

Reflecting on the Spirit of Christmas

Learning objective: To explore the significance of Christmas as a time of generosity and community, and to compare how different traditions reflect shared values.

Read each question carefully and provide thoughtful, detailed answers. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly.

Christmas is a time observed by millions of people across the globe. While many families celebrate with decorations, gifts, and special meals, the core of the season often focuses on themes of kindness, thinking of others, and bringing the community together. For many, it is a period to show gratitude for what they have and to offer support to those who may be experiencing hardship.

Word bank: generosity · tradition · community · charity · reflection · gratitude · festivity · unity

1. Max the monkey believes that the 'value' of Christmas is not found in the price of a gift, but in the thought behind it. Explain why acts of kindness might be considered more valuable than expensive presents. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a Christmas tradition involving family with a tradition involving the wider community (such as a food drive or a carol service). How do both help create a sense of belonging? (4 marks)

3. Zara the zebra notices that patterns exist in how people celebrate. If a community decided to stop giving material gifts and instead only gave 'acts of service' (like helping a neighbor), what might happen to the spirit of the season? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Is it possible to celebrate the 'spirit of Christmas' without any physical decorations or gifts? Support your reasoning with examples. (3 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant remembers many stories about winter festivals. Why do you think many cultures have traditions of light and gathering during the darkest, coldest time of the year? (2 marks)

6. If you were to design a new, inclusive community tradition that focuses entirely on gratitude, what would it look like and who would you involve? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the 'Spirit of Christmas' without drawing any toys or presents. Focus on people sharing, helping, or gathering together in a warm, welcoming environment.



Extension challenge: Research a winter festival from a different culture that is not Christmas. Write a short comparative paragraph explaining one similarity and one difference in how they celebrate the importance of community.