

kid zone

STORY



page 4

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THE
SALVATION
ARMY

Christmas
with
the Salvos

The Elf on the Shelf
CHRISTMAS
HEROES

SUPER
MARIO
GALAXY

+

SUPER
MARIO
GALAXY 2

EATS

THE
SALVATION
ARMY

PUZZLES * QUIZZES * STORIES * RECIPES * PRIZES

k THIS z Week...

We're getting ready for Christmas with the Salvos in this week's **Kidzone**.

The Salvos will be popping up on your TV and at your local shops celebrating Jesus' birth this Christmas — find out more in our feature. **BitBoy** plays some fun new **Elf**

On The Shelf and **Mario** games, plus **Oliver** makes a beautiful Christmas tree decoration. **Bookworm** shares some great new Christmas books and **Cheffy** makes Malteser wreaths. All this plus an awesome story, puzzles galore and the colouring comp to enjoy. Happy reading!



Abigail and the Christmas Contest — written by **Bethany McIlrath**; illustrated by **Katie Saunders**

What it's about: It's going to be the best Christmas ever. Abigail's cousin is visiting, plus there's snow, presents and a new puppy to play with. Best of all, Abigail has a plan for an amazing Christmas contest, which she aims to win! But when the cousins come together, it isn't long before jealousy threatens to steal Abigail's joy.

What we love: Join the Christmas chaos as 9-year-old Abigail learns that the joy that Jesus brings is the kind of joy that can never be taken away. For Kidzoners 8 and up.

Cracking the Christmas Code: An Advent Activity Book — written by **Catherine Mackenzie**; illustrated by **Kim Shaw**

What it's about: Follow Mary and Joseph's journey, help the shepherds find their way to the manger, decode angel messages, and spot differences in scenes of the wise men's travels.

What we love: Discover the true meaning of Christmas with this delightful puzzle book that brings the biblical nativity story to life. Younger readers will love this interactive journey through the very first Christmas, combining faith, fun and learning. For Kidzoners 4 to 8.



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EATS

MALTESER WREATHS

what you need:

1 cup icing sugar, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, round sweet biscuits, Christmas sprinkles, red and green mini M&Ms, Maltesers

directions:

- 1 Add icing sugar and cocoa powder to a mixing bowl. Add a small amount of water and mix until smooth. Add more icing sugar as necessary to create a mix that is not super stiff, but not too runny. You want the icing to stay where you spread it on the biscuit in step 2.
- 2 Use a knife to spread a ring of icing around the edge of the biscuit, about 1 cm wide.
- 3 Add Christmas sprinkles to the icing. Tip the excess sprinkles off so that the un-iced centre of the biscuit is clear.
- 4 Add 5 Maltesers, evenly spaced around the ring.
- 5 Add red and green mini M&Ms to the spaces between the Maltesers to complete decorating the 'wreath'.
- 6 Place in the fridge to set until serving.

yum!

Oliver piled shredded brown paper into the shoe box and put it on the floor in front of the Christmas tree.

"How are Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus coming along?" he called over his shoulder.

D-Jayn and Traveller were dressing three dolls in clothes like people used to wear in Bible times. D-Jayn draped a piece of blue material over her doll's head and pinned it in place.

"I've finished Mary," she said, bringing the doll over to the nativity scene Oliver was creating.

He had set up a cardboard stable underneath the big Christmas tree in CK's tree house. Cardboard sheep and cows stood on either side and a sparkly cardboard star hung from its roof. He sat the doll behind the cardboard box he had made into the manger.

"Here's Joseph!" Traveller handed Oliver her doll, which she had dressed in a stripey outfit and stuck a brown felt beard on its face. "Izzy, have you got Baby Jesus?"

Izzy ran up to Oliver with a baby doll wrapped in a white blanket. "Here he is!"

"Thank you!" Oliver stood the Joseph doll next to the Mary doll, then placed the Baby Jesus doll into the manger.

"That looks awesome!" CK said, coming up the tree house ladder with a poster rolled up under his arm. "Now to hang the poster above our Christmas tree."

Oliver brought over the step ladder and held the poster for CK while he carefully climbed up it. D-Jayn and

Oliver stuck Blu-Tack to each corner of the poster and along the top edge, then handed it to CK. He stood on tiptoes and pressed the poster onto the wall above the angel on top of the tree.

Little Izzy looked up at the poster. Angels were painted on either side, with big words written in gold in the middle. "What does it say?"

"It says: 'The angel said, "I am bringing you joyful news. Today your Saviour was born in Bethlehem"', " CK smiled. "That's what the angel said to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born."

"What's a Saviour?" asked Izzy.

"Jesus is our Saviour," CK explained. "God sent him to Earth to save us, so that if we believe in him, we can have everlasting life."

Cheffy appeared out of the kitchen with a plate of muffins. "Snacks anyone?"

While everyone gathered around Cheffy, Izzy went over to the nativity scene. She took the Baby Jesus doll out of the manger and unwrapped him. After a while, CK realised Izzy was not with them and



BABY JES Superhe

looked around to see where she was. To his surprise, he saw she had tied Baby Jesus' blanket around his neck like a cape and was holding him above her head as if he were flying.

"Izzy! What are you doing?" he exclaimed.

Izzy ran over to him holding the Baby Jesus doll in front of her. "You know

how you said God sent Jesus to Earth to save us?"

CK nodded.

"Superheroes save people, so I thought Baby Jesus must be a superhero," Izzy said. "And superheroes need capes – so I made one for him!"

CK smiled. "You're right! He is a superhero, but not like Superman or Spider-Man. Jesus is way more special! God sent Jesus, his son, to Earth because he loves us so much."

Traveller came over to them and gave Izzy another little blanket.

"Why don't you keep the cape on our Baby Jesus doll, but wrap him up in this blanket while he's in the manger?"

Izzy nodded, wrapped the Baby Jesus doll in the blanket and carefully put him in the cardboard manger. Then she carefully poked a bit of the cape out, just enough for everyone to see a little reminder that Jesus is the hero of Christmas.



BIBLE MESSAGE

Thank you, God, for Jesus! "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son so that anyone who believes in him shall have everlasting life," (John chapter three, verse 16®).



05

By Faye Michelson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

SAT 13

Charlotte Tillet (7)

SUN 14

Mariama (13),
Ella Dongs (8),
Daniel Edwards (12),
Jazmine Taylor (12)

MON 15

Savannah May Watson (14),
Naomi Vijayakumar (14),
Alejandro Lax (7)

TUE 16

Zachary Brook (9)

WED 17

Isaac Schep (13),
Kaelyn Gray (10),
William Kulikowsky (12)

THU 18

Mark Ow

FRI 19

Archie Redford (12),
Talitha Morton (12)

Please put my name on the
BIRTHDAY LIST

Full Name Birth Date
Age Now Parent's signature
☒ If you are aged between five and 14 and would like your birthday/letter printed in Kidzone, fill in the coupon and send it to: Cousin Koala™, 95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130 or head to <https://www.kidzomemag.com.au/ciktreehouse>.
(Include a letter in your own handwriting and permission (signature) from your parent to have it printed.)

CK'S TREEHOUSE

Dear Kidzoners, Thanks for all your letters, photos and drawings – I love collecting them, so keep sending them to me so I can hang them up in my tree house. I can't wait to hear from you!

– Cousin Koala (CK)

Send your letters to:

Cousin Koala, 95-99 Railway Rd,
Blackburn Vic. 3130

Hey there Evelyn!

I'm so glad your granny and gramma give you Kidzone when they visit you. And I'm also super glad you're reading them because the kidzone team loves making them for our awesome readers each week! We've been publishing Kidzone for 26 years so we have made a LOT of magazines over that time!!! If I had to guess, there would be about 1,300 magazines. You, your sister and dad must have a lot of fun doing LEGO together. What do you like to build the most? And what sort of things do you like to do? I like trying the different things. Oliver comes up with – the native page 12 this week looks very impressive. You give it a go? I think drawing is one of your fave crafts, because you did a great one. Pangie bear is great. I especially like the foam shapes around the edge.

Have a great week! From CK

P.S. Izzy is my cousin and yes, I like Pokemon!

EMAIL

I love your mags so much and I also like the comics too 🥰
My favourite color is pink what is your favourite color??
From Ariella
🍓🍓🍓🍓🍓🍓

Hello Ariella!
The comics are so, so funny! The Kidzone illustrator Rod is super clever. He's really fun to work with!
My favourite colour is gumleaf green but pink is lovely too. Izzy has planted pink roses at the bottom of my tree house and they are looking and smelling amazing!
Bear hugs, CK

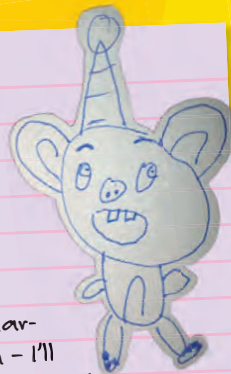
I love to play hide-and-seek. Can you find me on one of this week's Kidzone pages?



To CK,
I love your stories and pictures.
My fave sports are dance and oztag. By the way, my name is Cora Phoenix. I can't wait to see what things you do next!
Love Corah

Hello Corah!

I love your cute drawing of me wearing a hat! Thanks for sending it in - I'll put it on my tree house wall. It's so special when Kidzoners send me pictures! I'm happy you love our stories and comics, because the Kidzone team loves writing and drawing them each week! I'm also glad to know that you're excited to see what we'll be doing next because we have lots of awesome adventures and fun to share in future issues. Dance and oztag are so fun to do! I love sport, too - my fave sports are cricket and AFL. Have a great week, CK
P.S. Thanks for sending in your birthday list coupon. You're on my list!



Hi Cousin Koala!
My name is Nathan. I'm 6 years old. I have been seeing you on a Kidzone page. I live with my family. I have a bro named Callum, my parents are Jody and David, and thank you. From Nathan.

Hi Nathan!
You have such lovely manners! Thanks for writing and for the cute drawing of me. I'll make sure to hang it up in the tree house! Say a big hello to your brother Callum and your mum and dad, too! Bear hugs, CK

COUSIN KOALA



Christmas with the Salvos



Across Australia, the
celebrating the birth
thousands of people
hope and joy to Auss
From your local shop
your TV screen, here
are a few places
you might spot
the Salvos this
Christmas!

Don't
miss this
year's special
TV event *Christmas
With The Salvos* on
Channel 7.

This year's special is hosted by
Sunrise reporter Katie Brown
and features celebrity chefs
Gary Meighan and Jason Rob-
erts cooking up some delicious
recipes and spreading some
Christmas cheer as they visit
Salvation Army workers and vol-
unteers in Melbourne and Collaroy.

Plus, superstar Irish singer Ronan
Keating (one of the judges on
The Voice) performs a special song.

Tune in to Channel 7 on 6, 14 or 25
December to catch *Christmas With
The Salvos*, or stream on
7plus.

Salvos at the local shops

When you're at the local
shops this Christmas, see if you
can spot some Salvos! At shopping
centres around Australia, volunteers
will be collecting donations for The
Salvation Army Christmas Appeal
and wrapping presents for a gold
coin donation.

08



the Salvos are
birth of Jesus with
people and bringing
Aussies in need.
shops to
ere

For more
than 40 years,
Carols in the Domain
has brought together
some of Australia's biggest
stars to celebrate Christmas.
Thousands gather in Sydney's beautiful
Domain, while millions more tune in
from across the country via Channel
7 and 7plus to enjoy the festivities
from home.

From twinkling lights and festive fireworks to the soaring
voices of Australia's finest performers, there's
nothing quite like singing your favourite carols
under the stars ... or from your couch!

**Hosted by Sunrise hosts Nat Barr and
Matt Shirvington, this year's event
is on Saturday 20 December
at 7.45 p.m.**

**Now in its 38th
year, the Kmart Wish-
ing Tree Appeal is Australia's
largest and longest-running
Christmas gift appeal.**

Kmart and the Salvos have teamed up to deliver
more than 14 million gifts to Aussies in need at
Christmas. Wow!

Anyone can contribute to the Appeal and help
spread joy to families in need by donating a gift or
money in-store or heading to <https://kmartwishingtree.salvos.org.au> to make a donation online.

**The appeal runs until 24 December,
2025. Visit [www.kmart.com.au/
kmartwishingtree](https://www.kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree) for more info.**

THE
SALVATION
ARMY

The Salvation Army's
CAROLS
in the Domain

We ♥ Christmas

If you're for-
tunate enough to go
to the Carols in person,
don't miss a super-special
bumper Christ-
mas edition of
Kidzone in the
candle bags!

DID
YOU
KNOW?

... you can also
tune in to
The Salvation
Army's Carols
In The Domain
on the radio on the
Hit Network and
LISTNR app. Cool!

**Wishing Tree
Appeal**

THE
SALVATION
ARMY

09



The Elf on the Shelf CHRISTMAS HEROES

With Christmas spirit running low, things aren't so merry at the North Pole.

Santa's sleigh won't fly, the gifts aren't ready and there's a chance that some children won't end up on Santa's Nice List. But that's all about to change now that you are stepping in to help Santa on this festive mission.

First step: Scout Elf School. Dash, swing and leap through challenges to become an 'official Scout Elf'. You'll meet your new family and receive your Scout Elf name. You'll mix, match and dazzle to create the perfect holiday outfit with sparkling seasonal accessories.

As an official Scout Elf, you won't just perch in your new spot in the home. You'll spread Christmas cheer, explore every room and fly around the kitchen, over the backyard and back to the North Pole while dodging nutcrackers, swinging past Christmas ornaments and escaping all sorts of obstacles.

This game's all about making things merry and bright, helping Santa bring joy to children everywhere! Are you ready to be a Christmas hero?



PLATFORMS: SWITCH



PLATFORMS: SWITCH, PS4, PS5, STEAM, XBOX ONE, XBOX SERIES X|S

SUPER MARIO GALAXY + SUPER MARIO GALAXY 2

Embark on an enhanced pair of interstellar escapades in 'Super Mario Galaxy + Super Mario Galaxy 2' for Nintendo Switch!

Journey into space on the hunt for Power Stars, overcome a universe of challenges and most of all – stop Bowser!

Blast off for a gravity-defying experience! Explore planets, recover the Grand Stars and travel the universe in the comet observatory on a quest to stop Bowser from creating his very own galaxy.

WHAT'S NEW?

'Super Mario Galaxy + Super Mario Galaxy 2' on Nintendo Switch features a range of improvements:

- ★ Upgraded visuals for both games.
- ★ Turn on Assist Mode to help with your adventure! Play with more health, heal just by standing still and return to solid ground if you fall into space. You can turn this mode on and off whenever you like.
- ★ Enjoy an additional chapter of Rosalina's picture book in 'Super Mario Galaxy' and discover an entirely new picture book tale in 'Super Mario Galaxy 2'.
- ★ Listen to the soundtrack of each game from the main menu – 154 tracks in total!

ENHANCED FOR NINTENDO SWITCH 2

A free update will be available for 'Super Mario Galaxy + Super Mario Galaxy 2' on Nintendo Switch 2. Play both games at 4K resolution in TV mode or 1080p in Handheld and Tabletop mode.



PLATFORMS: SWITCH

BIBLE MESSAGE

'Super Mario Galaxy' isn't a Christmassy game like 'Elf on the Shelf: Christmas Heroes', but it's a game involving a journey guided by a special star that reminds me of the Christmas story.

The wise men spotted an unusual star and knew that it was a sign from God telling them that a king [Jesus] had been

born. They followed that star on an epic journey, travelling a long, long way from their home to find Jesus, the real hero of Christmas! "They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew chapter two, verse 11z).



kz

11

HEY CRAFTY CREW!

MAKE YOUR OWN WOOL NATIVITY STAR



What you need:

an adult's help, hot glue gun or craft glue, 5 craft sticks (normal size), 2 sticks (large size), scissors, large craft sticks, different coloured wool (I used yellow, brown, purple, white and blue), black felt-tipped pen

1 With an adult's help, glue together the ends of the five normal-size craft sticks to form a star shape. Let dry.

2 Once dry, wrap the star-shaped sticks in yellow wool to completely cover it. Tie off the wool at the back or use a dot of glue to secure the end. Cut a length of yellow wool to make a loop for hanging and glue the ends to the back of the star. Let dry.

3 On a large craft stick, measure a length around 9 cm and ask an adult to help you cut with scissors.

4 With the remaining lengths of large sticks, measure lengths of 7.5 cm and 5 cm and cut these out. You should now have three sticks: longest for Joseph, medium for Mary and shortest for baby Jesus.

5 Take the shortest stick and wrap around 2/3 to 3/4 of it in white wool, leaving the rounded edge unwrapped. Secure the end of the wool at the back with a dab of glue.

6 Repeat step 5 with the medium stick (Mary) in blue yarn, and the longest stick (Joseph) in purple.

7 Glue a length of brown wool to Mary's head to give her some hair. Glue some wool to Joseph's head to make a hat.

8 Use a felt-tipped pen to add eyes, smiles and any other details to the figure.

9 Glue Mary and Joseph to the front of the star. Hold in place and let dry.

10 Glue baby Jesus to the front of Mary and Joseph. Hold in place and let dry.

BIBLE MESSAGE

This nativity star will look so great on my family's Christmas tree this year! What's your favourite way to decorate for Christmas?

Decorations like this star remind us why we celebrate Christmas – the birth of Jesus, God's son.

"For to us a child is born ... And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah chapter nine, verse 6²).





*Entries will be judged on artistic merit.

Colouring Competition

Kidzone has three
Kawaii Christmas Markerific
packs to give away!



SEND YOUR ENTRY (BY FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026) TO:

Kidzone's Colouring Competition, 95-99 Railway Road, Blackburn VIC, 3130

OR HEAD TO kidzonemag.com.au/competition TO UPLOAD YOUR ENTRY.

Full Name

Age

Address

Postcode

Parent's signature

nk

13



There are lots of important characters in the Christmas story. There's the angel who visited Mary to tell her she was going to have God's son. There was Mary's husband, Joseph. There were the shepherds, who were told about the birth of the Saviour by an angel, and there was the huge choir of angels who appeared to them praising God. Then there were the wise men who followed the star to travel a long, long way to see the baby king. But the most important person in the Christmas story is Jesus! Remember what the angel told the shepherds? "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Saviour - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born tonight in Bethlehem! How will you recognise him? You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger!" (Luke chapter two, verses 10-12®).

Can you find the words highlighted green in the word search?



JESUS LOVES YOU! & wants to be your friend!

If you would like to know more about prayer and how to read the Bible fill in the coupon below and send it to us. We'll send you some cool info!

Name: Age:

Address:

Postcode:

Parent's Permission:

95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130 or email: kidzone@salvationarmy.org.au



ANSWERS
Grid it: a:c6, b:d6, c:d4,
d:b5, e:b2, f:e3, Word
square: carolling, Pages:
1-8-2-3-11, 4-7-5-2, 6-12.
Spot the diff:
Sam's Mega Puzzle:

Competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

AMARU S.B.
(8 - VIC.)

SARAH K
(VIC.)

NOAH K
(10 - NSW)



YOU HAVE WON

... a LEGO
Creator
Playful Cat.

NEXT WEEK
in kidzone



LEADERS kidzone

Run a Kidzone kids church. We've made it super easy!

Our leaders' guides break down each current Kidzone magazine into different zones with activities, teachings, prayers and small group questions.

Head to kidzonemag.com.au/kidzone-leaders-guide to download and begin!



PUZZLES * QUIZZES * STORIES * RECIPES



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in Australia



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Blackburn 3130. Commissioner
Miriam Gluyas, Territorial Commander.

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N	L	G
O	A	L
i	C	R

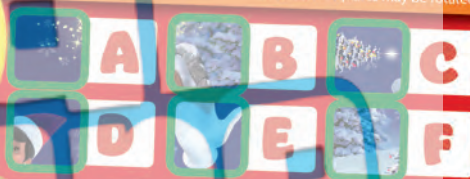
Each letter may be used only once per word and each word must contain the middle letter. There is one nine-letter word.
Clue: singing Christmas songs.

Can you work out the coordinates of the small squares which are taken from the big picture?

1 2 3 4 5 6



Note: some squares may be rotated



Spot the 10 differences between these two pics

Find and circle these pictures in the scene below.



spot the diff

