



An End of the Year Puzzle

In Christian culture, the final seven days of December and the first five days of January are traditionally known as the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. There is a traditional song about someone sending gifts to their 'true love' on each of these twelve days. Read the words of the song below and answer the questions at the end.

On the first day, my true love sent to me:

- *A partridge in a pear tree*

On the second day, my true love sent to me:

- *Two turtle doves, and*
- *A partridge in a pear tree*

On the third day, my true love sent to me:

- *Three French hens*
- *Two turtle doves, and*
- *A partridge in a pear tree*

This continues each day until the twelfth day, when 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 gold rings*
- *Four calling birds*
- *Three French hens*
- *Two turtle doves, and*
- *A partridge in a pear tree*

How many gifts were received on a) 31 Dec and on b) 4 Jan? And c) after the twelve days, how many total gifts had my true love sent to me?

Good luck!