

What should I already know?

The children should already know about Christmas and how that links with Christianity. They would have learnt about the life of Jesus also in previous years.

RE Skills:

Make connections between beliefs and behaviour in different religions. Investigate, interpret and analyse religions in a deeper context.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions:

Christmas	a religious holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus on the 25 th of December
celebration	a social gathering to enjoy an activity
nativity	story of the birth of Jesus
incarnation	celebrating the arrival of Jesus – God’s son
gospel	the story of Jesus in the Bible
tradition	something celebrated regularly
Mary	Jesus’ mother
Joseph	Jesus’ father
symbols	an iconic representation intended to represent a specific religion, or a specific concept within a given religion.

Teaching Sequence

1. To explain how different celebrations remember events which might be in the past or present
2. To discuss what Christmas traditions may link directly to the Biblical story of the birth of Jesus
3. To explain what a Christian might learn from Christmas items about the significance of Jesus’ birth
4. To explain what a Christian might find most significant in Christmas celebrations
5. To explain that people may celebrate Christmas in different ways and say whether or not I feel this relates to Jesus
6. To explain how I might remember and celebrate somebody who is incredibly special

Key Knowledge

Christians celebrate the arrival of Jesus as God's Son.

They are grateful because they believe Jesus brought to earth a message from God about how to live a good life.

He performed miracles, helped people and offered forgiveness of sins.

Christians believe that through his death and resurrection Jesus would grant all of humanity a fresh start and He was God "incarnate" (God made man).

The "incarnation" is the key fact of Jesus' birth - that God became fully human whilst also retaining his divinity.

Background information:

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 relevance to modern-day actions at Christmas to Christians today in regard to the Christmas story.

The children will explore in depth not only the meaning of the incarnation as explained above but also the awe and wonder for Christians about this at Christmas, that the God they believe made the Earth, chose to come to Earth as a tiny baby in order to save humanity. Links to sacrifice and salvation can also be made here (see Easter enquiries).