

The December 2024 Issue was written by: Alfred, Teddy, Oliver, Mason, George, Henry, Miruna and Ava.

# The Finlay Flyer...

Across the world, different countries celebrate Christmas in different ways to us. Miruna has been finding out about festive traditions in Romania:

## Romanian Traditions

Mos Nicolae Mos Nicolae comes on 5th December. If you want to get tiny toys and candy you have to clean your boots. If you are bad you get a stick! It is a reminder to not do anything bad before Christmas.



Mascati Mascati are a group of people that knock on doors and make loud noises to scare bad spirits away. It is on 30th December and they also say poems.



Sorcova On 1st January, children in Romania visit adults and wish them well. There is a short poem that they must recite, which wishes of good health and prosperity. For that, the children receive money.



*Welcome to the bumper Christmas edition of The Finlay Flyer for 2024! In this edition, you will find a Christmas quiz and puzzles, fascinating facts about the Aurora Borealis and Christmas during World War 2. You will find out how some of our teachers celebrate Christmas, and you can also play some exciting Christmas games that we have created on Scratch!*

Cozonac Cozonac is a type of cake that has been made for years and it is a very old tradition in Romania. It is made for special occasions like Christmas or Easter. Whenever I visit my grandma in Romania, she always has it done!



**Read more on the next page!**



**Finlay Community School**

**ASPIRE**

**BELONG**

**ACHIEVE**

# More Romanian Traditions!

**Dragobete** It's like Valentine's Day but it's on a different day! It is on 24th February in Romania.



**Bun venit** Guests can come to your house and bring bread and salt. You can do it on any day. This symbolises hospitality and welcome.

**Sanzienele** It's a special festival on 24th June. There are good fairies who dance and special powers.



**Embroidery** You can do it at any time of year! It is where little flowers are stuck onto your shirt and each flower tells a story.

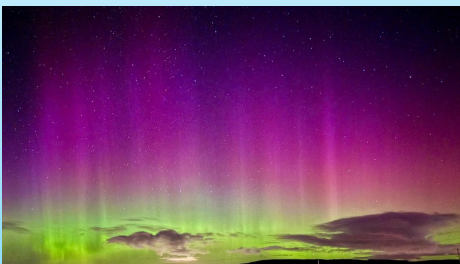
By Miruna

# Aurora Borealis

Aurorae, otherwise known as the Northern Lights, are a great influence on several cultures. From the Greeks worshipping it, to those in Greenland viewing it as the spirits of dead children, it has influenced many from around the world, and remains a tourist hotspot, tracing minds everywhere it goes with unforgettable memories for the dark winter days.



The word Aurora is derived from the name of the Roman goddess of dawn, who travelled east to west announcing the sun. The words Borealis and Australis are derived from the Greek gods of the north and south respectively.



The earliest record of an aurora is dated back from 97/57 BCE. This was in Ancient China. However, it was first described by the Greek explorer Pytheas in the fourth century BCE (five centuries earlier) but the earliest written record was far before, believed to be a Chinese legend during 2600BCE.



The aurora appears in the extreme north and south poles, in places with little light pollution, or in other words, places where streetlights and similar lights as that, are abundant. Auroras also appear in an auroral zone, and will change simultaneously with the respective auroral zone.



There are many things still not known about the Northern Lights. However, sometimes, it can be observed as far south as the Tropic of Capricorn.

By Alfred

# Christmas Teacher Quiz!

by Ava

## What's your favourite Christmas outfit?

“An elf” - Miss Moncrieff

“My Grinch jumper” - Miss Livermore

“A sparkly dress” - Mrs Jones

“An elf” - Mrs McRoberts

“An elf” - Miss Sharpe



## What's your favourite Christmas tradition?

“Making calendars” - Miss Moncrieff

“Eating and helping to cook the Christmas dinner” - Miss  
Livermore

“Eating pigs in blankets” - Mrs Jones

“Watching movies and drinking hot chocolate” - Mrs  
McRoberts

“Eating fish and chips with my family on Christmas Eve” -  
Miss Sharpe



## What's your favourite Christmas game?

“Musical statues” - Miss Moncrieff

“A Boxing Day quiz” - Miss Livermore

“Charades” - Mrs Jones

“Charades” - Mrs McRoberts

“Linkee” - Miss Sharpe



## What's your favourite Christmas film?

“Home Alone” - Miss Moncrieff

“The Grinch” - Miss Livermore

“Miracle on 34th Street” - Mrs Jones

“Home Alone” - Mrs McRoberts

“Arthur Christmas” - Miss Sharpe



## Tell me your funniest Christmas joke...

“What do you get if you eat tinsel? Tinsel-itis!” - Miss Moncrieff

“What do you call a reindeer with bad manners? Rude-olf!”  
- Miss Livermore

“Why did Santa have to go to the hospital? Because of his bad elf!” - Mrs Jones

“How did Scrooge win the football game? The Ghost of Christmas passed!” - Mrs McRoberts

“What did the Christmas card say to the stamp? Stick with me and we'll go places!” - Miss Sharpe

# Dinosaur Discovered During December!

Name: Patagopelta

Latin translation: Patagonian shield

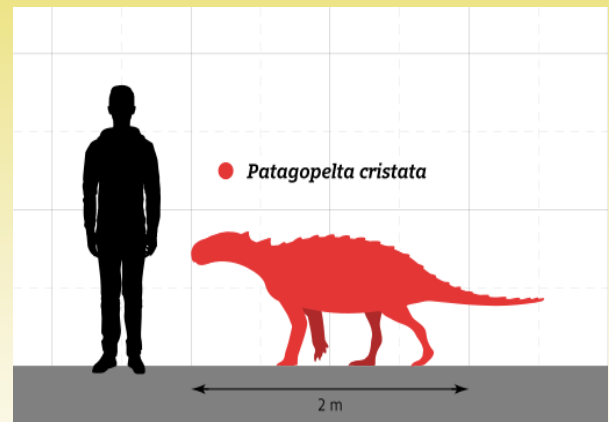
Species category: small ankylosaur

Length: 2m or 6.6ft

Date of discovery: December 2022

Place of discovery: Patagonia , Argentina

Period: late Cretaceous



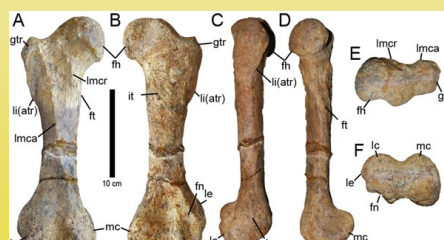
## More On Patagopelta

Patagopelta was an arguably small ankylosaur (considering the size of some others). They appeared to be a short but mighty dinosaur covered in a plethora of armour and plates -which make it a challenging opponent to face. It was a herbivore that mostly fed on shrubs.



## December Discovery

The patagopelta was recently discovered in Patagonia, 2022, as well as being in December—making it a festive holiday discovery!



By Teddy

# World War 2 Christmas

## Christmas during the Blitz

Christmas 1940 took place in the middle of the Blitz. Between September and November, London had been bombed for 57 consecutive nights. The bombing campaign showed no signs of abating as Christmas Day approached so many people spent Christmas Eve in an air-raid shelter.



## Christmas post

In wartime, finding adequate numbers of postal workers to deal with the influx of extra letters and parcels at Christmas time became more of a problem as many permanent staff members were in the armed services. There was also less space available to carry mail on the railways, which were needed for transport of troops and munitions.

## Stockings and gifts

The toys and gifts in this Christmas stocking from 1940 have been made from low-quality wartime paper.



## Spending Christmas underground

Canteens like this provided shelter and refreshments for those who had been bombed out of their own homes, or who were working as fire-watchers or on other Air Raid Precautions (ARP) duties.

## Santa Claus

During World War II, Santa Claus was deployed to help with the war effort. He urged Americans to buy war bonds, conserve resources, and maintain silence to prevent leaks to the enemy. Women filled the traditional role of playing Santa Claus, and there was a shortage of Christmas trees due to the lack of manpower.



By Oliver



# Games Corner!



*This term, Mason has taken on the role of game developer. Using the program Scratch, he has created a super exciting Christmas-themed game—which you can try too!*

## Present Pursuit

My game is called Present Pursuit, which is a game where you (Rudolph) have to collect 20 presents that have fallen from Santa's sleigh.

But he doesn't know his presents have fallen out, so he is trying to get you back on your reins so he can deliver presents to all the children.



Play it now! Copy this link into your web browser:

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/1112301146>



By Mason



# Christmas Quiz



- 1) If you're born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?  
A) Sagittarius      B) Capricorn      C) Taurus      D) Pisces
- 2) What colour are mistletoe berries?  
A) Blue      B) Red      C) Purple      D) White
- 3) Which animal carried Mary before Jesus was born?  
A) Donkey      B) Horse      C) Camel      D) Mule
- 4) In which year was the first Christmas card sent?  
A) 1743      B) 1843      C) 1943      D) 1643
- 5) True or False - Christmas celebrates Jesus.
- 6) True or False - There is a town called Santa Claus in the USA.
- 7) True or False - The Mariah Carey song 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' was released in the 2000s.
- 8) Which country developed Christmas crackers?  
A) USA      B) China      C) France      D) Germany
- 9) How many presents in total we were given in the 12 Days of Christmas  
A) 366      B) 364      C) 365      D) 367
- 10) In which year did Rudolph first appear?  
A) 1989      B) 1951      C) 2011      D) 1939
- 11) Which city has been donating Trafalgar Square's Christmas tree to London every year since 1947?  
A) Berlin      B) Rome      C) Oslo      D) Paris
- 12) How many ghosts show up in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*?  
A) 4      B) 5      C) 6      D) 7
- 13) In *Home Alone 2*, who does Kevin run into in the hotel lobby?  
A) Santa Claus      B) Donald Trump      C) The robbers      D) His parents
- 14) In which country did eggnog originate?  
A) Britain      B) USA      C) Japan      D) France
- 15) How many states in the US have a town called 'Santa Claus'?  
A) 5      B) 3      C) 6      D) 4

By Oliver

# Can you match the Christmas Kennings?

Pie eater  
Chimney climber  
Present giver  
Cookie crumbs maker  
Reindeer lover  
Only comes at night



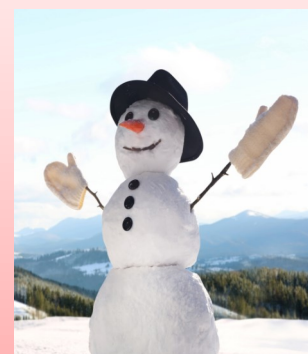
Cold lover  
Big smile  
Stick arms  
Berry eyes



Wings to fly  
Golden halo  
Always kind  
Never frowning



Red cardboard  
Topped with a bow



By *Henry*

# Christmas Puzzles!

s k n y t u j  
f c j e a v j  
t d h k x e h  
r f g r s b r  
e t a u u a h  
e l s t t t a  
e o o s e j t  
l e s n i t c  
l s k g f o h  
g p p d a u r  
h u h h c v i  
t v a x a x s  
s z p w u b t  
o b p a z b m  
o e y e b f a  
z q x j c a s

Which path does Bear need to take to reach the house?



Can you find the path from the arrow to the present?

CHRISTMAS

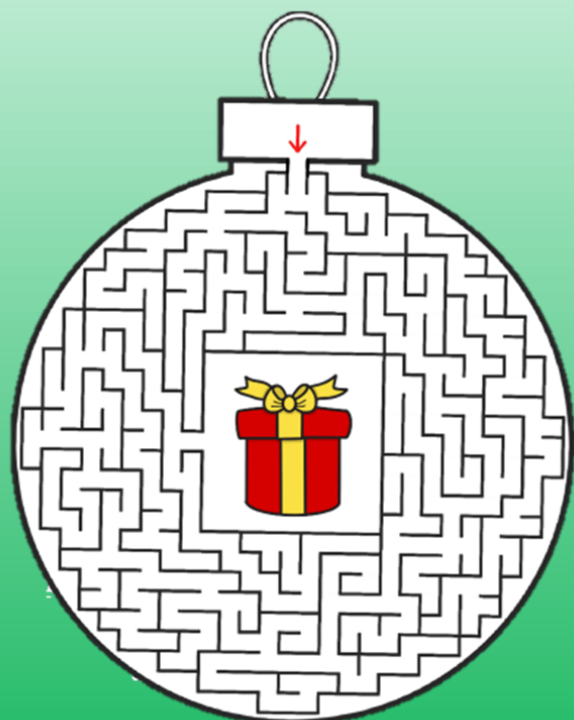
TURKEY

TINSEL

JESUS

HAPPY

Created by George



Created by Henry