December is a time of giving and celebration. People celebrate many different holidays – Hannukah, Christmas and Kwanza are just a few. Do you celebrate anything in December?

Enjoy a feast of fun with the December issue of Connect123! We have puzzles and games and even information about a great winter-time drink – EGGNOG!

In the Northern Hemisphere where we live, December is also a time when days are shorter and colder.

Snuggle up with Connect123 and read about Frost and penguins. Then do the Snowman Puzzles!

Flip through the pages of this month’s issue and pick any one to start your fun.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday month!
Can you find all the things in the silly scene listed at right? Read carefully and look closely – it’s tricky!

This year for Christmas, Connect123 gave to me:

- 12 skating snowmen
- 11 penguin painters
- 10 running reindeer
- 9 shopping salmon
- 8 freezing frogs
- 7 bags of popcorn
- 6 rubber duckies
- 5 ice cream cones
- 4 polar bears
- 3 crayons
- 2 candy canes
- And Santa hiding somewhere on this page!

Speedy search
Race a friend and see who can find the most:
- apples
- carrots
- rabbits
- sports equipment


Look Again!
Did you spot a cactus, a boat, a lollipop and a hot dog?
Replace the missing words.

Historians are not sure who first ________ the drink, but most ________ it originated from a medieval British “posset,” a hot, milky drink flavored with rare ________. Because milk, eggs and spices were expensive, eggnog was often used in a toast to prosperity and ________. 

Standards link: History: Students know holidays and ceremonies of different societies.

What made anyone think of mixing eggs and milk and ________ it? While it may sound yucky, eggnog has been enjoyed around Thanksgiving, ________, and the New Year holidays for hundreds of years.

Creative combos

Look at the objects pictured here. Think about how you would combine two of them to make something new. What would you call your new thing? How would you use it?

Complete the following to explain your Creative Combo!

I would combine a ________ and a ________ to make a ________. 

It would be used for _____________________________.

Eggnog cookies

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 ½ cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
- ¾ cup butter, at room temperature
- ½ cup eggnog
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 egg yolks

PREPARATION:
1. Preheat oven to 300°F.
2. Mix flour, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg in a bowl. Set aside.
3. In another bowl, mix sugar and butter until creamed. Add eggnog, vanilla and egg yolks, mix until smooth.
4. Add dry ingredients to creamed ingredients and mix until moist.
5. Place rounded teaspoons of cookie dough onto baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Sprinkle with nutmeg.
6. Bake for 20 minutes or until bottoms are lightly browned.
7. Remove from baking sheet and let cool. Makes 3 dozen.

Some say nog comes from the word noggin meaning a:

9 5 5 2 3 4

1 8 6

1 = C  4 = N  7 = R
2 = D  5 = O  8 = U
3 = E  6 = P  9 = W

[Image of a cup of eggnog]
**Word search**

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHRISTMAS</th>
<th>CONES</th>
<th>DOG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EQUIPMENT</td>
<td>RABBITS</td>
<td>ICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REINDEER</td>
<td>SPOT</td>
<td>SEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>POPCORN</td>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>BEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PENGUIN</td>
<td>SWEET</td>
<td>BAGS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Puzzler**

**Can you find the two identical ornaments?**

**Can you find the two identical cookies?**

**Puzzler**

Aunt Artica likes lots of ornaments on her Christmas tree. But she doesn’t have room for all of them. By adding the numbers on the ornaments, can you circle the ones she can use? The total can’t be higher than 50 or less than 35. Then have a friend try. Who was able to use the most ornaments?

**Standards link:** Math/Number Sense: Calculate sums.

**Oh, deer!**

Can you find the reindeer drawing Ellen Elf created? Her drawing has all of these features:

- round nose
- 7 bells
- full moon
- curvy horns
- big smile
- short tail

**Answers**

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

**The 12 Days of Reading**

This holiday season, spread the Christmas cheer by reading with your family. Read and mark your progress by coloring in an ornament each day on the tree below. 12 days of reading will result in a celebration from KSL Read Today AmeriCorps.

Merry Christmas and Happy reading!

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**Learning buddy sign here**

I have completed ________ activities with my Learning buddy.

Learning buddy’s signature Date
The Norse legend of Jack Frost originated in Scandinavia. He was the elf son of Kari, god of the winds, and his name there was Jokul, meaning icicle and Frosti meaning frost. He would steal through towns in the night turning the town white and painting frost patterns on windows.

Look out! Look out! Jack Frost is about! He’s after your fingers & toes!
– Cecily Pike

**Jack Frost nipping at your nose**

The Norse legend of Jack Frost originated in Scandinavia. He was the elf son of Kari, god of the winds, and his name there was Jokul, meaning icicle and Frosti meaning frost. He would steal through towns in the night turning the town white and painting frost patterns on windows.

**How frost is made**

by Dr. I. Cicle

It’s simply about water changing from a gas to a solid.

When the _______ temperature at ground level dips to the freezing temperature of water, 0°C (32°F), water _________ or moisture in the air quickly freezes solid on cold surfaces. As this moisture _________ from a gas (vapor) to a solid (ice), it coats cold surfaces with a layer of small, needle-like _________ or spicules of ice. The size of the crystals depends on the amount of _________ in the air, the time and the temperature. Frost _________ first on cooler surfaces and in places where temperatures dip lower.

Whoops! Jack Frost knocked some of the words out of Dr. I. Cicle’s explanation. Find where each word belongs.
**The Power of Generosity**

### A Christmas Carol

**... or The Night That Changed My Life**

**Miserly old me**

Here is what I was like before that fateful Christmas Eve. Oh, I was a sorry old miser. My money was the most important thing to me. Gold and more gold; it really gave me no pleasure, but I just couldn’t part with it and I was always trying to get more.

**I woke up Christmas morning determined to change!**

Then I bought piles of presents for my nephew and his family. It was fun to surprise everyone. But the best present of all has been the love my family and friends have given back to me. I am no longer sad and lonely!

Generosity made me so much richer than hoarding.

Standards Link: Reading comprehension: Students read a variety of grade-level text including narrative text.

---

Hey readers, Scrooge here. If you have ever heard the story of my life, written by Charles Dickens in his book *A Christmas Carol*, then you know how one Christmas Eve changed my entire life. And, changed it for the good!

One Christmas Eve, I was visited by four spirits. Or, maybe my dreams conjured up ghosts as a way to show me where my sad life was leading.

My visions showed me that if I continued to lead a life of greed, I would spend the rest of my days a very sad and lonely man.

---

Now, they don’t call me Scrooge any more! Everyone calls me by my first name. Use the code to discover my first name.

Standards Link: Reading comprehension: Students read a variety of grade-level text including narrative text.

- A = ▼
- E = □
- R = □
- B = ○
- N = ○
- Z = □

Find the two identical dolls.
Money: You Have to Have a Plan
Help Fritter complete his savings plan. Then, write down something you want to buy on the right, the amount of money you need and complete YOUR savings plan!

**FRITTER’S SAVINGS PLAN**

Fritter needs $100 to buy a skateboard.

Money I have saved up now: $1700
Weekly allowance I can save: $500
Weekly work/chores income: $500
TOTAL: $1700

After the first week, how much more money do you need? ________

How many weeks will it take to save the entire amount? ________

**YOUR SAVINGS PLAN**

I need $ ________ to buy ______________.

Money I have saved up now: ________
Weekly allowance I can save: ________
Weekly work/chores income: ________
TOTAL: ________

After the first week, how much more money do you need? ________

How many weeks will it take to save the entire amount? ________

**Let’s Talk!**

Talk with a parent about something your family wants to buy. What can YOU do to help your family spend a little less this week? (Idea: Making sure to turn out lights when you leave a room really adds up.)

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DESERET NEWS

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MONEY MATTERS

EARLYCONNECT 1•2•3

SAVING FOR A BIG PURCHASE

Thrifty & Fritter™ in

Hey, Thrifty! Can I borrow $85 to buy a new skateboard?

Fritter, didn’t Aunt Bella just send you some money last week for your birthday? I think it was a check for $15, right?

Yes, but the new board costs $100!

If you are patient and save up your money each week, you can buy that skateboard pretty soon!

This isn't working! I've been patient for over a minute!

Hey, Fritter! Can I borrow $85 to buy a new skateboard?

Fritter, didn't Aunt Bella just send you some money last week for your birthday? I think it was a check for $15, right?

Yes, but the new board costs $100!

If you are patient and save up your money each week, you can buy that skateboard pretty soon!

This isn't working! I've been patient for over a minute!

MONEY MATTERS

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DESERET NEWS
Hoar frost is the name given to the surface frost that forms on the ground and other cold surfaces.

Fern frost is the name for the beautiful, feathery patterns made by ice crystals that grow on windows and other glass.

Jack Frost left you a message in this window. Color each space marked with a dot blue to reveal it.

How many complete squares can you find in this stack of packages?

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

FROST PATTERNS SPICULES MOISTURE JOKUL FROSTI VAPOR SOLID FORMS ICICLE GAS METAL LAYER COLD STEAL

DICKENS CHRISTMAS CHARLES CAROL CLERK CRATCHIT CHANGE SCROOGE MONEY RHYME POEM GOLD TINY LIFE

LT IHCTARCE NICE E MY HRS YSFHLORACK ENNEAIRRRO NGIESROESI OTNKOLYLG MIMAGCMEOP VAEEHSILSK SKRELCDDP0

Please send ideas, suggestions or information to: nie@deseretnews.com

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Learning buddy sign here

I have completed ________ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning buddy’s signature ________ Date

This November the librarians at the Salt Lake Public Library are thankful for local authors. Check out their picks and start reading!

"It Starts With a Seed," by Laura Knowles. Take a journey through the seasons and years as we follow the seed’s transformation from a seedling to a sapling, then a young tree, until it becomes a large tree with its branches and roots filling the page.

"Jabari Jumps," by Gaia Cornwall. In a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can’t help but root for.

"Life," by Cynthia Rylant. There are so many wonderful things about life, both in good times and in times of struggle.

"I Am Not a Dinosaur," by Will Lach. Way back in time, astonishing creatures lived on our planet. But they weren’t all dinosaurs! In this fascinating book, you’ll meet some of these amazing prehistoric creatures.

"Her Right Foot," by Dave Eggers. If you had to name a statue, any statue, odds are you’d mention the Statue of Liberty. Have you seen her? She’s in New York. She’s holding a torch. And she’s taking one step forward. But why?

Standards link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

My name: ____________________________

BUILD AN IGLOO

Each time you find an answer to one of the following math problems, color in that answer on the igloo. Can you color in all of the snow-cold bricks?

Standards Link: Math; compute sums up to 20.

Can you identify the different kinds of icebergs?

Icebergs have been divided into six groups based upon their shape: blocky, wedge, tabular, dome, pinnacle and drydock. Do the math to discover which is which.

What color is an iceberg?

Find where each missing word belongs.

Icebergs are mostly ________ because they are full of tiny air ________. The surface of these bubbles reflects white light making it look white. Ice that has no bubbles looks a bit blue.

Icebergs do come in different colors (but not different ________). Some icebergs look green. This is from ________ growing in the ice and is only seen when icebergs roll over ________ the previously underwater sections to ________.

Standards link: Reading comprehension; Follow simple written directions.
Everyone’s favorite flightless fowl!

**Penguins**

### The emperor

The largest penguin is the emperor penguin. It lives in Antarctica. In fact, it is the only wild animal that spends the winter there. Use the Cold Code to learn more.

- **Height:** 7 inches tall
- **Weight:** 90 pounds

### True or false?

The emperor penguin can dive as much as 800 feet underwater and stay submerged for 20 minutes.

- ✗ True
- ✗ False

**Standards link:** Life science: Animals have different features that serve different functions in survival.

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The fairy penguin

Fairy penguins are sometimes called little blue penguins because of their bluish color. They live on islands near Australia and New Zealand and are the smallest penguin species.

On Philip Island, fairy penguins put on a parade each day at sunset. Hundreds of the fairy penguins waddle ashore and parade along the beach.

- **Height:** 4 inches tall
- **Weight:** 15 pounds

---

Bird beaks tell all

You can tell what a bird eats by looking at its beak. Penguins’ mouths are neatly adapted for grabbing and holding slippery fish. Their bills have sharp edges for cutting, and the insides are lined with barbs, which help them get a good grip on a fish.

---

Penguin patterns

Circle the penguin that should come next in each pattern.

- 16 - 8 = Adelie
- 22 + 4 = African
- 13 + 13 = Chinstrap
- 19 - 7 = Emperor
- 32 - 14 = Erect-crested
- 14 - 8 = Galapagos
- 17 + 21 = Gentoo
- 15 + 13 = Humbolt
- 18 + 14 = King
- 13 + 13 = Little (Blue, Fairy)

**Standards link:** Math/number Sense: Solve addition and subtraction problems.

---

Penguin prankster

There are 17 species of penguins world-wide. But when Petrina Penguin made a list of all the species, she added one more to trick you. To discover which is NOT a real penguin species, do the math. The odd-numbered species is the fake.

- 16 - 4 = Macaroni
- 20 - 4 = Magellanic
- 13 + 15 = Rockhopper
- 12 + 17 = Sidestepper
- 9 + 25 = Snares
- 11 - 7 = Yellow-eyed.

**Standards link:** Math probability; Extend simple patterns.
Snowman puzzles

Chill out with this cool collection of brrrr-ain teasers.

What did the scarf say to the hat?

“Trees you squeeze go on knees ahead keys please and I’ll bees just hang skis around breeze.”

Scrambled snowman
How many snowmen can you find in this puzzle?

Whoops! This snowman lost his head. Can you find it?

Cross out the words that rhyme with FREEZE.

What is a snowman’s favorite food?

What does a snowman put on a taco?

What do you call a family of snowmen around a cozy fireplace?

Frozen followers
Draw the snowman that should come next in each row to continue the pattern.

Standards link: Mathematical reasoning: Complete patterns.
Read Today celebrates South Kearns Elementary

The Read Today team and Chopper 5 made a stop at South Kearns Elementary School last month to celebrate the school’s progress and impressive accomplishment. They took their school letter grade from an “F” to a “C” in just one year. Last year, Principal Debbie Koji brought in new teachers for every class but three and worked to turn things around. The first step was new desks, new carpet, paint and lighting for the 65-year-old building. The next step was a strong focus on reading. Intervention programs and reading coaches were introduced while students were invited to check books out of the library to take home and read. The third turnaround was home visits for every family that would allow one. The progress has given the whole school a boost of confidence and determination to excel. South Kearns has made more progress than any other school in the Granite District. Congratulations South Kearns! We hope to return again when you make your “A.”