

The Meaning of Christmas

Learning objective: To understand the religious significance of Christmas and identify key elements of the Nativity story.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Use full sentences in your answers.

Christmas is a special time of year celebrated by millions of people. For Christians, it is a religious holiday that marks the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The story of his birth is known as the Nativity. According to the Bible, Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. He was laid in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals.

Many people celebrate this event by going to church or performing Nativity plays in school. The story tells us that stars guided three Wisemen from the East, who brought precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Angels also appeared to humble shepherds in the fields to share the joyful news. While many people today enjoy exchanging gifts and eating festive meals, the core meaning for Christians is about hope, peace, and the arrival of a Saviour who would bring love to the whole world.

Word bank: Nativity · Manger · Shepherds · Wisemen · Celebration

1. Where was Jesus born and where was he laid after his birth? (2 marks)

2. Which three gifts did the Wisemen bring for the baby Jesus? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Mary and Joseph had to stay in a stable instead of a house? (2 marks)

4. How did the shepherds find out that Jesus had been born? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, which part of the Nativity story is the most important? Explain why you think this. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Nativity scene, including the star in the sky and the animals in the stable.



Extension challenge: Research and write a short paragraph explaining how people in different parts of the world celebrate Christmas differently.