

Candy Canes are Festive and Fun

Candy canes are a favorite holiday treat. Their versatility makes them perfect for all kinds of edible and decorative uses! Plastic versions work great for décor purposes too and can be reused each year!

Here are eight festive ways to use candy canes this season:

1. Enjoy them as a festive treat. Savor the traditional minty flavor or try new fruit flavors.
2. Stir your hot cocoa or coffee with a candy cane to add a touch of minty sweetness to your favorite warm beverages.
3. Attach candy canes to gifts as decorative and edible embellishments.
4. Create festive holiday decorations. Add them to wreaths, trees or hang them around your house.
5. Incorporate crushed candy canes into your desserts or baking, using them as a crunchy topping for ice cream, brownies, cookies, or cupcakes.
6. Use candy canes as stir sticks for holiday-themed cocktails or mocktails, adding a seasonal twist to your beverages.
7. Create candy cane-themed gift packages by bundling them with hot cocoa mix or other holiday treats.
8. Crush candy canes and mix them into homemade trail mix for a sweet and minty twist on a classic snack.



No matter how or which candy canes you enjoy (traditional peppermint, fruit, or cinnamon), they are sure to make your holiday celebrations much more delightful.

Wellington Place at Rib Mountain

149500 County Rd. NN

Wausau, WI 54401

715.842.5000

Bonnie Pluger, Administrator

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WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

The holidays are the perfect time to write a letter to a friend

Nothing is better than receiving a surprise letter in the mail! Whether it is an old friend, a family member, a soldier, or someone you have never met, receiving a personal correspondence can brighten up a winter day! The holidays are the perfect time to put pen to paper, and connect via written word with a senior living resident, a grandchild, a family member, an old friend or neighbor.

Five reasons to write a letter this month:

- Connect with loved ones
- Spread holiday cheer
- Express creativity
- Reflect on events of the past year
- Create keepsakes and memories



Consider including a holiday card or photographs with your letter. Have fun and purchase some festive new stationery or personalize your stationery by making your own with markers, stickers, and doodles!

A Sweet Tradition: Gingerbread Houses

Looking for something sweet to make your winter season complete? On December 12, bake up some fun on Gingerbread House Day!



Whether it's home-baked, a purchased kit, or made with graham crackers designing a tasty cottage can make for a fun and satisfying day.



Want to involve more friends and family in the fun? Take part in a local gingerbread house competition or hold one of your own! Share a picture of your tasty, architectural creation with friends on social media so everyone can enjoy it! Let your social media family decide the winner by asking them to cast their votes.



Fun Tip: Unsure what kind of gingerbread house to make? Try to recreate a local or famous architectural landmark with gingerbread.



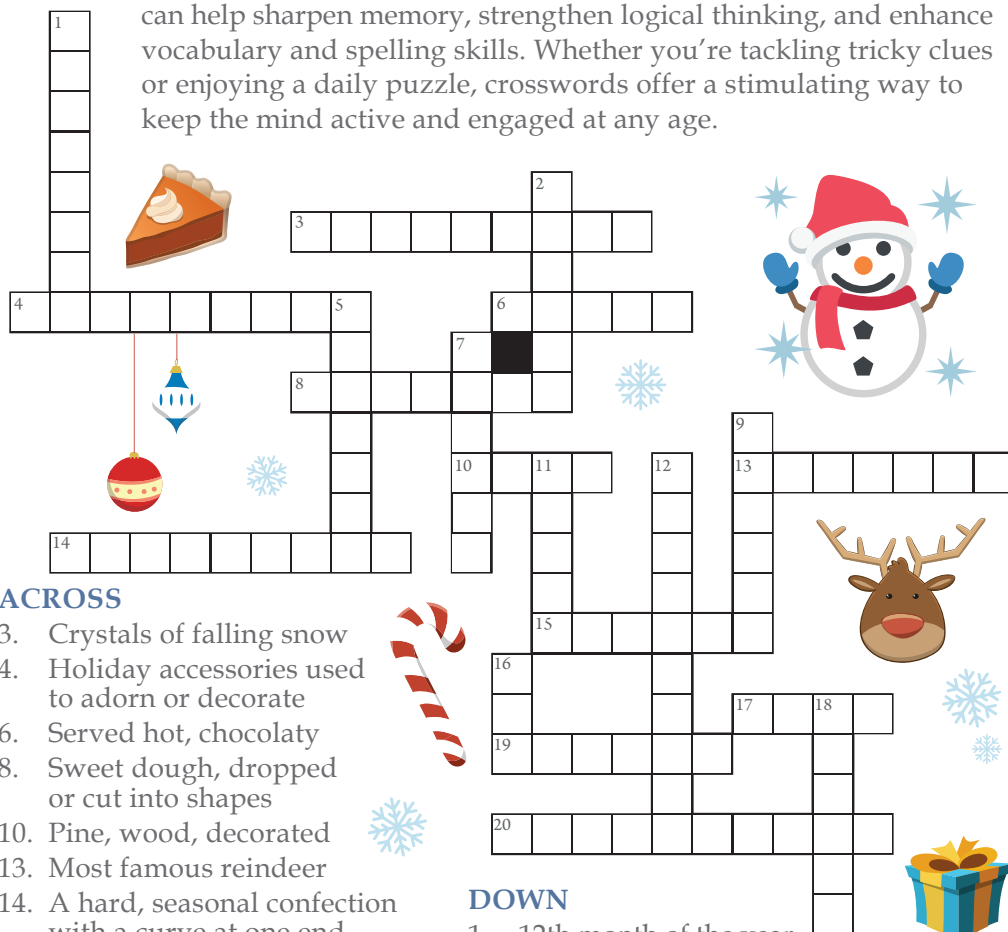
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Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living

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Winter-Themed Crossword

December 21 is National Crossword Puzzle Day — a perfect time to celebrate the benefits of this fun and brain-boosting activity! Regularly solving crosswords can help sharpen memory, strengthen logical thinking, and enhance vocabulary and spelling skills. Whether you're tackling tricky clues or enjoying a daily puzzle, crosswords offer a stimulating way to keep the mind active and engaged at any age.



ACROSS

3. Crystals of falling snow
4. Holiday accessories used to adorn or decorate
6. Served hot, chocolaty
8. Sweet dough, dropped or cut into shapes
10. Pine, wood, decorated
13. Most famous reindeer
14. A hard, seasonal confection with a curve at one end (two words, no space)
15. Horse-drawn vehicle for snow
17. Something given, wrapped
19. A drink made of eggs, milk or cream; sugar, liquor is optional
20. A holiday plant with bright scarlet, pink, or white leaves

Crossword Answers

Flip the page upside down for answers

ACROSS: 3. snowflake, 4. ornaments or elves, 12. traditions, 16. pie, 18. family carols, 5. snowman, 7. winter, 9. wreath, 11. eggnog, 20. poinsettia DOWN: 1. December, 2. Rudolph, 14. candycane, 15. sleigh, 17. gift, 19. trimmings, 6. cocoa, 8. cookies, 10. tree, 13. reindeer

DOWN

1. 12th month of the year
2. A medley or collection of festive songs, sung aloud in a group
5. Figure of a person made of packed snow
7. Cold season between autumn and spring
9. Circular band of flowers/ foliage hung during the holidays
11. Small humans in folklore, pointed ears
12. Long-established customs that are passed on for generations
16. Circular baked good with a filling of meat or fruit
18. Any persons closely related or that comprise a single unit



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