



RE Knowledge Organiser



This knowledge organiser is a guide, offering key information to point the teacher in the right direction as to the beliefs underpinning the particular enquiry. The summaries must not be taken as the beliefs of ALL members of the particular religion.

Religion /Worldview: Christianity	Enquiry Question: What gifts might Christians in my town have given Jesus if he had been born here rather than Bethlehem?	Age: 5/6 Year Group: 1 Autumn 2
The enquiry is focussed on the first Christmas and more specifically the gifts that Jesus received, their meaning and symbolism and how that compares with gifts today.		

Core Knowledge (see also background information documents)		Link to other aspects of belief	Personal connection / resonance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary was a young Jewish woman whom God chose to be the mother of his son, Jesus, and he sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. Mary agreed (this is called her “Fiat”) and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is the Christian concept of incarnation: God becoming man or literally being “made flesh”. The star in the sky symbolises Jesus’ importance and how he could be a light for other nations. The gifts show that Jesus was a type of both king and God, and would die. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe in the Trinity. This is the complete relationship between God (the Father), Jesus (his son) and the Holy Spirit. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Jews at the time were awaiting their Messiah, but many would have believed he would be an earthly king who would lead them out of Roman occupation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do I feel about the gifts Jesus was given? Are they the sorts of gifts I would give a baby today? What gifts can I consider which may have a deeper symbolism or meaning which is relevant to life today?
Key Terms and Definitions	History/Context	Impact on believer/daily life	Spiral curriculum link
<p>Magi/wise men: visitors from Eastern lands who travelled to find a king because they had seen a star</p> <p>Gold symbolises kingship on earth.</p> <p>Frankincense (an incense) is a symbol of deity.</p> <p>Myrrh (an embalming oil) is a symbol of death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tradition says that there were three wise men (or kings). This is not actually specified in the Bible account and is probably the number chosen because of the giving of three gifts. Rather than arriving at the stable, it is more likely, in view of their long journey and of Herod’s command that all children under two years of age be killed, that they arrived when the infant Jesus had already become a young child. The Roman occupation of Israel at the time meant that the Magi looked for Jesus in King Herod’s palace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The magi and the gifts that they brought, symbolise to Christians that Jesus was meant to be different to earthly kings and be a “king” for people from all nations, for Gentiles (non-Jews) as well as Jews. This allows Christians the world over to feel a unity. Many Christians would consider Jesus a gift from God. 	Link/recap to EYFS “What is Christmas?” enquiry.

Home learning ideas/questions:

If we celebrate Christmas, what gifts do we like to give and receive? Have we ever received anything which had a lot of significance? If we don't celebrate Christmas, do we ever give gifts to each other and what significance might they have?