



Kid's Kaleidoscope

Epiphany



What is the best gift you have ever given?

January 6th celebrates Epiphany or Three Kings Day. In some regions, this is the day Christmas is celebrated. Many around the world spend this day sharing food as a family, and gift-giving. Two popular customs around the world on this day are Epiphany singing and eating Three-Kings cake.

Epiphany singing, also known as the star singers and the star boys, involves groups of children and young people often wearing crowns and dressed in clothes to resemble the three wise men. The singers carry a star on a rod, and walk from house to house, singing songs that tell the Christmas story.

Three Kings cake is typically a round or oval cake that represents a crown, or even comes with a paper crown on top as decoration. It has a special treat hidden inside. The treat is different around the world, but two of the most common treats are a dried bean or a small figurine.

Have a friend or family member read you the information about the Three Kings cakes, then try to match the picture with the correct name. If you get them all correct you deserve a special treat!



Galette des rois
Gâteau des rois
Dreikönigskuchen
Bolo do Rei
Roscón de Reyes
Rosca de Reyes



Epiphany

Answer Key



Galette des rois is a flaky puff pastry, traditionally filled with fruit or chocolate creme, in many French-speaking countries and regions. Purchased cakes include a paper crown, used to crown the "king" or "queen" who finds the "fève", or bean, hidden inside the cake. When the cake was passed out, the youngest person had to sit under the table and name the recipient of each piece of the cake to be sure it was evenly shared.



Gâteau des rois is a bread-like cake, decorated with colorful candied fruit. It is more popular in the south of France. Again, a paper crown comes with the cake for the person who finds the hidden bean.



Dreikönigskuchen, or 'three kings cake' in German-speaking countries and Switzerland, is shaped like wreaths or rounds, and contain an almond as the hidden treat. The cake also comes with a paper crown for the person who finds the hidden treat.



Bolo do Rei or 'king cake' in Portugal. The cake is round with a large hole in the center, resembling a crown covered with crystallized and dried fruit. It is baked from a soft, white dough with raisins, various nuts, and crystallized fruit. The treat is a dried fava bean, and the tradition is that whoever finds the bean has to pay for the cake next year.



The Roscón de Reyes is eaten in Spain, Latin America and the United States. The cake is usually oval, so it is large enough for many people to share. It can be decorated with dried and candied fruits. In Spain, there are places where whipped cream fills the middle of the cake, and it is tradition to place a bean, candy, or figurine inside the cake.



In Mexico, Central, and South America, this can also be known as a Rosca de Reyes and here, the figurine represents the child, Jesus. The figurine of the baby Jesus hidden in the bread represents Jesus' family fleeing to Egypt for safety. Whoever finds the baby Jesus figurine must purchase the cake, or hold a party the following year.

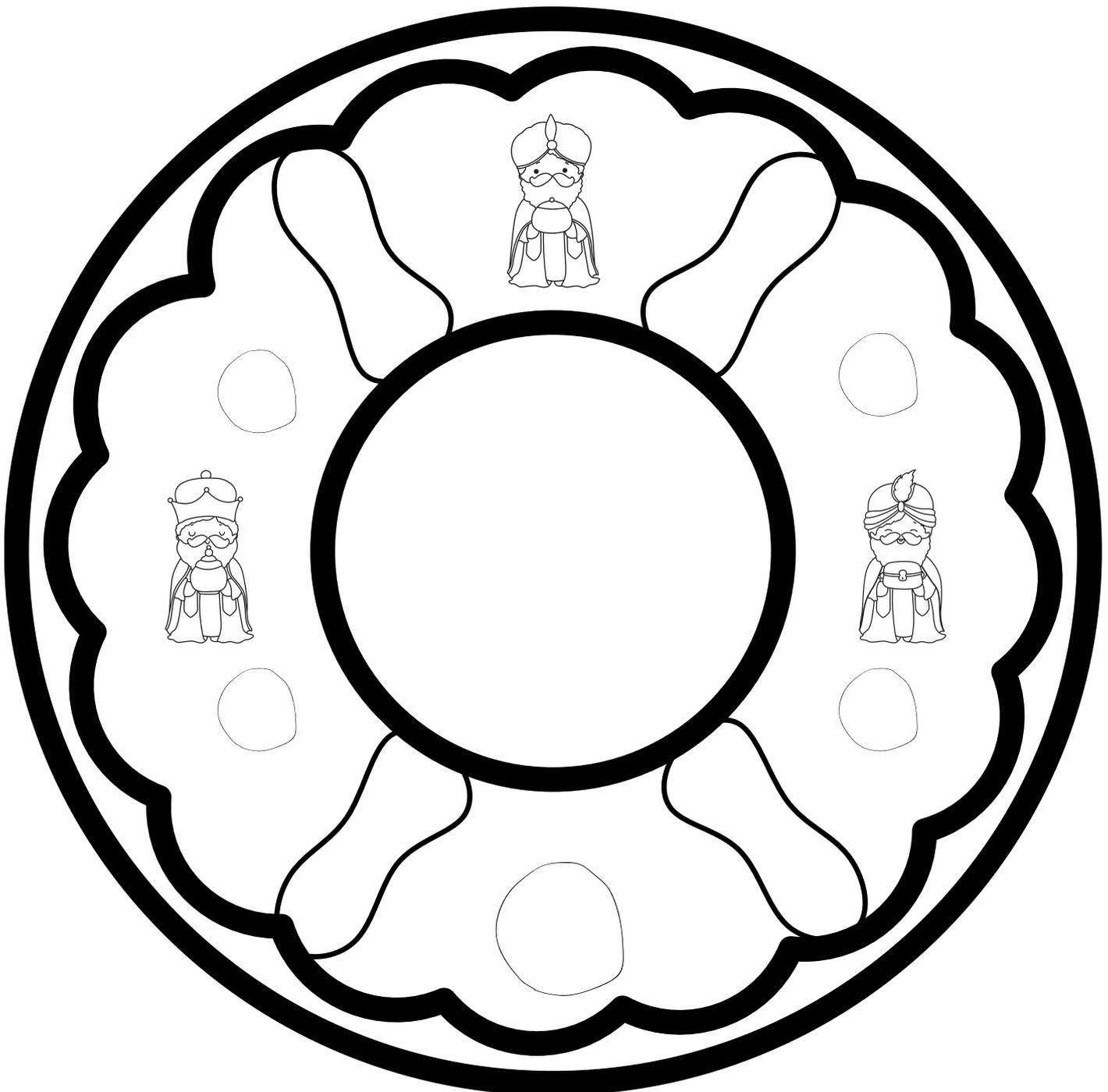
EPIPHANY KALEIDOSCOPE

Epiphany is a time to remember the wise men and the gifts they brought to Jesus. These gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were special gifts, not because of their value, but because it was the best gift the wise men could offer the King of Kings, it was a way to worship him.

When you give a gift to someone you love and they get excited about it, it makes you feel good inside. Think about giving a gift to Jesus. Do you have anything good enough...something that will make him excited? At first you might think you don't have anything to give to Jesus, but you do. You can give him your heart. You can worship him in your everyday activities, how you treat others, how you show kindness, how you love those around you.

As you color the Three Kings cake below, notice the three wise men who gave their best gifts in worship to Jesus. Think of ways you can give God your best gift, your heart.

Write down some of those things in the cake as a reminder.



What can I give him? I can give Him my heart.
From the Christmas Hymn "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"