

What should I already know?

What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than in Bethlehem? (Year 1)

Why do Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world? (Year2)

Has Christianity lost its true meaning (Year 3)

RE Skills:

To say what I think about the Christian belief in Jesus as the incarnation of God and explain what Christmas time means to me.

To describe some of the symbolism of Christmas and explain a Christian belief about Jesus.

To consider what might be significant for a Christian about the Nativity story and what it tells them about Jesus.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions:

Incarnation 	God becoming man or being "made flesh".
Symbol 	A symbol is a mark, sign or word that shows an idea, object or relationship.
Christianity 	Christians believe that Jesus was the son of God and he came to Earth to show God's love.
Christmas 	The annual Christian celebration that recognises Jesus' birth, 25 th December.
Jesus 	The man who Christians believe is the son of God.
Holy Spirit 	The Christian idea that God is spiritually active in the world.
Nativity 	Nativity refers to the birth of a person, as well as the facts around it.
Bible 	The Christian holy book.
Cultural 	Relating to the ideas, customs and social behaviour of a society.
Christingle 	An ornament made in many homes and churches at Christmas. Each part is significant.

Teaching Sequence

1. To explain why symbols are used and the meaning of some symbols to me
2. To explain what Christmas symbols might refer to the Christian story of Jesus' birth
3. To explain what parts of the Nativity story might be meaningful to some Christians
4. To explain the symbolism within a Christingle
5. To describe some of the symbolism of Christmas and explain a Christian belief about Jesus
6. To design a symbolic object to show the significance of Christmas time to me

Key Knowledge

Christianity Ages 8-9 Autumn 2:

What is the most significant part of the nativity story for Christians today? Christians believe in the Trinity. This is the complete relationship between God (the Father), Jesus (his son) and the Holy Spirit. The three are "consubstantial", which means that they exist separately and together as one. God chose a Jewish young woman called Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his earthly son and sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. Mary agreed to allow this to happen and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is the Christian concept of "incarnation": God becoming man or literally being "made flesh".

This enquiry investigates the significance and symbolism of elements of the Christmas story to Christians today.

A full listing of the symbolic parts of the Christmas story and their meanings is explored, for example:

The significance of the stable - a poor place for somebody considered a king.
The Angels announcing to the shepherds - these were outcast from society as they were unclean due to sleeping with their sheep, so to be told first, and to be told by special messengers from God, has great significance to the Christian belief that Jesus came for all no matter what background or social status.

The Magi/wise men and their gifts which signified royalty, sanctity and death.

The star - believed to signify to the Magi that a royal baby had been born
The Christingle (which means "Christ-light") is a symbol which can be traced back to Bishop Johannes de Watteville, who started the tradition in Germany in 1747. He gave the children a lit candle with a red ribbon round it to signify that Jesus is the light of the world and prayed that their hearts might be kindled like the flame. The tradition spread with the movement of the church. In 1968 the Christingle Service was brought to the Anglican Church of England, its use promoted by The Children's Society. Many different Christian denominations use them today.