

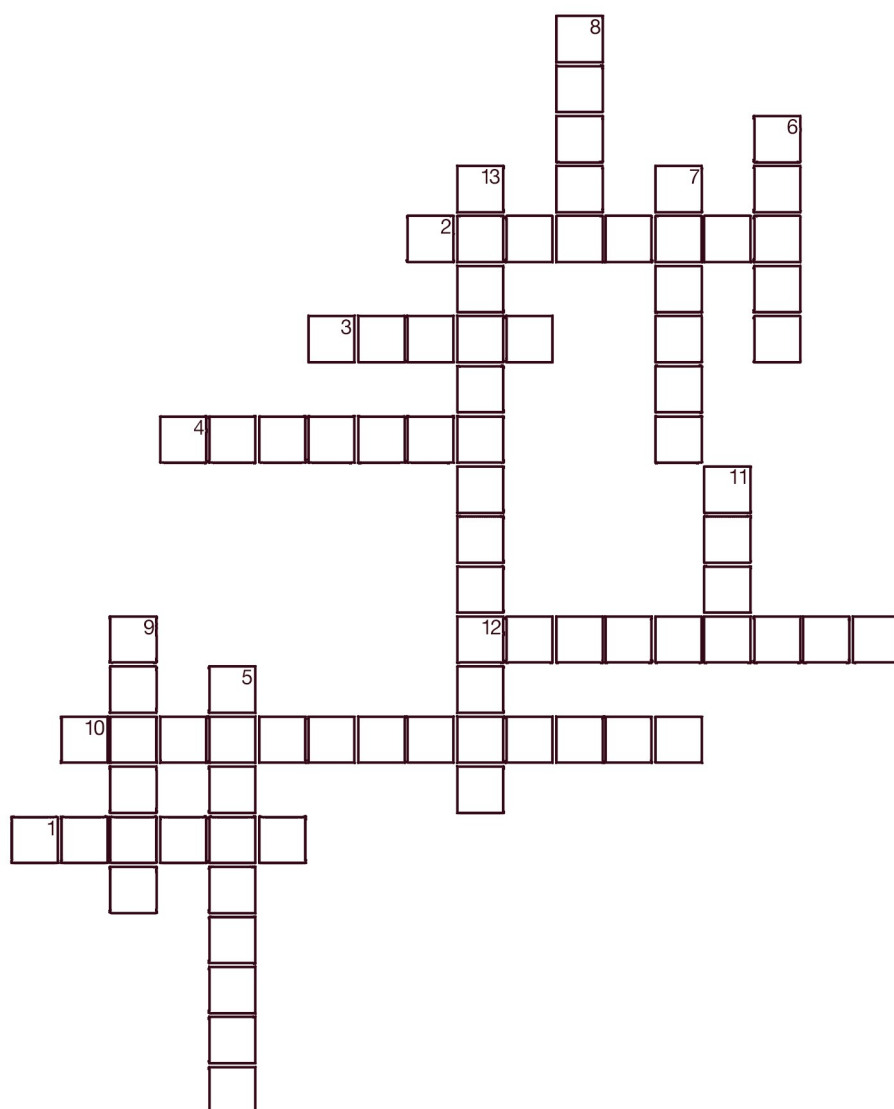


## Saffron

### Saffron crossword

Saffron (*Crocus sativus*) is the world's most valuable spice, by weight. Each saffron corm produces a maximum of one flower a year and each flower contains three stigma, called threads. The flowers must be gathered by hand the morning flowers are opening and the delicate stigma carefully removed before they are damaged by the sun. It takes around 150,000 flowers to produce 1kg of dry saffron, so the process is very labour intensive. Saffron grows in a dry Mediterranean climate and Iran is the world's largest producer. Countries including Morocco and Greece also produce and export saffron. Saffron adds colour and a delicate but complex flavour to dishes such as Spanish paella. Do not confuse this plant with meadow saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*), which is poisonous and has no antidote.

See how much you know about saffron by completing our fun saffron crossword. You may have to research some of the answers!



#### ACROSS

1. The name saffron comes from the Arabic word 'zafaran' meaning what?
2. Which faith in India dyes its monks' robes using saffron?
3. India, Iran and which country are the primary producers of saffron?
4. A merchant caught selling adulterated saffron would have been burned alive in 1444 in which German state?
10. Which 1960s song by Donovan features the lyrics "I'm just mad about Saffron, Saffron's mad about me"?
12. Which region in Spain is famous for growing saffron?

#### DOWN

5. Which famous Ancient Egyptian ruler used saffron as a type of cosmetic?
6. Which ancient civilisation used to infuse their baths with saffron?
7. What would a Roman stuff with saffron to cure a hangover?
8. It takes about 75,000 crocus flowers to make one what of saffron spice?
9. Which wellknown Spanish rice dish is coloured with saffron?
11. At what time of day should the stigmas of saffron flowers be picked, before they open, to preserve their aroma and flavour?
13. Which area at the foot of the Atlas Mountains near Marrakech is known for saffron cultivation?