

Year 5 Merlins

RE

Autumn 2

Is the Christmas story true?



Advent:

Churches prepare to celebrate the arrival of Jesus during Advent. They wear purple and decorate the church in purple as it symbolises royalty and reminds Christians that Advent is a time for prayer, reflection and preparation.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
advent	The time of waiting for Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to the 30 th November and lasts until Christmas Eve.
compare	To find the similarities between things.
contrast	To find the differences between things.
interpret	To decide on the meaning of something based on the evidence that you have. Different people may interpret things in different ways.
literal	Words are exactly true in the way that they are written.
nativity	The Christian story of the birth of Jesus Christ.
perspective	Someone's point of view.
recount	To retell the events of something that has happened.
significant	Something that is important enough to be noticed and spoken about or has a special meaning.
St Luke	One of the twelve apostles of Jesus. St Luke wrote the third book in the New Testament of the Bible.
St Matthew	One of the twelve apostles of Jesus. St Matthew wrote the first book in the New Testament of the Bible.
subjective	Based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes or opinions.
symbolism	When pictures, colours or objects are used to represent more complex ideas.

Christmas Customs

There are lots of different ways that people celebrate Christmas and Advent: Christmas trees symbolise the everlasting life of God.

Mistletoe is a symbol of peace and joy and is used to show friendship and goodwill.

Advent calendars, wreaths and candles are different ways of counting down to Jesus' birthday.

Christingles symbolise the importance of Jesus and the gospel.



Do all Christians think the Christmas story is true?

Christians believe that the Christmas Story has great significance. Some Christians believe in the literal meaning of the story, and view it to be completely true as it was told, whilst others believe the story to have a more metaphorical meaning.

Why are there different versions of the Christmas story?

There are different types of truth e.g. historical, scientific, personal (beliefs). There are different accounts of the Christmas story in the Bible according to different people. Many debate whether or not Jesus was born on the 25th December. One argument is sheep would not have been seen on the fields until the Spring period.

Islam and Christmas.

Muslims do not celebrate Christmas. Whilst they do believe in Jesus, they do not believe he is the Son of God. According to the Islamic religion, Jesus' birth was either in March or September based on the season indications in the Bible.

Judaism and Christmas.

Jewish people do not celebrate Christmas, as most Jews do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, nor do they accept him as the Son of God. Instead, they celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of light, and is the most public of Jewish festivals. It lasts eight days and is celebrated between late November and December each year, depending on the Hebrew calendar.