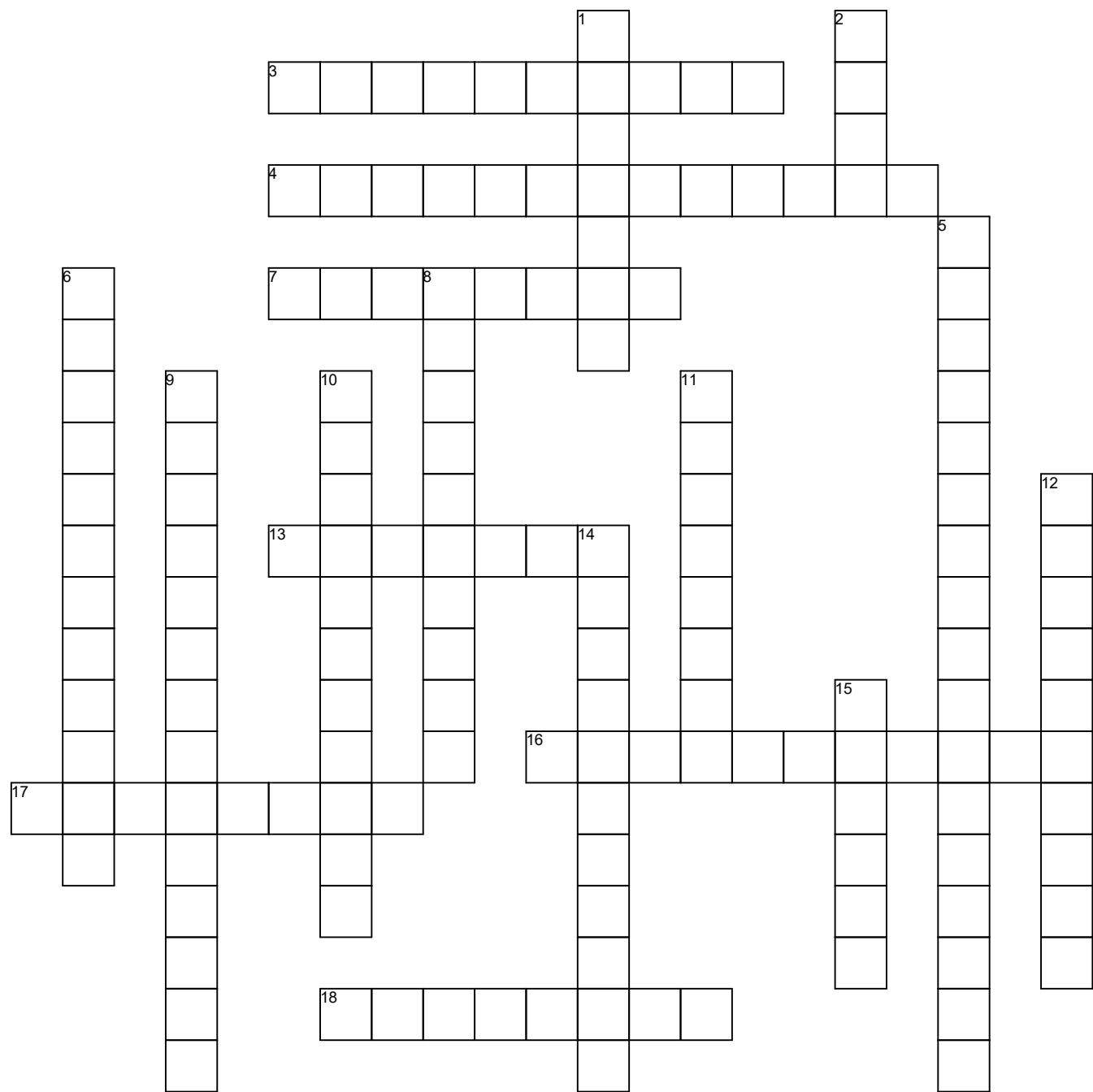


# History of Christmas Crossword Puzzle

1. Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



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## ACROSS

3. Plants symbolizing life and resilience during the winter season.
4. Decorated evergreen tradition popularized in Germany before spreading worldwide.
7. Common activity in ancient winter festivals such as Saturnalia and Yule.
13. Deity honored in the Roman festival "dies natalis solis invicti."
16. General term for the communal joy and gatherings central to Christmas throughout history.
17. Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
18. Group in New England that banned Christmas celebrations in the 17th century.

## DOWN

1. European country famous for Christmas markets and early tree traditions.
2. Ancient northern European winter festival that included feasting and evergreen decorations.
5. Modern criticism of Christmas for becoming too focused on shopping.
6. Performance reenacting the birth of Jesus.
8. Fourth-century bishop whose generosity influenced the modern Santa Claus.
9. Victorian author whose work helped revive Christmas traditions.
10. Roman celebration also known as the "birthday of the unconquered sun."
11. The shortest day and longest night that inspired many ancient midwinter celebrations.
12. Roman festival known for feasting, role reversals, and gift-giving.
14. Dutch figure who contributed to the modern Santa Claus image.
15. The most important Christian holiday in the early centuries of the church.

solstice

nativity play

Easter

Sol Invictus

Germany

evergreens

nativity

feasting

Sinterklaas

commercialization

St Nicholas

yule

Saturnalia

Charles Dickens

Puritans

Mithras

Christmas tree

celebration