

Year 2 - R.E. - Christmas and Hanukkah

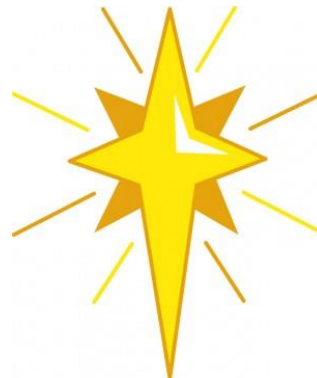
Advent and the Advent wreath

Advent is the lead up to Christmas and it is a time of preparation for Christmas on 25th December. The date is the same each year. Churches often display an Advent wreath during Advent. There are four candles standing in the circle. In the centre, there is a fifth candle. The fifth candle is lit on Christmas day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It shows that Jesus is the light of the world.



Christmas Story

Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey. There was no room at the inn so they had to stay in a stable and that night baby Jesus was born. They put him in a manger. The Son of God had been born and the shepherds came with their sheep to see him. Three Wise Men followed a bright star in the sky and brought gifts for the new baby of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Key Vocabulary

Advent - The lead up to Christmas beginning on the 4th Sunday before. It is a time for preparation for Christians.

Christmas - A Christian celebration to celebrate the birth of Jesus, son of God.

Nativity - The birth of Jesus.

Manger - A tray where animals feed from.

Mary - The Mother of Jesus.

Joseph - Mary's husband (Jesus' earthly Father)

Gold - A precious metal.

Frankincense - A resin used in perfumes.

Myrrh - An oil.

Why was Jesus sent to Earth?

Christians believe that God was sent to save the world and they look forward to the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. God thought that the world needed someone to save it so he sent Jesus to help people see how they could help to make the world a better place.

Year 2 - R.E. - Christmas and Hanukkah

In the UK, and all around the world, Jewish people celebrate the Jewish festival of lights called Hanukkah.

The date of Hanukkah changes every year, because it depends on the calendar, but it will always fall in November or December.

How long does the celebration last?

Hanukkah lasts for 8 days.

Why do Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah?

The festival reminds Jewish people of a time over 2000 years ago, when the Jews won a battle against the Greeks to practise their religion freely. Then, to celebrate the victory, an oil lamp was lit. There was only enough oil to burn the candle for one day but it burned for 8 days. This is why Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 days and why light is really important in the celebration.

Latkes



Menorah

One candle on the Menorah is lit every night during Hanukkah.



Gelt



Key Vocabulary

Hanukkah- A Jewish festival known as the festival of light.

Festival- An event celebrated by a community or religion.

Battle - A large fight between two or more groups.

Victory - To win a battle or game over an opponent.

Menorah- A candle holder with 8 candles around a central candle.

Dreidel - a small four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side, used in a children's game

Latkes - A pancake made with grated potato eaten at Hanukkah.

Gelt - The real or chocolate money that children receive as a gift at Hanukkah.

Dreidel

