

Year 2 Block 2 RE Knowledge Organiser - Why is Christmas such an important time for so many people?

Christmas

1. How do people prepare for Christmas?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The period leading up to Christmas is called Advent. 2. In the Old Testament of the Bible it says that people were preparing for Jesus to come before he was born. 3. Some people have Advent wreaths to symbolise Jesus' coming. 4. Others use Advent calendars to count down to Christmas.
2. Why was Jesus' birth so important?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are different versions of the birth of Jesus, but Luke's version in the Bible is the most well known. 2. Christians believe that Jesus being born is the most important part of the story. 3. They believe that He is the Son of God and was sent to earth to help people. 4. Christians think we should be like Jesus.
3. Why do people give gifts at Christmas time?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After Jesus was born, people began to hear of a great leader (Jesus was known as the King of the Jews, because He was Jewish). 2. Some wise men, magi, went to visit Jesus. 3. They bought Him very expensive gifts because He was a king. 4. Now, people give gifts at Christmas to remember this.
4. Why is light important at Christmas time?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christians believe Jesus is 'The Light of the World'. 2. This means he guides people, like a light does. 3. Christians believe that He shows people the direction to go in their lives. 4. He also helps people to see the right way to live.
5. What happens in church at Christmas time?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Churches get ready for Christmas by lighting the Advent wreath and setting up the Nativity. 2. They hold special services to talk about how important Jesus is. 3. They say prayers to God on Christmas Day and sing hymns to praise Jesus. 4. They have a Candlemas service in January to remember that Jesus is 'The Light of the World'.

Vocabulary

1. Celebration	Anything that is done to honour something.
2. Christmas	A Christian celebration, that honours the birthday of Jesus.
3. Prepare	To get ready.
4. Advent	The time before Christmas, when people prepare for Jesus' coming.
5. Wreath	A band of flowers or leaves in a circle, used as a symbol.
6. Bible	The Christian sacred book.
7. Prophet	A person who predicts the future.
8. Jesus	The prophet who started Christianity. Christians believe He is The Son of God.
9. Disciples	The 12 original followers of Jesus.
10. Magi	The three wise men who visited Jesus with gifts.

Did you know that lots of countries give gifts on January 6th instead of Christmas day?



This is because the magi gave gifts to Jesus after his birth.

The Advent Wreath

Advent, Advent, the little light burns, first one then two then three then four, and then the Christ Child at the door.



Candles

Four candles are put around the wreath and often a fifth candle is put in the middle. A candle is lit each Sunday before Christmas Day. If there is a fifth candle, it is lit on Christmas Day. In some churches, there are three purple candles, one pink candle and a white candle. In other churches, the candles in an Advent wreath are red or white.

Week 1 – a purple candle is lit. This symbolises hope with the 'Prophet's Candle' reminding people that Jesus is coming.

Week 2 – a purple candle is lit. This symbolises faith with the 'Bethlehem Candle' and remembers Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Week 3 – a pink candle is lit. This is known as the Candle of Joy or the 'Shepherd's Candle' and represents the joy the world experience at the coming birth of Jesus.

Week 4 – a purple candle is lit. This symbolises peace and is called the 'Angel's Candle'. It reminds us of the message of the angels, 'Peace on earth, good will toward men'.

Christmas Day – the white candle is lit. This is known as the Christ Candle.

