Religion: Christianity	Year: 3	Theme: Christmas

KEY QUESTION: Has Christmas lost its true meaning?

What should I already know?

- Symbols at Christmas.
- The Christmas story.

What will I be learning?

We are learning to find out what the true meaning of Christmas is to Christians and compare this with what Christmas means to us.

- What Christmas means to me and my friends.
- About the different items that represent Christmas to me and my friends.
- What the true meaning of Christmas is to Christians.
- To sort religious and non-religious vocabulary related to Christmas.
- To think about the significance of giving a gift.

Vocabulary	
Christmas	A Christian festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.
Advent	A Latin word that means "coming"
census	A count of the all the people who live in a particular place. The Roman census required couples to travel to the place of the husband's birth
Bethlehem	Located in Israel, this is where Christians believe Jesus was born
Nazareth	The city where Mary and Joseph lived.
Jerusalem	The city where King Herod lived.
Saviour	Someone who saves others from harm or bad deeds. Christians refer to Jesus Christ as their Saviour
manger	A long trough used to feed horses or cattle.
myrrh	A type of resin (sticky substance) produced by certain trees. It is often linked to death and was given to show the human suffering that Jesus would experience.
frankincense	An expensive tree sap that is burned during worship. It was given to show that Jesus was divine (came from God).



The Shepherds

The shepherds went to visit baby Jesus in the stable. They knelt down and worshipped him. They told Mary and Joseph about the angel's visit and that Jesus would be the saviour of the world.





The Wise Men

The wise men found Jesus in the stable. They worshipped him and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.





Digging deeper:

What does Christmas mean to me?

What does Christmas mean to Christians?

Religion: Christianity	Year: 4	Theme: Christmas

KEY QUESTION: What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?

What should I already know?

- What the true meaning of Christmas is to Christians.
- The difference between religious and non-religious vocabulary related to Christmas.
- The significance of giving a gift.

What will I be learning?

We are learning to understand the symbolism in the Christmas story and think about what the different parts mean to Christians today.

- What is the most significant part of the Nativity story for Christians today?





Digging deeper: Do you have any of the Christmas symbols around your house?

Do you share any of the Christian beliefs around Christmas?

Vocabulary

symbol	represents or stands for something else
Nativity	The birth of a person
Christingle	a lighted candle symbolising Christ as the light of the world
Incarnation	Jesus as the human form of God
Christianity	religion based on the beliefs and teachings of Jesus Christ
Christmas	A Christian festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ.
Advent	A Latin word that means "coming"
Bethlehem	Located in Israel, this is where Christians believe Jesus was born
Nazareth	The city where Mary and Joseph lived.
Jerusalem	The city where King Herod lived.
Saviour	Someone who saves others from harm or bad deeds. Christians refer to Jesus Christ as their Saviour

Religion: Christianity	Year: 5	Theme: Belief into Action

KEY QUESTION: ***Is the Christmas story true?***

What should I already know?

We are learning to understand the symbolism in the Christmas story and think about what the different parts mean to Christians today.

What will I be learning?

- To use the Christmas story as a stimulus for discussion around 'truth'
- To understand the different accounts of the Christmas story and appreciate that stories can be true in different ways

Christmas customs

There are lots of different ways that people celebrate Christmas and Advent: • Christmas trees symbolise the everlasting life of God;
• Mistletoe is a symbol of peace and joy and is used to show friendship and goodwill;
• Advent calendars, wreaths and candles are different ways of counting down to Jesus' birthday;
• Christingles symbolise the importance of Jesus and the gospel.

St Matthew's account of the Nativity	St Luke's account of the Nativity
He focuses on: • the importance of the sign of the star after Jesus' birth; • the visitors to Jesus being very clever people – the wise men; • the expensive gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men; • Herod, the king, being jealous of the birth of a new king and feeling angry	He Story focuses on the poor and vulnerable: • the angel appearing to Mary to say a baby would be born; • Mary and Joseph having to go to Bethlehem because of the census; • Mary and Joseph having to stay in a stable and Jesus being born there; • the visitors to Jesus (the shepherds) seeing an angel and being poor; • Jesus being laid in a manger (a food trough).

Different advent celebrations around the world

Christmas is celebrated in different ways around the world. In Sweden, it is celebrated on 13th December as Saint Lucia's Day. It is to honour a girl who was put to death for her Christian beliefs in Roman times (when people were expected to worship Roman Gods). Saint Lucia was caught feeding Christians, who were hiding in caves.



Vocabulary

literal	Words are exactly true in the way that they are written.
metaphorical	Words are used to build imagery in the mind and things may be symbolic of something else.
Advent	Advent is the time of waiting for Christmas, which marks the arrival of Jesus to earth just over 2000 years ago. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to the 30th November and lasts until Christmas Eve.
Nativity	The story of the birth of Jesus Christ.
Significant	Something that is important enough to be noticed and spoken about or has a special meaning.
Interpret	To decide on the meaning of something based on the evidence that you have. Different people may interpret things in different ways.
Recount	To retell the events of something that has happened
Compare	To find the similarities and differences between things.
St Matthew	One of the twelve apostles of Jesus. St Matthew wrote the first book in the New Testament of the Bible.
St Luke	One of the twelve apostles of Jesus. St Luke wrote the third book in the New Testament of the Bible.

Digging deeper:

Explain if the true meaning of Christmas is evident in today's society?

Was Jesus really born on the 25th December?

Religion: Christianity	Year: 6	Theme: Christmas

KEY QUESTION: How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?

What should I already know?

- Symbols at Christmas.
- The Christmas story.
- Which parts of the Christmas story are the most significant for Christians.
- The Christmas story from the perspectives of different people involved in it.

What will I be learning?

We are learning about the reasons why Mary was chosen to be Jesus' mother and why God made the decision to send his sone Jesus in human form to Earth at Christmas.

- How Mary is depicted in art and what it suggests about her as a person.
- How Mary is portrayed in scripture and what is suggests about her as a person.
- Why God chose an ordinary woman to be the mother of Jesus.
- How and why Joseph's feelings changed towards the virgin birth of Jesus.
- Why God chose to send Jesus to Earth in human form.
- To think about the significance of Jesus being born as a human, from an ordinary woman but being the son of God.

Vocabulary

Human	Mortal, a human person who lives and dies.
Divine	Godly, heavenly
Incarnation	The process of a god or a spirit embodying the human form
Incarnate	A god or spirit in the flesh, in human form
Scripture	Words from the Bible
Holy Trinity	The concept that God exists in 3 forms
God the Father	The God that exists in heaven, the God from the old testament of the bible, the God that Christians pray to.
God the Son	Jesus, the living human form of God who came to Earth.
God the Holy Spirit	The form of God that communicated with people or acted on people.

Luke 1:46-52

And Mary said: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me.



John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Digging Deeper

Why did God choose to send Jesus as a human child?
How would things have been different without the incarnation?
How does your new knowledge of this religion compare to your understanding of any other world religions?