

The 12 Days of Christmas

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Twelve drummers drumming,
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree!



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1. Multiply the calling birds by the drummers drumming.
2. Turtle doves add ladies dancing subtract geese-a-laying.
3. Golden rings multiplied by geese-a-laying, divided by French hens.
4. (Swans a-swimming + maids a-milking) \div golden rings.
5. Ladies dancing \times drummers drumming \times French hens \div geese a-laying.
6. Partridges \times pear trees \times lords a-leaping
7. Ladies dancing \times pipers piping + drummers drumming.
8. Swans a-swimming \times maids a-milking \div golden rings.
9. (Calling birds + swans a-swimming) \times (Maids a-milking – partridges).
10. Ladies dancing + pipers piping \times French hens – turtle doves \times lords a-leaping.

Merry Christmas



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Answers

1. $4 \times 12 = 48$
2. $2 + 9 - 6 = 5$
3. $5 \times 6 \div 3 = 10$
4. $(7 + 8) \div 5 = 3$
5. $9 \times 12 \times 3 \div 6 = 54$
6. $1 \times 1 \times 10 = 10$
7. $9 \times 11 + 12 = 111$
8. $7 \times 8 \div 5 = 11.2$
9. $(4 + 7) \times (8 - 1) = 77$
10. $9 + 11 \times 3 - 2 \times 10 = 22$

Teaching Notes

An introduction to order of operations and substitution, this resource makes a good starter activity for December numeracy lessons.

Adult Numeracy curriculum links

N1/L1.11 Solve problems involving algebra

- (a) Know how to form word expressions from simple expressions in symbols
- (b) Evaluate simple expressions and formulae
- (c) Translate simple word problems into symbols (+, -, x and x) and numbers

N1/L2.4 Evaluate expressions and make substitutions in given formulae in words and symbols to produce results

- (a) understand that words and symbols in expressions and formulae represent variable quantities (numbers), not things (i.e. $2a + 2b$ cannot be explained as 2 apples and 2 bananas)
- (b) understand that the contents of brackets must be worked out first
- (c) understand that, when there is no operator between a number and a variable, or two variables, multiplication is implied, e.g. $2a = 2 \times a$; $ab = a \times b$; $2ab = 2 \times a \times b$
- (d) understand that, when there is no operator between a number and a bracket, multiplication is implied, e.g. $2(a + b) = 2 \times (a + b)$