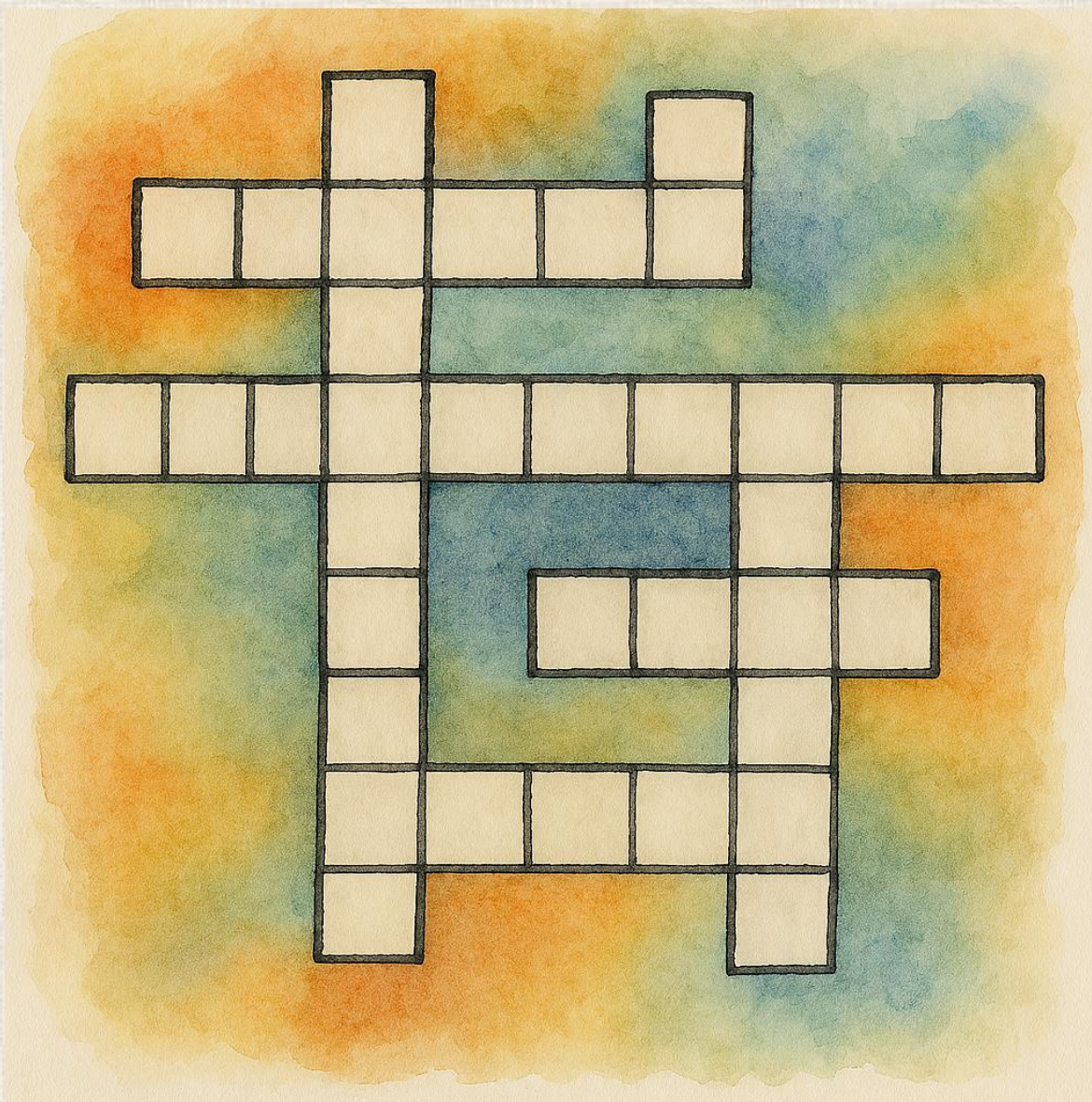


Crossword Puzzle Generators

with Sample Puzzles to Try out in the Classroom



Tips for Testing Generators

- This handout is fully open - no password required - so you can quickly copy and paste the sample puzzle clues and answers to test out different generators.
- Some tools create puzzles as editable tables, while others produce static images. If you want to adjust fonts, spacing, or layout, look for generators that output tables. They offer more flexibility for customization.

Visual Key



Free – No cost to use



No Login – No account or sign-in required



Printable – Easily export or print puzzles



Interactive – Students can solve online



Image-Based – Supports visual clues or ESL use



No-Login, Free Puzzle Generators

Tool	Best For	Features & Tips
Discovery Education's Puzzlemaker	simple, fast puzzles	word searches, criss-cross, mazes; copy/paste into Word
Instant Online Crossword Puzzle Maker	quick builds	basic layout; limited free printing; includes ads
Tools for Educators Crossword Maker	ESL and image-based clues	add pictures; combine with word search; great for younger learners
PuzzleFast	fast and flexible	no login; create crosswords and word searches quickly
Edu-Games Crossword Maker	kid-friendly printables	PDF and Excel export; simple interface
YesChat AI Crossword Generator	themed, interactive puzzles	AI-assisted clues; solve online or print
Crossword Labs	clean, versatile puzzles	solve online or print; private puzzles require upgrade
Armored Penguin	custom layout	grid size, fonts, styles; includes word searches
ReadWriteThink Crossword Tool	student-created puzzles	step-by-step interface; great for projects
EclipseCrossword	offline use	windows software; export puzzles as images or print

Free with Optional Login or Paid Features

Tool	Best For	Features & Tips
The Teacher's Corner Crossword Generator	customization and AI clues	fonts, images, printable keys; "Quick Add" AI; premium unlocks extras
Puzzel.org	interactive and team play	real-time builder; hidden solutions; free basic use, paid upgrades

Creative Ways to Use Crossword Puzzles in the Classroom

Crossword puzzles aren't just for vocabulary; they can support reading comprehension, grammar, seasonal themes, and even test prep. Here are **eight versatile ways** teachers can use them across grade levels and content areas:

1. Character Trait Puzzles

Use character names as answers and their traits, motivations, or key actions as clues. This works well with novel studies or read-alouds.

Example: Clue: "Always helps Frodo and shows loyalty" → **Sam**

Check out the character trait crossword for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* created using Discovery's Puzzle Maker in the handout.

2. Context Clue Crosswords

Instead of direct definitions, write sentence-style clues that require students to infer the word from context.

Example: Clue: "The knight's armor was ____, shining in the sun." → **gleaming**

3. Genre-Based Vocabulary Puzzles

Build crosswords around genre-specific terms such as **myth**, **biography**, or **drama** to reinforce literary concepts and support genre study.

4. Root Word & Affix Puzzles

Use Latin and Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes as clues, and have students build the full word.

Example: Clue: "Prefix meaning 'across'" → **trans**

5. "Wrong Answer" Elimination Puzzles

Add distractor clues that don't belong in the puzzle grid. Students must identify and eliminate them, building critical thinking and test-taking skills.

Check out the elimination-style crossword made with Instant Online Crossword Puzzle Maker in the handout.

6. "Finish the Idiom" Puzzles

Provide the first half of a common idiom as the clue, and students complete it.

Example: Clue: "Break a ____" → **leg**

See the idiom crossword created with The Teacher's Corner in the handout.

7. Vocabulary + Visual Clues

Use image-based clues (available in Tools for Educators) to support ESL learners or younger grades.

Example: Show a picture of a volcano → Clue: "This erupts with lava." → **volcano**

Check out the puzzle that uses picture clues in the handout. Tools for Teachers features a dropdown list filled with illustrations to select from, making it fast and easy to use.

8. Word Relationships

Create clues that ask students to complete analogies, identify the next word in a sequence, or supply an antonym or homonym. This format encourages deeper connections between vocabulary and critical thinking.

For added support, include a word bank, especially helpful when all answers are the same length or follow predictable patterns. Students can use letter counts to narrow down options and reinforce spelling.

Check out the word relationship crossword made with PuzzleFast in the handout. It's a lightning-fast generator!

Copy and Paste Clues for Experimenting with Crossword Puzzle Builders

Note: Different generators require the answers and clues in different formats. The clues/answers below are formatted based on the generator I used, so you can quickly test to see how the generator works.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever – Character Traits as Clues

MrsArmstrong bossy and controlling—even from a hospital bed

Alice prim, proper, and always knows the “right” answer

ImogeneHerdman wild and bossy girl who plays Mary

LeroyHerdman loud and aggressive—steals the Young Einstein chemistry set

ClaudeHerdman sneaky and sly—especially around snacks

OllieHerdman youngest boy in the family—quiet but dangerous

GladysHerdman small but fierce—plays the Angel of the Lord

RalphHerdman oldest and coolest Herdman—less wild, but still unruly

BethBradley thoughtful narrator who learns to see deeper

MrsBradley supportive and calm—tries to make the pageant work

MrBradley doubtful at first, but grows to appreciate the chaos

CharlieBradley kid brother of Beth—often picked on by the Herdmans

HerdmansCat creates havoc at show-and-tell

Odd One Out

slippery / cautious, slippery, careful, wary

bravely / boldly, bravely, timidly, fearlessly

murmur / shout, yell, murmur, holler

timid / bold, daring, fearless, timid

sprint / jog, sprint, dash, slowly

gloomy / cheerful, joyful, gloomy, sunny

reluctantly / eagerly, willingly, reluctantly, excitedly

grumble / complain, whine, grumble, praise

awkward / smooth, graceful, fluid, awkward

vanish / disappear, vanish, fade, build

furiously / angrily, furiously, calmly, madly

gentle / kind, soft, gentle, fierce

tremble / shake, tremble, shiver, construct

eager / excited, eager, thrilled, bored

boldly / bravely, boldly, courageously, quietly

Idiom Completion Clues

milk

Don't cry over spilled ____.

head

Hit the nail on the ____.

bag

Let the cat out of the ____.

ice

Break the ____ (start a conversation)

chew

Bite off more than you can ____.

midnight

Burning the ____ oil.

disguise

A blessing in ____.

leg

Costs an arm and a ____.

weather

Under the ____ (feeling sick)

court

The ball is in your ____.

Christmas Word Relationships

antlers: elf : ears: reindeer : _____

decorate: present : wrap :: tree : _____

naughty: opposite of nice

obtain: synonym of receive

presents: homonym of presence

frozen: synonym of frigid

merrily: opposite of gloomy

carols: synonym of hymns

stocking: synonym of hosiery

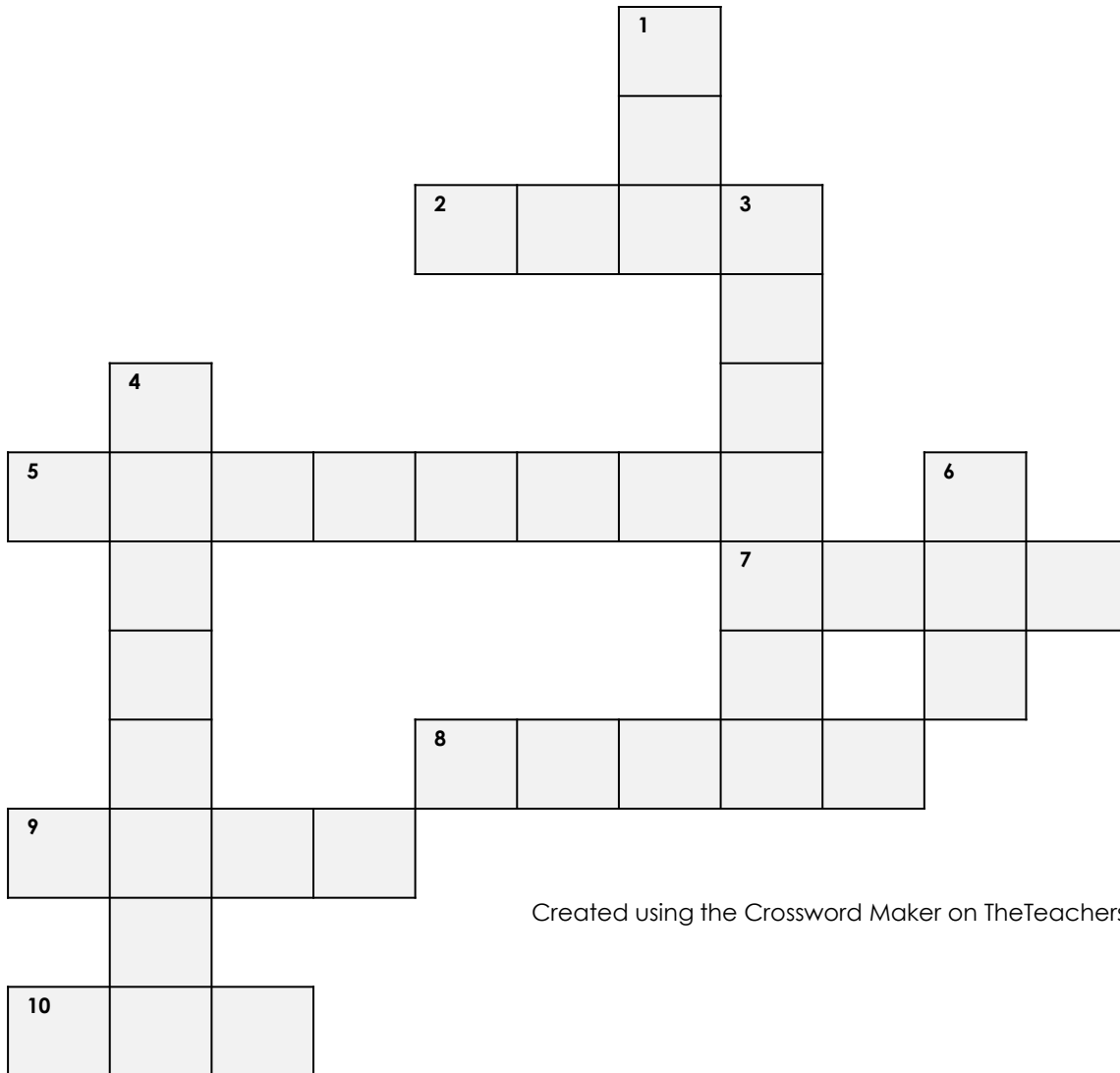
candles: synonym of tapers

solstice: opposite of equinox

Name: _____

Idiom Completion Clues

Complete the crossword puzzle below.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

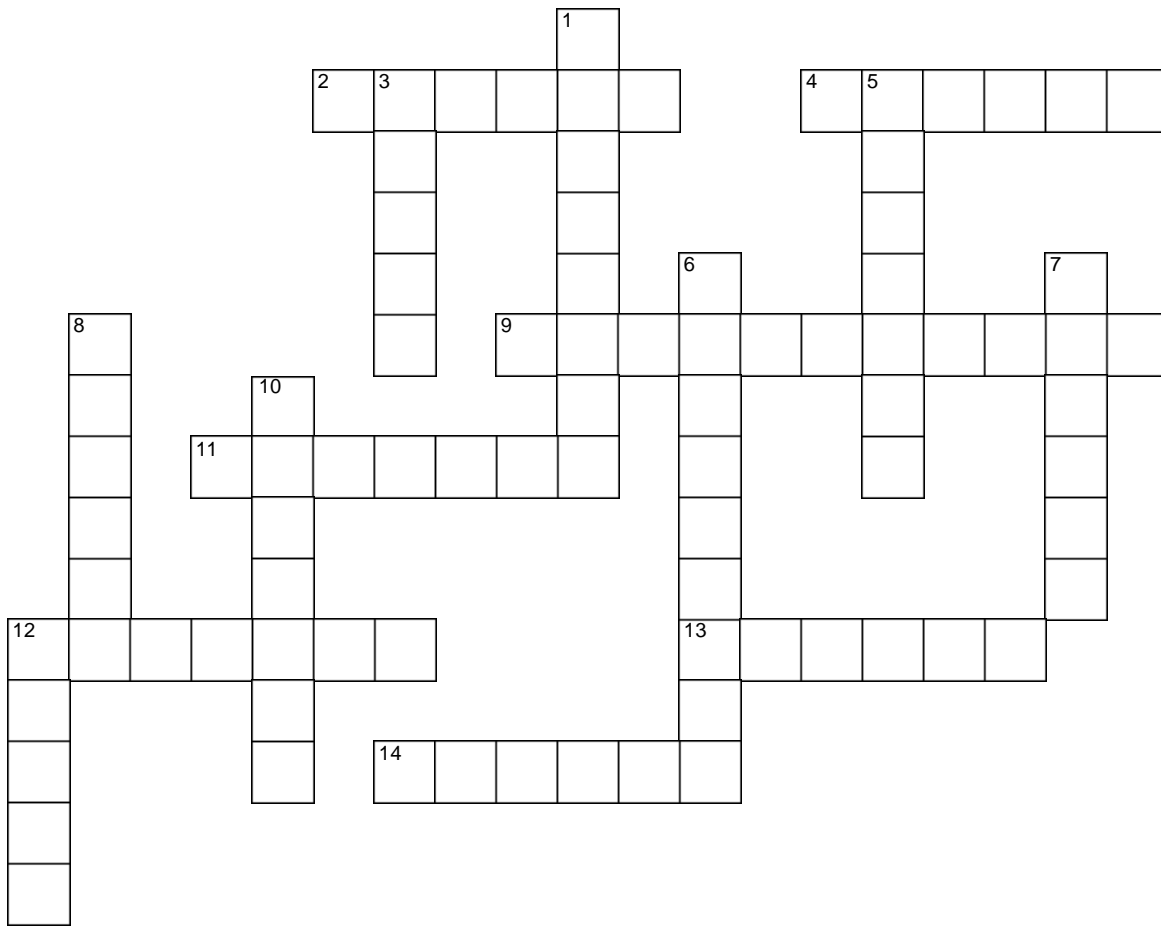
Across

2. Bite off more than you can ____.
5. Burning the ____ oil.
7. Hit the nail on the ____.
8. The ball is in your ____.
9. Don't cry over spilled ____.
10. Costs an arm and a ____.

Down

1. Break the _____. (start a conversation)
3. Under the _____. (feeling sick)
4. A blessing in ____.
6. Let the cat out of the ____.

Odd One Out



How to Play

- 1) Each clue lists **four words**—three that belong together and **one that doesn't fit**.
- 2) Look for the word that's different in meaning, part of speech, or usage. It might be a verb among adjectives, a negative word among positives, or just something that doesn't belong in the group.
- 3) Use the crossword grid to fill in the correct answer for each clue. The clue number matches the number on the puzzle.

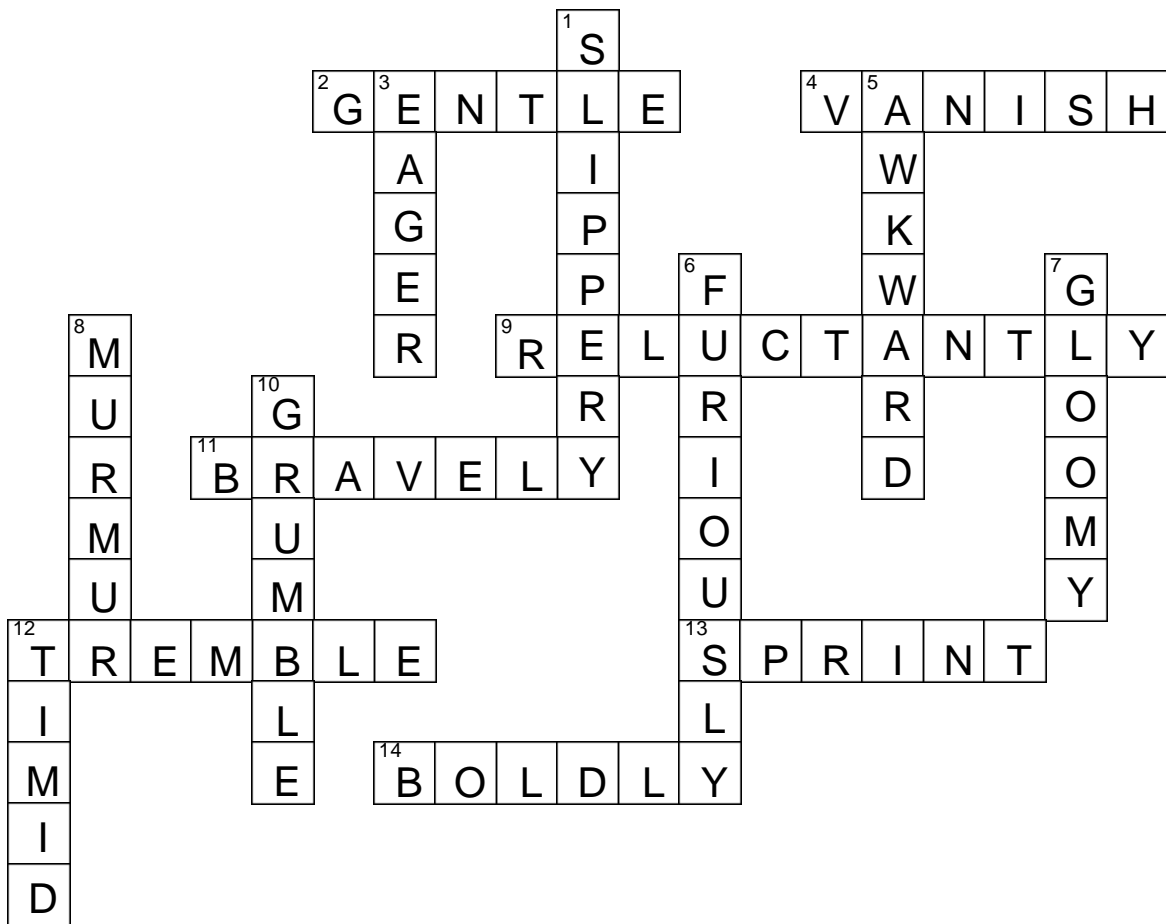
ACROSS

- 2 kind, soft, gentle, fierce
 4 disappear, vanish, fade, build
 9 eagerly, willingly, reluctantly, excitedly
 11 boldly, bravely, timidly, fearlessly
 12 shake, tremble, shiver, construct
 13 jog, sprint, dash, slowly
 14 bravely, boldly, courageously, quietly

DOWN

- 1 cautious, slippery, careful, wary
 3 excited, eager, thrilled, bored
 5 smooth, graceful, fluid, awkward
 6 angrily, furiously, calmly, madly
 7 cheerful, joyful, gloomy, sunny
 8 shout, yell, murmur, holler
 10 complain, whine, grumble, praise
 12 bold, daring, fearless, timid

Odd One Out



How to Play

- 1) Each clue lists **four words**—three that belong together and **one that doesn't fit**.
- 2) Look for the word that's different in meaning, part of speech, or usage. It might be a verb among adjectives, a negative word among positives, or just something that doesn't belong in the group.
- 3) Use the crossword grid to fill in the correct answer for each clue. The clue number matches the number on the puzzle.

ACROSS

- 2 kind, soft, gentle, fierce
- 4 disappear, vanish, fade, build
- 9 eagerly, willingly, reluctantly, excitedly
- 11 boldly, bravely, timidly, fearlessly
- 12 shake, tremble, shiver, construct
- 13 jog, sprint, dash, slowly
- 14 bravely, boldly, courageously, quietly

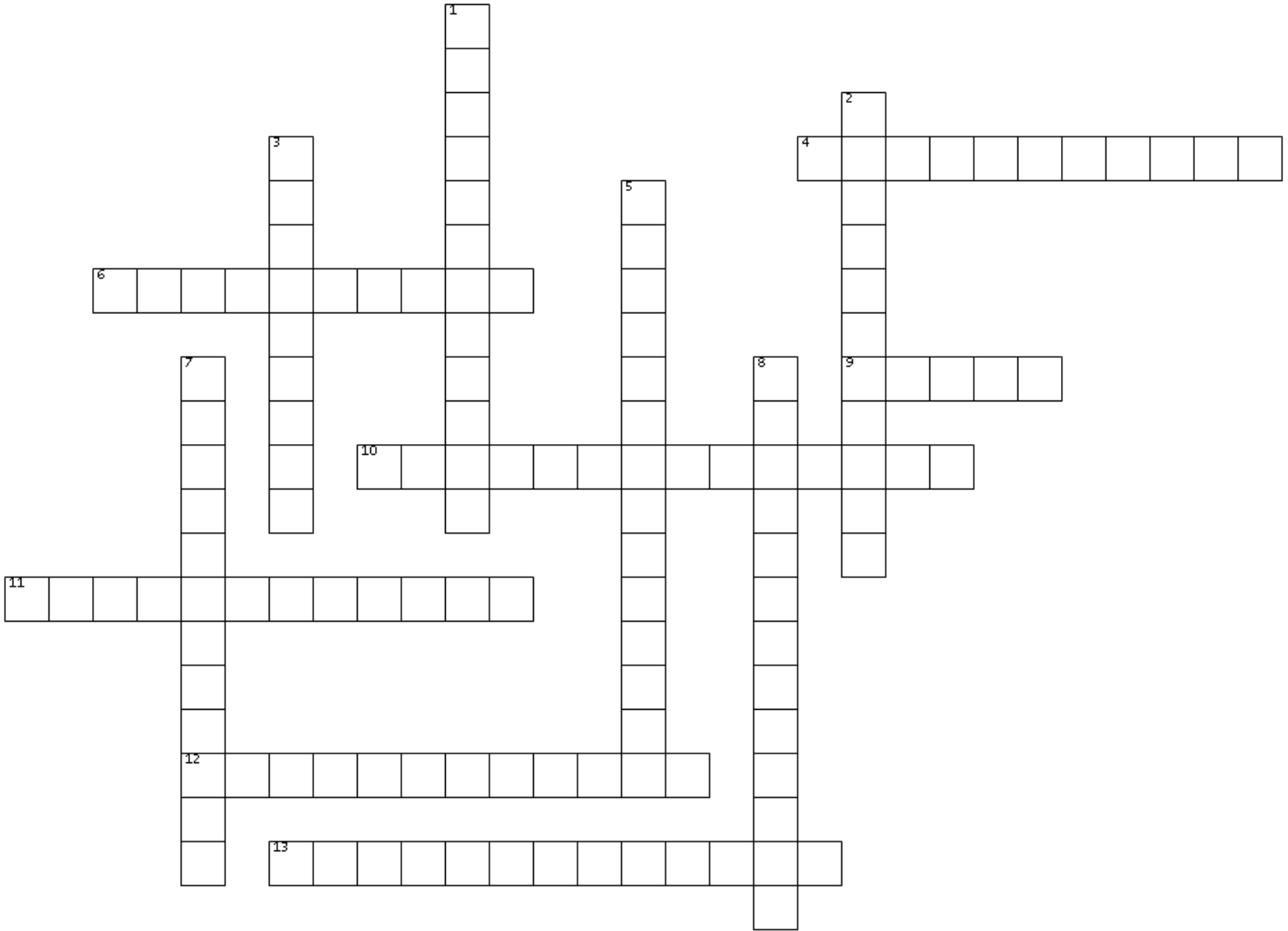
DOWN

- 1 cautious, slippery, careful, wary
- 3 excited, eager, thrilled, bored
- 5 smooth, graceful, fluid, awkward
- 6 angrily, furiously, calmly, madly
- 7 cheerful, joyful, gloomy, sunny
- 8 shout, yell, murmur, holler
- 10 complain, whine, grumble, praise
- 12 bold, daring, fearless, timid

Puzzlemaker is a puzzle generation tool for teachers, students and parents. Create and print customized word search, criss-cross, math puzzles, and more—using your own word lists.



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever – Characters



ACROSS

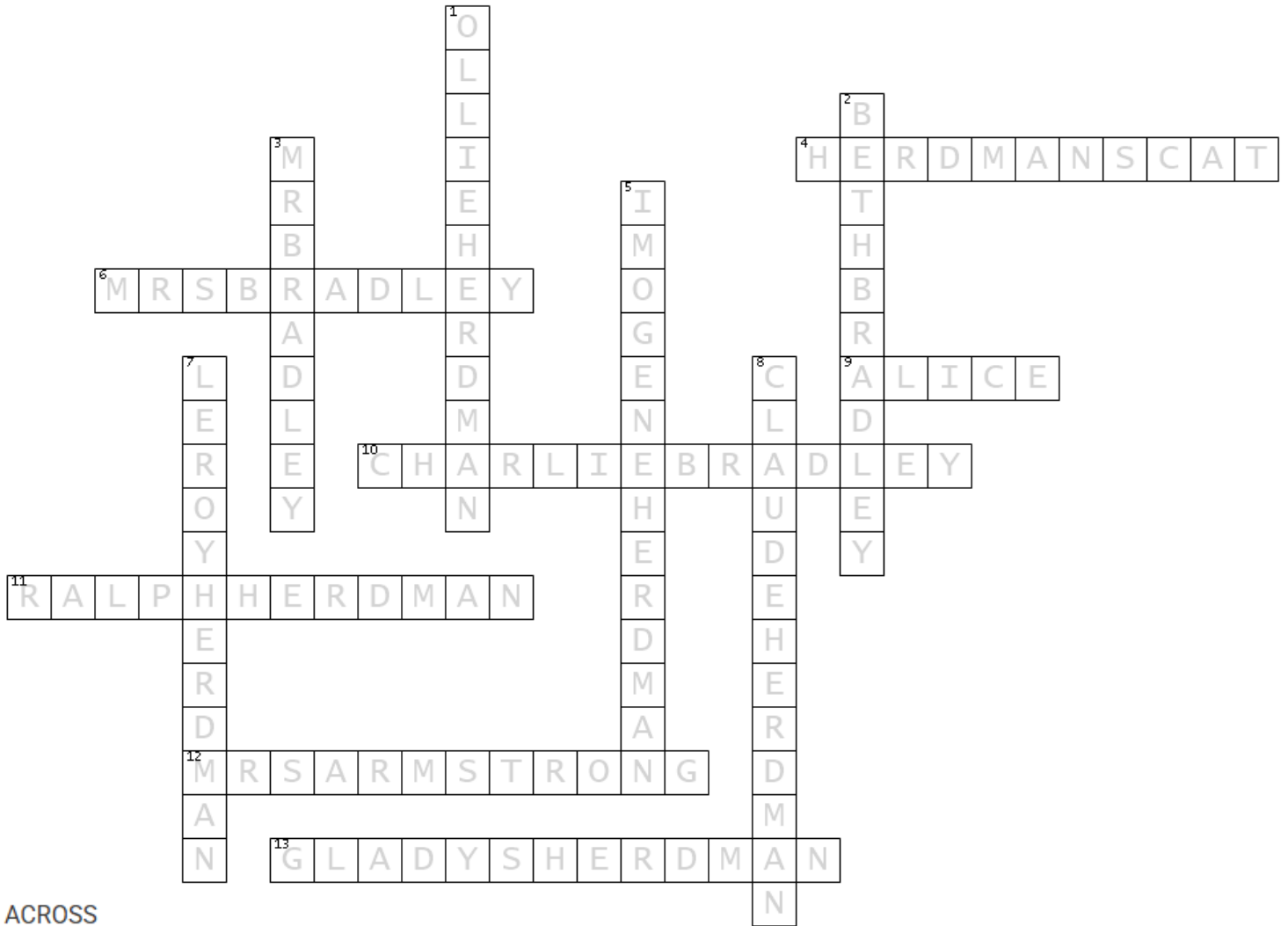
- 4. creates havoc at show-and-tell
- 6. supportive and calm—tries to make the pageant work
- 9. prim, proper, and always knows the “right” answer
- 10. kid brother of Beth—often picked on by the Herdmans
- 11. oldest and coolest Herdman—less wild, but still unruly
- 12. bossy and controlling—even from a hospital bed
- 13. small but fierce—plays the Angel of the Lord

DOWN

- 1. youngest boy in the family—quiet but dangerous
- 2. thoughtful narrator who learns to see deeper
- 3. doubtful at first, but grows to appreciate the chaos
- 5. wild and bossy girl who plays Mary
- 7. loud and aggressive—steals the Young Einstein chemistry set
- 8. sneaky and sly—especially around snacks

Puzzlemaker is a puzzle generation tool for teachers, students and parents. Create and print customized word search, criss-cross, math puzzles, and more—using your own word lists.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever – Characters



ACROSS

4. creates havoc at show-and-tell
6. supportive and calm—tries to make the pageant work
9. prim, proper, and always knows the “right” answer
10. kid brother of Beth—often picked on by the Herdmans
11. oldest and coolest Herdman—less wild, but still unruly
12. bossy and controlling—even from a hospital bed
13. small but fierce—plays the Angel of the Lord

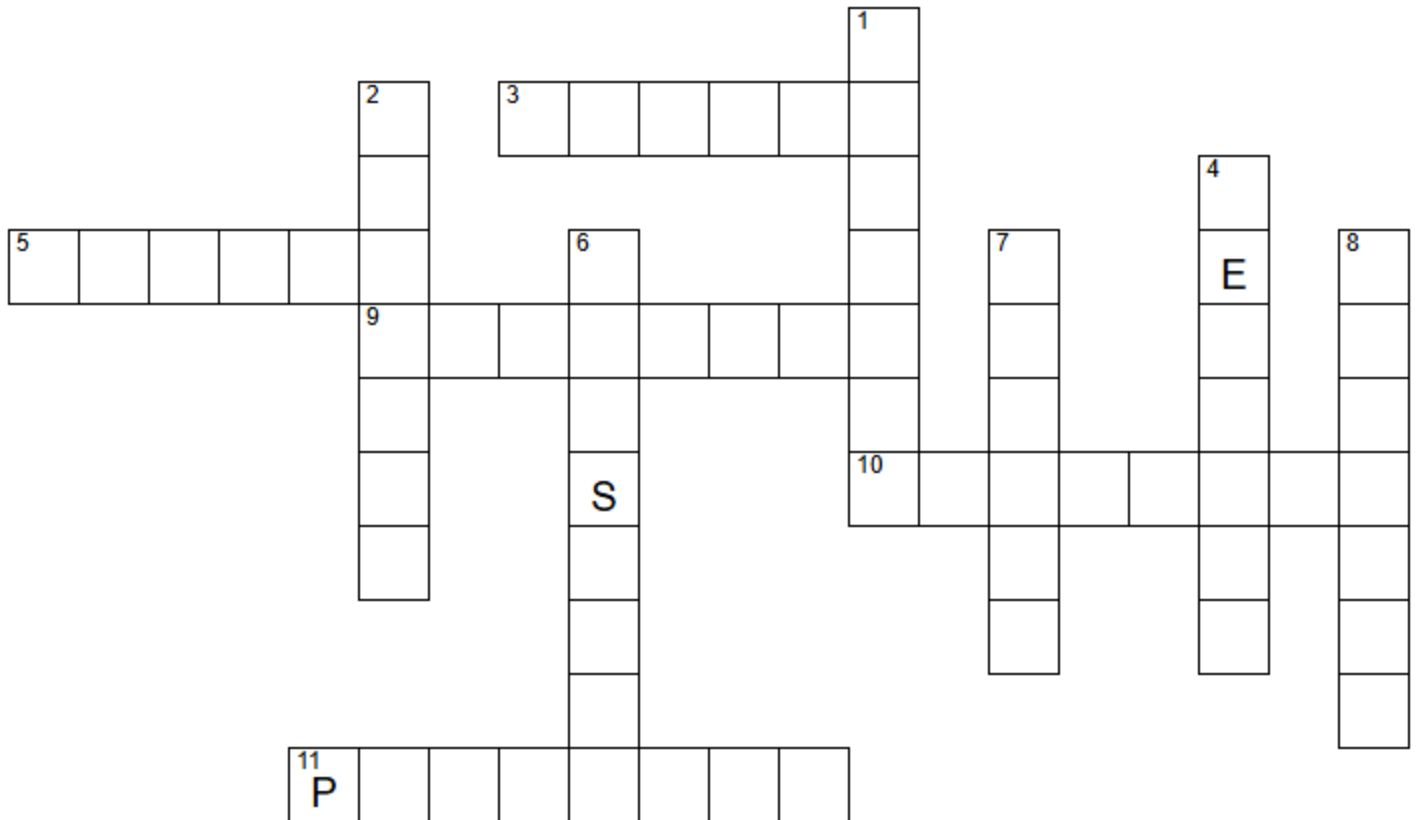
DOWN

1. youngest boy in the family—quiet but dangerous
2. thoughtful narrator who learns to see deeper
3. doubtful at first, but grows to appreciate the chaos
5. wild and bossy girl who plays Mary
7. loud and aggressive—steals the Young Einstein chemistry set
8. sneaky and sly—especially around snacks

Christmas Word Relationships

Use the words from the word bank to complete the crossword puzzle.

frozen	merrily	decorate	presents
solstice	naughty	stocking	carols
antlers	candles	obtain	



Across:

3. synonym of frigid
5. synonym of receive
9. present : wrap :: tree : _____
10. synonym of hosiery
11. homonym of presence

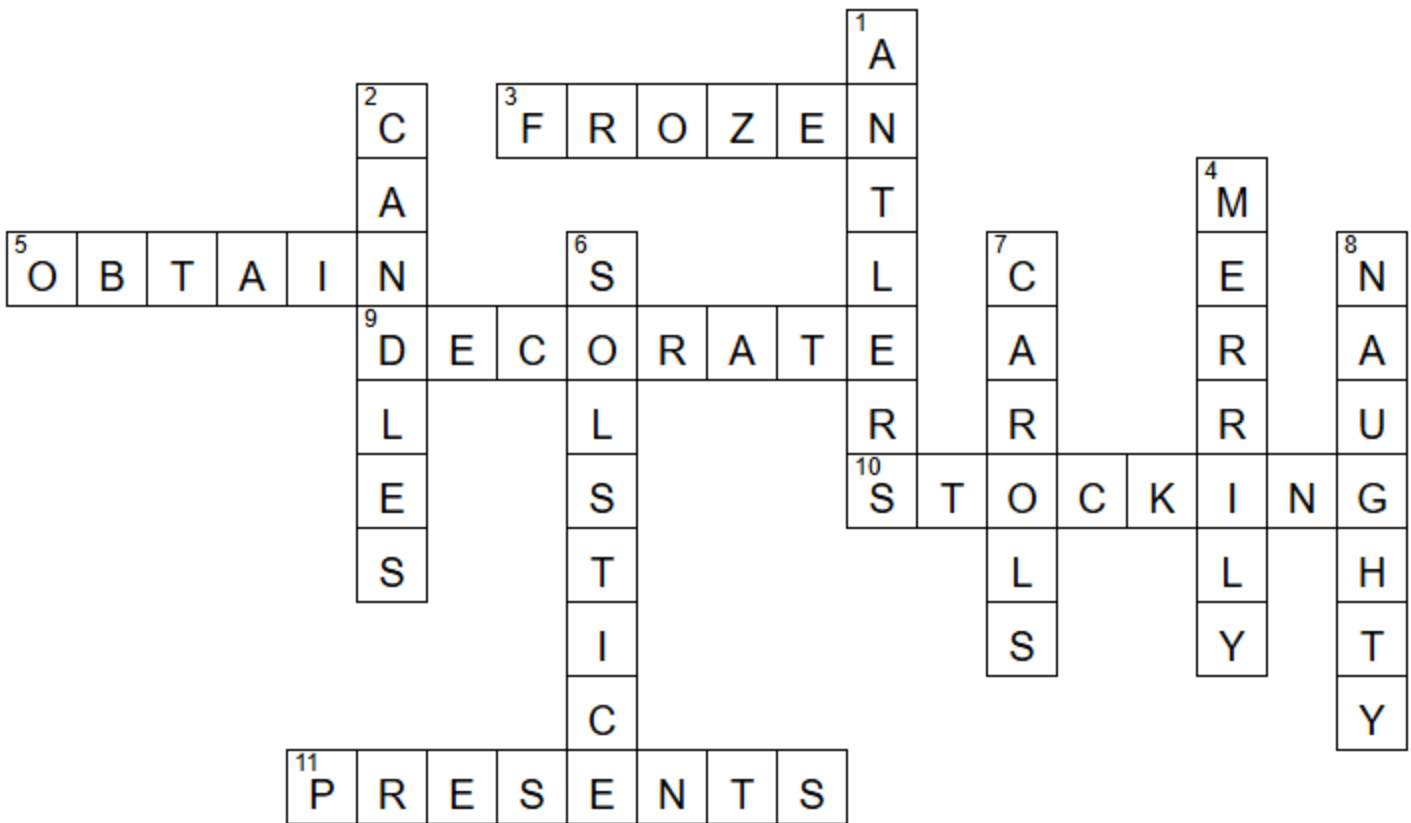
Down:

1. elf : ears: reindeer : _____
2. synonym of tapers
4. opposite of gloomy
6. opposite of equinox
7. synonym of hymns
8. opposite of nice

Christmas Word Relationships

Use the words from the word bank to complete the crossword puzzle.

frozen	merrily	decorate	presents
solstice	naughty	stocking	carols
antlers	candles	obtain	



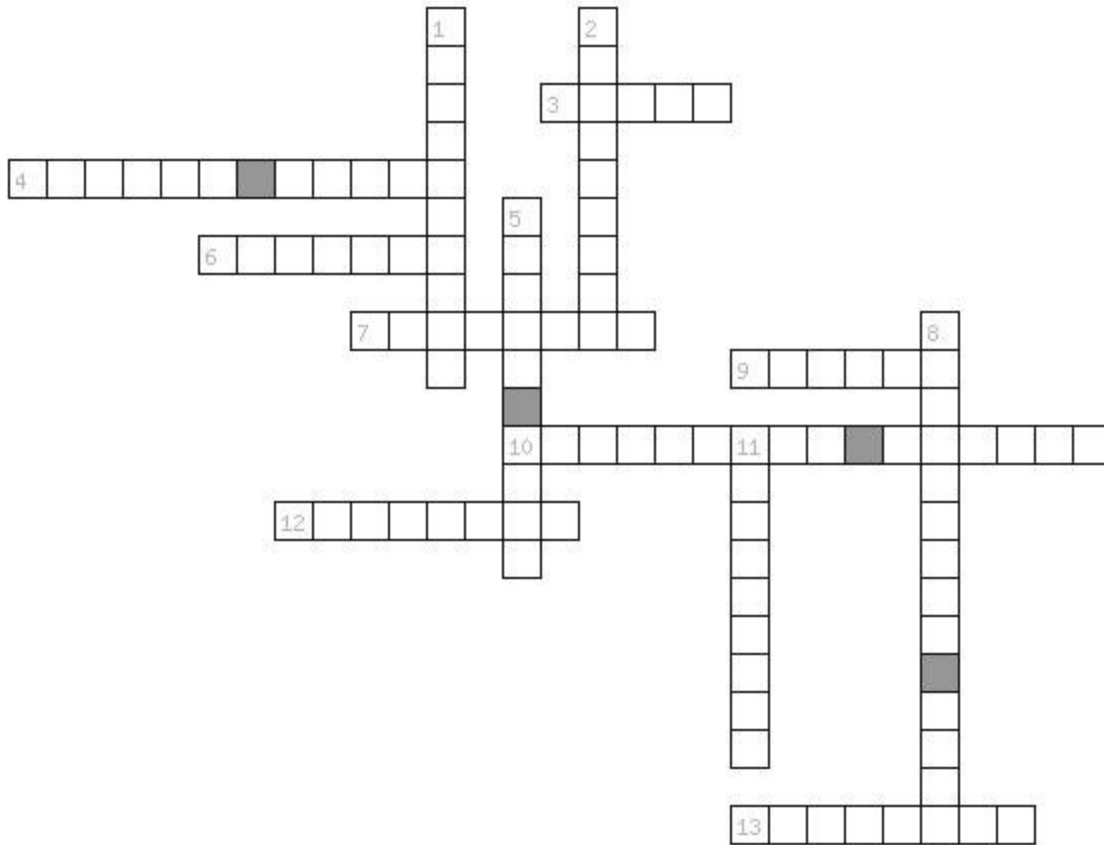
Across:

3. synonym of frigid
5. synonym of receive
9. present : wrap :: tree : _____
10. synonym of hosiery
11. homonym of presence

Down:

1. elf : ears: reindeer : _____
2. synonym of tapers
4. opposite of gloomy
6. opposite of equinox
7. synonym of hymns
8. opposite of nice

Crossword



Down

1.



2.



5.



8.



11.



Across

3.



7.



12.



4.



9.



13.



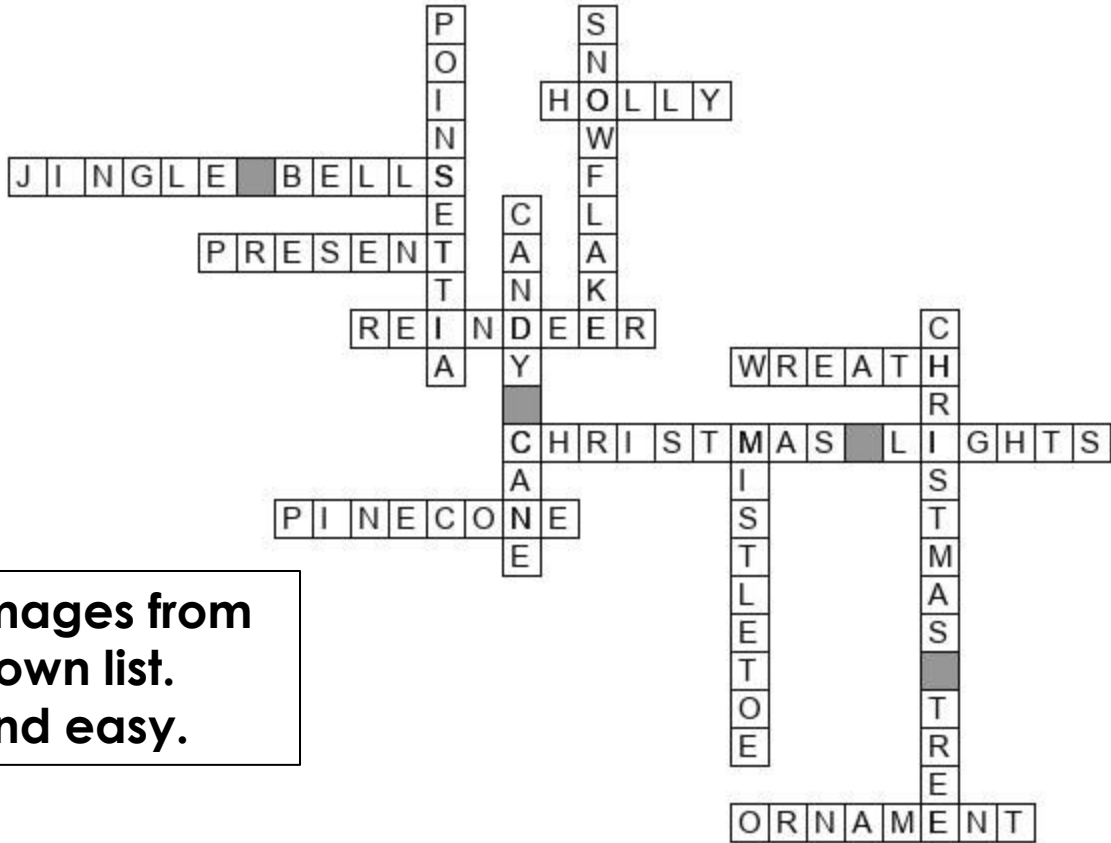
6.



10.



Crossword



Select images from a dropdown list. Quick and easy.

Down

1.



5.



11.



2.



8.



Across

3.



7.



12.



4.



9.



13.



6.



10.



Credits



[Pinterest](#)



[Book Units Teacher Blog](#)

[Gay Miller's Teachers Pay Teachers Store](#)



[YouTube](#)

[Book Units Teacher Website](#)





Check out my new [YouTube](#) channel.