

Key Vocabulary

Christmas Christmas is the time when many Christians remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the son of God.

Christmas Day Christmas Day is celebrated by many Christians all over the world on 25th December every year. It is a special holiday when most offices, shops and all schools are closed.

Nativity A play that tells of the story of the birth of Jesus.



The Nativity Story

The Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she was going to have a baby called Jesus and that he would be God's son.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. Mary rode on a donkey.

A kind innkeeper in Bethlehem let Mary and Joseph stay in his stable for the night and Jesus was born there.

An angel appeared to some shepherds and told them that the son of God had been born in Bethlehem. The shepherds walked to Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus.

Three wise men saw a star in the sky and knew that it meant a king had been born. They followed the star. They went past the palace of King Herod who asked the men to tell him where the baby was. The wise men found baby Jesus but they received a message from God warning them not to tell Herod so they didn't.

Herod began to search for Baby Jesus. He ordered that all baby boys in Bethlehem be killed. However, after a warning in a dream, Mary and Joseph travelled to Egypt with Jesus and he was safe.



Christmas Traditions

The story of the birth of Jesus is very important to many Christians. Many believe he was a gift from God.

People celebrate **Christmas** in lots of different ways and these include acting out a **nativity**, carol singing, putting up and decorating **Christmas** trees and hanging wreaths. Many families get together for a special meal on **Christmas Day**.

Many Christians give gifts at **Christmas** to show their love for one another. After his birth, the Three Wise Men gave Jesus special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were the kinds of gifts given to kings in the ancient world. They were very valuable and were probably the first **Christmas** presents.



Key Vocabulary

Ramadan	A holy month for many Muslims. It is often marked by fasting.
fasting	Fasting is a period of time where you do not eat or drink.
Qur'an	The Muslim holy book.
Eid al-Fitr	Eid al-Fitr is a special festival which celebrates the end of Ramadan. It lasts for three days.
Eid Mubarak	Have a blessed Eid.
Zakat	A type of charity which many Muslims give either during Ramadan or Eid al-Fitr.

Ramadan

Ramadan is a very special time for many Muslims. It celebrates the time when the **Qur'an** was revealed to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

It is celebrated at a different time every year because Islam uses a lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon.

During **Ramadan**, many Muslims **fast** during daylight hours. Often, they go to the mosque to read the **Qur'an**.

People who are young, elderly or ill don't have to **fast**.

Muslims will often have a meal called suhoor before sunrise and another called iftar after sunset.

Many Muslims **fast** during Ramadan because it reminds them of people in the world who have less than they do.

Zakat is often given at this time. Many Muslims give food or money to help those in need.



Eid al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr is the time when many Muslims celebrate the end of **Ramadan**. It lasts for three days and is a very special time.

During **Eid al-Fitr**, Muslims may give thanks to Allah for giving them the strength to **fast** during **Ramadan**.

It is also a time for many Muslims to think about others.

Eid al-Fitr is celebrated in lots of different ways. Many families go to the mosque to pray. Gifts are often given and are usually opened after the morning prayer and people can exchange cards that say '**Eid Mubarak!**'

