – for a boy) or dóttir (daughter – for a girl)
20. 50 km/h
21. Around 50
22. 2002
23. Brazil
24. 20 points

## In the News

1. King Tutankhamun
2. \$1 billion
3. Perth
4. 1974
5. Over 150
6. Mexico
7. She was in a serious bus accident
8. By eating the marrow inside the bones of dead whales and other large sea creatures

## Know Your Sport

1. Troy Parrott
2. Czechia
3. Kerry
4. 'Apribottiglie' – bottle opener in Italian
5. Abbie Larkin
6. France, Poland and The Netherlands
7. Sam Prendergast and Jack Crowley
8. 24



# Answers

From Puzzler Pages (pages 16 & 17 of News Flash )

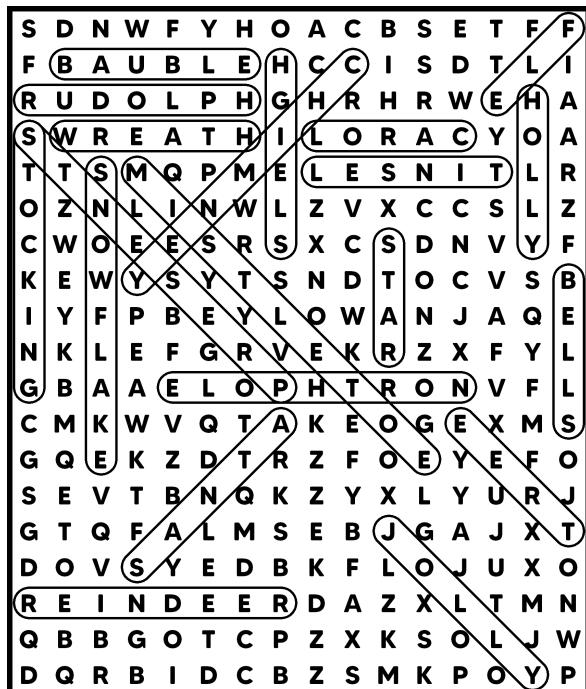
## Crack the Joke

*Why can't  
Christmas trees  
knit? They keep  
dropping their  
needles.*

## Crack the Joke

*There are three types of  
people in this world...  
those who can count  
and those who can't!*

## Word Search (magazine)



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

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