

Reflecting on Traditions: A Christmas Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and compare the significance of Christmas traditions and explore how different communities observe the festival.

Use this fact-file to investigate the history and meaning of Christmas. You may use your school library or trusted resources to research how the season is celebrated. Think about the values behind the traditions, such as generosity, peace, and togetherness.

Word bank: Nativity · Advent · Generosity · Tradition · Celebration · Community · Significance · Reflection

1. Origins of the Season: Explain the significance of the Nativity story for Christians and why it remains the central focus of the Christmas celebration. (3 marks)

2. Comparing Traditions: Choose two different Christmas traditions. Compare and contrast how they are celebrated and identify the values they aim to promote. (4 marks)

3. Global Perspectives: Justify why Christmas might be celebrated in very different ways by families living in different parts of the world. Consider climate and cultural influence. (3 marks)

4. Acts of Kindness: Max the monkey is curious about the importance of giving. Explain why acts of generosity and charity are often associated with this time of year. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a community decided to celebrate Christmas without any physical gifts? Discuss the potential impact on the meaning of the festival. (4 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: Evaluate the statement: 'Christmas is more about spending time with others than the activities we perform.' Do you agree or disagree? Provide reasons for your view. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a new tradition that focuses entirely on environmental sustainability and community wellbeing. Write a short persuasive paragraph for Ellie the elephant explaining why your new tradition would be beneficial for the world.