

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

12/24

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

Difficulty: ★★

12/23

ISAAC ASIMOV’S SUPER QUIZ

FROM NORTH AMERICA SYNDICATE INC., 300 W. 57th STREET,  
41st FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10019  
CUSTOMER SERVICE: (800) 708-7311 EXT. 236  
FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 2025

SUPER QUIZ

Take this Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

**Subject: BIRTH OF JESUS**  
(e.g., In what town was Jesus born? Answer: Bethlehem.)

**FRESHMAN LEVEL**  
1. What was the name of Mary’s husband?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Which angel told Mary that a child would be born to her?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Which king ordered the slaughter of all male children in Bethlehem under the age of 2?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADUATE LEVEL**  
4. What served as a bed or crib for Jesus?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
5. What guided the Magi to the birthplace?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
6. What were the three gifts of the Magi?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_

**PH.D. LEVEL**  
7. Who were terrified when an angel of the Lord appeared to them?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
8. Which two Gospels offer accounts of the birth of Jesus?  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
9. The birth of Jesus is referred to as “The \_\_\_\_\_.”  
Answer \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWERS:** 1. Joseph. 2. Gabriel. 3. King Herod. 4. A manger. 5. A star. 6. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. 7. Shepherds. 8. Matthew and Luke. 9. Nativity.

**SCORING:**  
18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you’re plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ ONE GKB GNEBW NB IX ... / V’YY JX  
CNIX HNM GCMVRWIKR / VH NBYO VB  
IO PMXKIR.” — JEGZ MKI/ZVI DKBBNB

Previous Solution: “You hear voices singing / Let’s be jolly; Deck the halls with boughs of holly.” — Johnny Marks

TODAY’S CLUE: *D equals P*

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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Fleecy animal  
4 Tardy  
8 — -made man  
12 Wire measure  
13 Unvarying  
14 Margarine  
15 Anger  
16 Bird’s home  
17 Highway division  
18 Send, as payment  
20 Occupant  
22 Do a publishing job  
24 Sinbad’s bird  
25 Segmented worm  
28 Cry  
31 Facts and figures  
32 Back muscle, for short  
34 Roosted  
36 Lawyers’ org.  
37 Palindrome word  
38 Altar’s place

39 Opening

- 42 Destructive insect  
44 Watch pocket  
46 Inbox item  
47 Exertion  
50 Bracing drink  
53 — and hearty  
54 Jason’s ship  
56 Altar constellation  
57 Press  
58 Burn the outside of  
59 Liquor  
60 Winter glider  
61 Aug. follower  
62 Superlative suffix

DOWN

- 1 Eastern potentate  
2 Telegram  
3 Basic  
4 Edible seed  
5 “— Maria”  
6 School event  
7 Stage direction  
8 Comfort  
9 — vital  
10 Time of fasting  
11 Rival  
19 Brainstorming result  
21 “At once!”  
23 Scrabble piece  
25 Oklahoma town  
26 Seizes  
27 Flit  
29 Secret agent’s specialty  
30 Gone by  
33 Abound  
35 Golf peg

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	I	T		O	P	A	L		P	E	R	M
E	C	U		R	O	L	E		O	L	I	O
T	O	N		W	E	L	T		P	E	S	O
S	N	A	K	E				H	A	L	V	E
	S	A	L		S	E	M	I				
S	H	A	L	L	O	T		I	N	G	O	T
P	A	L	E		A	R	I	D		E	M	U
A	L	A		A	F	A	R		N	O	N	E
M	O	D	E	S		N	E	M	E	S	I	S
			S	E	N	D		A	S	P		
B	O	N	S	A	I				U	S	H	E
I	K	E	A			G	O	A	L		E	A
T	R	A	Y			H	U	G	E		R	T
E	A	R	S			T	R	O	D		E	S

38 Bombs

- and bullets  
40 Insult  
41 Overly  
43 Sharp reply  
45 Orchestra section  
47 Nobleman  
48 Floating ice mass  
49 Family relationships diagram  
51 Eye part  
52 Jargon  
53 That man’s  
55 Mountain pass

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			51	52
53					54		55			56		
57					58					59		
60					61					62		