

12 DAYS OF PRESENTS



Photos: AquilaGib (top left); Alan Murray-Rus (top right); Sonajfhesands (bottom) via Wikimedia Commons

(Note: As we do on special holidays, in honor of today we're providing a second extra math problem about Christmas, for those who celebrate or would like to learn more about it. Enjoy!)

Christmas itself is a very special day for Christians, as it's the birthday of baby Jesus. But Christmas actually starts a whole 12-day stretch of celebration ending with the Epiphany, the day the Wise Men finally arrived to see their newborn King. In the old days people would give gifts on every one of these 12 days, and so we have the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Most of the gifts are either birds – geese a-laying, swans a-swimming, or the famous partridge in a pear tree – or they are people with special jobs like drumming and dancing. So the question is, if someone really gave you all that stuff these next couple of weeks, what would it all cost? Remember, on the first day of Christmas your true love gives you a partridge, then on the second day he/she gives you 2 turtle doves and a partridge AGAIN...so this gift-giving is going to get expensive.

Wee ones: If on the second day of Christmas you get 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree, how many birds do you get just that day?

Little kids: On the 3rd day of Christmas you get 3 French hens, 2 turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. How many birds is that? *Bonus:* If each bird costs \$2 on sale, how much do your gifts that day cost?

Big kids: On day 5 you get 5 golden rings, and you get a whole new quintet of them on days 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. How many rings is that? *Bonus:* If each ring weighs a whole ounce in gold and gold costs a whole \$2,000 per ounce at Christmastime, how much do all those rings cost?