

## (G) Signs from Above (1/3)

The Cistercians are an order of Christian monks still active today, who, for reasons including vows of silence, have developed rudimentary sign languages. Below are several words in the Cistercian Sign Language (each group of signs below is one word - each individual sign is labeled with a number) in arbitrary order, and their translations in English.<sup>1</sup>

|     |   |     |   |     |  |     |   |   |  |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|---|---|--|
| (A) |    |     |   | (B) |    |     | (C)   |  |  |
|     | 13      30      4   |     |   |     | 5      17  |     |   | 9      31   |  |
| (D) |   |     |   | (E) |   |     |   |   |  |
|     | 21      30      4   |     |   |     | 16      8      16      3   |     |   |   |  |
| (F) |  | (G) |  | (H) |  |     |   |   |  |
|     | 1   |     | 6   |     | 21      22      20      29   |     |   |   |  |
| (I) |  |     |   | (J) |   | (K) |  |   |  |
|     | 15      7      3  |     |   |     | 17   |     | 5      30   |   |  |

<sup>1</sup>The particular variety of Cistercian sign language represented here is that of a monastery in the U.S.; signs in other communities may vary from those presented here.



## (G) Signs from Above (2/3)

|     |   |  |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
|-----|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| (L) | <br>23   | <br>19  | <br>24  | (M)   | <br>26   | <br>12   | (N)   | <br>13   | <br>14  |
| (O) | <br>18   | <br>8   | <br>9   | (P)   | <br>19   | <br>10   | (Q)   | <br>28   | <br>12  |
| (R) | <br>1  | <br>2 | <br>3 | (S)   | <br>27 | <br>12 | (T)   | <br>8  | <br>9 |
| (U) | <br>15 | <br>7 | (V)  | <br>20 | <br>10 | (W)  | <br>13 | <br>30 |  |

n → a → c → l → o

## (G) Signs from Above (3/3)

**G1.** Determine the correct correspondences. For each part, write the capital letter corresponding to a Cistercian Sign Language word.

- |                                       |                      |                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| a. apple                              | i. a Cistercian monk | q. milk         |
| b. barn                               | j. Cistercians       | r. a nun        |
| c. bathroom                           | k. dormitory         | s. poetry       |
| d. Benedictines <sup>2</sup>          | l. (to) drink        | t. queen bee    |
| e. the Blessed Sacrament <sup>3</sup> | m. England           | u. snow         |
| f. cake                               | n. ice               | v. tree         |
| g. chocolate milk                     | o. Iceland           | w. wooden table |
| h. Christmas <sup>4</sup>             | p. Italy             |                 |

|                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. <input type="text"/> | b. <input type="text"/> | c. <input type="text"/> | d. <input type="text"/> | e. <input type="text"/> | f. <input type="text"/> | g. <input type="text"/> | h. <input type="text"/> |
| i. <input type="text"/> | j. <input type="text"/> | k. <input type="text"/> | l. <input type="text"/> | m. <input type="text"/> | n. <input type="text"/> | o. <input type="text"/> | p. <input type="text"/> |
| q. <input type="text"/> | r. <input type="text"/> | s. <input type="text"/> | t. <input type="text"/> | u. <input type="text"/> | v. <input type="text"/> | w. <input type="text"/> |                         |

**G2.** Translate the following into Cistercian Sign Language (for each word, the answer will be a single sign. Write the number of that sign).

- a. baby  
b. (to) pour  
c. rain  
d. tea

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. <input type="text"/> | b. <input type="text"/> |
| c. <input type="text"/> | d. <input type="text"/> |



A Cistercian monk (left) and a Benedictine monk (right), wearing the traditional garments of their orders.

<sup>2</sup>The Benedictines are another order of Christian monks (see pictures above on this page).

<sup>3</sup>The Blessed Sacrament is a term used to refer to the bread used in a particular ritual.

<sup>4</sup>Christmas is a holiday celebrating the birth of the Christian figure Jesus.

