Yule 2026 Activity Sheet, Monday, Dec. 21

The solstice moment, where the word comes from, a quiz and a checklist

Monday

December 21, 2026

Yule and the winter solstice

Facts

- The December 2026 solstice is at 20:50 UT on Dec. 21, per the U.S. Naval Observatory.
- Merriam-Webster traces Yule through Middle English yol to Old English, akin to Old Norse.
- Royal Museums Greenwich says Christmas customs such as the Yule log stem from pagan Juul.
- The Pagan Federation describes Yule as running from Dec. 21 to Jan. 1.
- The Pagan Federation's Heathenry page calls Yule a twelve-day festival.
- English Heritage gives free access to Stonehenge on Tuesday, Dec. 22.
- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, is the only federal holiday in December 2026.

YULE QUIZ

Q1 At what Universal Time is the 2026 solstice? _____

Q2 Which weekday is the 2026 winter solstice? _____

Q3 Merriam-Webster traces Middle English yol to which older language? _____

Q4 Which Norse god did a Yule log honor, per Royal Museums Greenwich? _____

Q5 Which dates does the Pagan Federation give for Yule? _____

Q6 How long is Yule on the Pagan Federation's Heathenry page? _____

Q7 On which date is Stonehenge's free solstice access? _____

Q8 Which December 2026 day is a federal holiday? _____

Answers are at the bottom of the page, upside down. Fold or cut them off.

DEC. 21 PLAN

- [ ] Note the solstice time for my zone
- [ ] Watch the sunset
- [ ] Light a candle or a fire where it is safe
- [ ] Share the Yule quiz with someone
- [ ] Plan a gathering for the Yule window

Not yet confirmed

Yule log origin date: None of the sources gives a date for the custom

Evergreen and wassail links to Yule: None of the sources confirms them

Yule on the Wheel of the Year: The Pagan Federation says Heathen festivals do not follow it

CUT HERE TO HIDE THE ANSWERS

Answers

Q1. 20:50
Q2. Monday
Q3. Old English
Q4. Thor
Q5. Dec. 21 to Jan. 1
Q6. Twelve days
Q7. Tuesday, Dec. 22
Q8. Christmas Day, Dec. 25

Source: U.S. Naval Observatory; Royal Museums Greenwich; Merriam-Webster; Pagan Federation; English Heritage; U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The checklist is by Fresh Calendars.