

Christmas Traditions and Meanings: A Sorting Adventure

Learning objective: To identify and distinguish between the religious meanings and the secular traditions associated with Christmas.

Leo the Lion is helping us organise a Christmas display! Some things we do at Christmas are 'Religious' (connected to the story of Jesus' birth) and some are 'Secular' (traditions we enjoy for fun or culture). Look at the items in the word bank and sort them into the correct columns on your sheet: Religious Meanings or Secular Traditions.

Word bank: The Nativity Play · Decorating a Tree · Visiting a Church · Giving Presents · The Star of Bethlehem · Eating Christmas Pudding · The Manger · Hanging Stockings

1. Which item from the list is a religious symbol of where baby Jesus slept? Why is this important? (2 marks)

2. Which item from the list is a secular tradition that many people do in their homes? Why do people enjoy this? (2 marks)

3. If you were explaining the difference between a 'religious' and a 'secular' tradition to a friend, what would you say? (3 marks)

4. Why do you think some people choose to celebrate both the religious and secular parts of Christmas? (2 marks)

5. Look at 'The Star of Bethlehem'. Is this a religious or secular symbol? Who did it guide in the story? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a Christmas scene that shows one religious symbol and one secular tradition together.



Extension challenge: Can you think of a Christmas tradition from another country? Research whether it is religious or secular and write a sentence about it.