

Christmas Lesson 1 : Festivals and Holidays : Year 3/4

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	To learn about the Nativity story and why Christians celebrate Christmas.	Children will recall what they remember of the nativity story, then read a version of it together. They may then illustrate and retell part, or all, of the story in their own words.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children describe the main events of the Nativity story? Can children infer and deduce information? Do children understand why Christmas is such an important celebration for Christians? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 1A/1B/1C Nativity Story sheets (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 2	To think about why we give and receive presents at Christmas.	Children will learn about the three wise men who visited the baby Jesus, and the gifts they presented to him. They may then consider reasons why gifts are given and received at Christmas and think of gifts they would like to give to others, including those less fortunate than themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children understand the significance of the gifts the wise men brought to baby Jesus? Can children explain why people give and receive presents at Christmas? Do children understand that presents do not always have to be physical items? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 2A/2B/2C Worksheet 2D (FSD? activity only) Scissors/glue (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 3	To find out why we have Christmas trees in our homes at Christmas time.	Children will find out about the origins of the tradition of having Christmas trees at home, and discuss their symbolism. They may then either answer questions or write poetry to show what they have learned and understood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know why people in the past brought greenery into their homes during the winter? Can children explain how the Christmas tree was made popular in Britain? Do children understand that Christmas trees are a mixture of Christian and pagan traditions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 3A/3B/3C Information Sheet Books/access to internet (optional) Christmas Tree Acrostics (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 4	To find out about the 12 days of Christmas.	Children will listen to the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and find out about the tradition of celebrating Christmas over this period of time. They may then either make illustrations to accompany the words of the song (considering the symbolism of the gifts described), or work together to write alternative lyrics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know when the 12 days of Christmas are? Are children familiar with the gifts given in 'The 12 days of Christmas' song? Can children describe some of the traditions associated with the 12 days of Christmas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 4A/4B Song Sheet (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 5	To be able to reflect on what Christmas means individually and collectively.	Children will reflect on what they, and others, most enjoy about Christmas and consider why it is a special time for many non-Christians, too. They may then produce a variety of texts to show what Christmas means to themselves or to others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children reflect on what Christmas means to them individually? Can children reflect on what Christmas means to different people around the world? Can children express their ideas in a variety of ways? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 5A/5B A4 paper Activity Cards (FSD? activity only) Paints, paper, etc. (FSD? activity only)