



RE

The Christmas

Key Events



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Aim

- Can I recall the key events in The Christmas Story?

Success Criteria

- I can create captions for the key events in The Christmas Story.
- I can begin to question key events in The Christmas Story.

Mary, Joseph and the Journey



The Christmas Story is also called The Nativity. It starts with an angel appearing to Mary and telling her she would have a baby. The angel told Mary that the baby would be God's son and would be called Jesus.

Mary then explained the angel's visit to her husband, Joseph, and they prepared for their new baby. Due to a census, everyone had to travel to their town of birth. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. They rode there on a donkey as Mary was heavily pregnant.



Do you think Joseph believed an angel had visited Mary?

Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem?

The Inn



When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was nowhere left for them to stay. Luckily, an innkeeper said they could stay in his stable with his animals. It was in this stable that Jesus was born and he was placed in a manger.



What could the significance of this be?

Do you think it is significant that Jesus was born in a stable, rather than in a comfortable room?



The Visitors



Who came to see Jesus when he was born?

How did they know about Jesus' birth?

What do you already know about these visitors?



The Visitors



An angel appeared to shepherds on the hillside and told them the Son of God had been born, so they went to visit him in Bethlehem.

Wise men spotted a bright star in the sky. They knew this meant a king had been born so they travelled with special gifts for the new king. On their journey, they went to King Herod to ask about the new king. The wise men made their way to visit Jesus and brought him gold, frankincense and myrrh. Having heard that a new king had been born, Herod ordered all the baby boys in Bethlehem to be killed. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Mary, Joseph and Jesus travelled to Egypt and were safe.

Did your initial ideas match The Christmas Story?

Why do you think King Herod ordered baby boys to be killed?

Storyboard



Create your own storyboard of events from The Christmas Story.

Use pictures and captions to explain The Christmas Story and consider questions you may want to ask about some of the key events.

Draw pictures to match the events.

1. There was a couple called Mary and Joseph.

2. One day an angel visited Mary. She told Mary she would have a baby who would be God's son.

7. A new bright star appeared and was spotted by wise men. They knew this meant a new king had been born.

8. The wise men went to King Herod to find the new king but he knew nothing of a new king.

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In each of the boxes, write the key events of The Christmas Story.

1. 2. 3.

7. 8. 9.

Notes: Mary and Joseph. Angel appeared to Mary, going to have a baby. Angels appeared to shepherds. Wise men spotted bright new star. Wise men visit and give gifts. Herod orders new baby boys to be killed. Angel appears in Joseph's dream. Joseph, Mary and Jesus travel to Egypt.

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Storyboard

In each of the following boxes, write the key events of The Christmas Story in order, using the notes at the bottom for support. Then, in the boxes below each event begin to think of questions about the truthfulness of each part of the story. Every question you think of will be important, so write it down.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

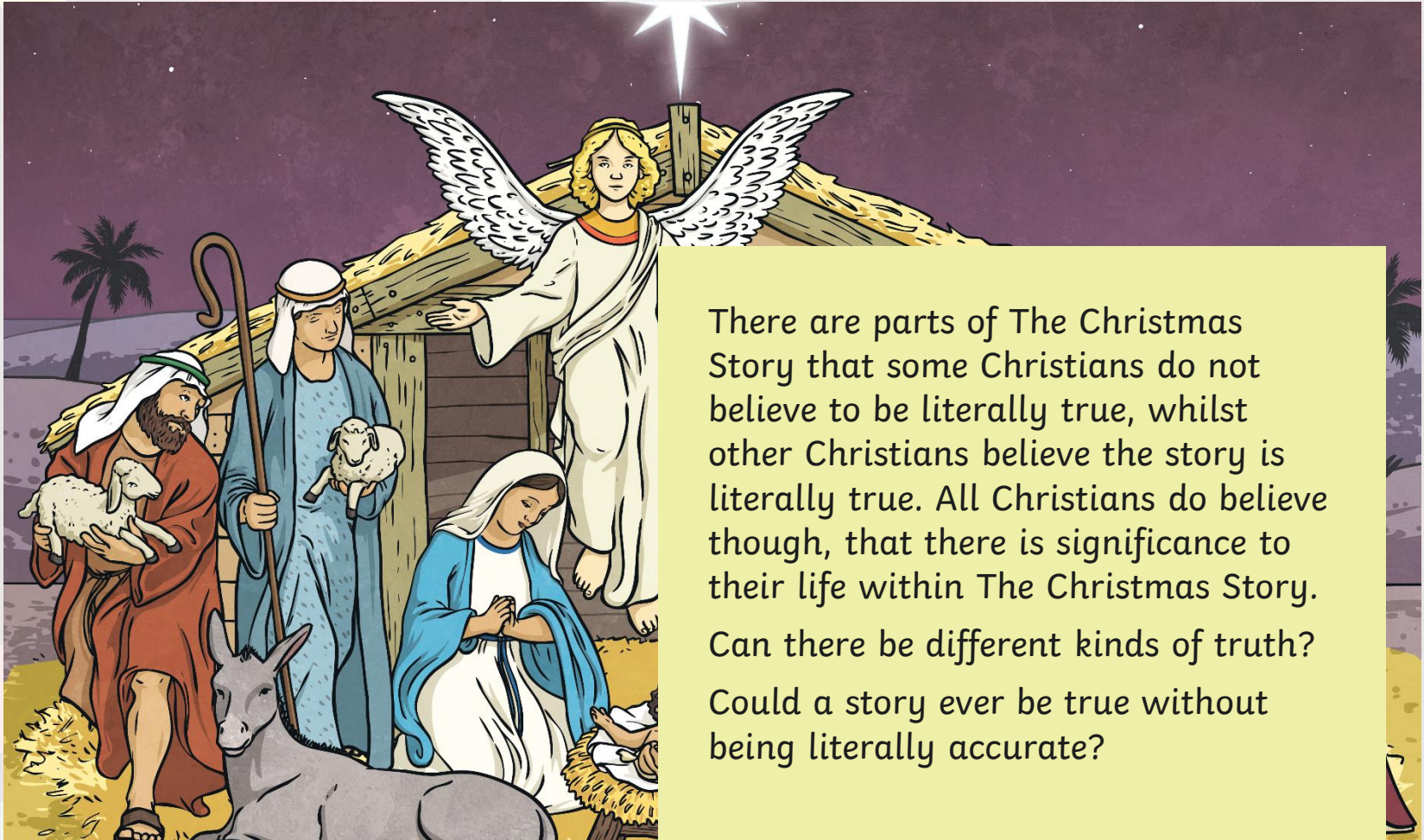
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Notes: Mary and Joseph. Angel appeared to Mary, going to have a baby. Taxes. Travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey. No room, innkeeper offered stable. Jesus born. Angels appeared to shepherds. Wise men spotted bright new star. Wise men see Herod. Wise men visit and give gifts. Herod orders new baby boys to be killed. Angel appears in Joseph's dream. Joseph, Mary and Jesus travel to Egypt.

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Truth and Significance



There are parts of The Christmas Story that some Christians do not believe to be literally true, whilst other Christians believe the story is literally true. All Christians do believe though, that there is significance to their life within The Christmas Story.

Can there be different kinds of truth?

Could a story ever be true without being literally accurate?

Truth and Significance



An example...

Yesterday I walked to school with my best friend. We held hands all the way and talked about school. It was sunny when we were walking. I was wearing my black school shoes and my friend was wearing her trainers.



If we later found out that the friend's trainers were blue, does this mean none of the story is true?

Or, could it still be true but the storyteller forgot to mention the colour of the friend's trainers?

Or perhaps the storyteller felt that the colour of the friend's trainers was not an important fact to mention.

How about if the storyteller had claimed the trainers were red and we later found out they were blue.

Does this impact on the truthfulness of the story?

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