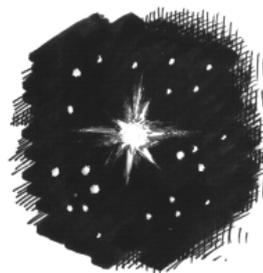


Christmas activities



UNIT A4

This unit contains three Christmas activities, each of which stands alone, but all of which relate to the Christmas story. There is a brief synopsis of this at the start of the unit. Alternatively, pupils could read the biblical accounts in Luke chapter 2 verses 1 to 20 and Matthew chapter 2 verses 1 to 12.

Using the unit

How many miles to Bethlehem?

Time: 30 minutes to one hour.

Pupils can work through questions 1 to 9. They then need to check their answers before continuing.

Question 11 could be set for homework but if discussed in the lesson it would probably be useful to have some ideas ready or to take a map.

Stargrid

Time: 1 to 2 hours.

It is easier to get started if the rules are first explained to the class. They should then try the worked example and should be able to continue unaided after this.

It is important to stress that moving one 'place' means moving to the next star (diagonal distances are longer than for vertical and horizontal moves but the word 'place' is used for both). It is also important to stress that 'back' means 'without turning round'.

The activity can be extended if pupils choose their own words and write corresponding instructions.

Wordsearch

Time: approximately 15 minutes for the number wordsearch and 30 minutes for the cryptic wordsearch.

Words are written horizontally or diagonally and can be forwards or backwards. Individual letters may be used more than once but each word uses at least one new letter, i.e. no word is completely contained within another. This is worth stressing particularly in the number wordsearch as, for example 'six' is separate from 'sixteen' and 'ten' is separate from 'nineteen'.

Mathematical content

How many miles to Bethlehem?

Handling data (AT4)

◆ Interpreting tables (level 3)

Number and algebra (AT2)

◆ Making approximations (level 3)

Shape, space and measures (AT3)

◆ Making estimates of measures (level 5)

Stargrid

Shape, space and measures (AT3)

◆ Skills needed similar to those for using Logo (levels 2-5)

Wordsearch

Number and algebra (AT2)

◆ Reading and writing numbers (level 1)

◆ Using addition and subtraction (level 3)

◆ Using squaring relationship (level 4)

Spiritual and moral development

The aim is for pupils to enjoy the activities whilst practising some Mathematics. Each activity relates in some way to the Christmas story and so reminds pupils of the reason for the Christmas celebrations.

Using the unit continued ...**Differentiation**

In *How many miles to Bethlehem?*, questions 9 to 11 are harder and could easily be omitted.

Stargrid should be accessible to most pupils if the rules are explained to them orally. Questions 1, 2 and 3 use forward and backward movements and rotations through $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ turns in clockwise and anticlockwise directions. Questions 4 and 5 also use rotations through multiples of an eighth of a turn.

In *Wordsearch*, the cryptic wordsearch is more difficult than the number wordsearch.

**Resources needed****How many miles to Bethlehem?**

A copy of 'The First Christmas' to read. This could be put on an OHP.

A copy each of the worksheet.
Paper and pen.

Stargrid

A copy each of the worksheet.
Paper and pen.

It would be useful for pupils to make a small arrow from card.

Wordsearch

A copy each of the relevant wordsearch with clues.

A pen or highlighter.

Answers**How many miles to Bethlehem?**

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. 105 | 2. 14 | 3. 840 | 4. 854 |
| 5. 476 | 6. 583 | 7. No distance | 8. See table below |

	Babylon	Bethlehem	Cairo	Jerusalem	Nazareth
Babylon	-	850	1260	840	810
Bethlehem	850	-	480	10	110
Cairo	1260	480	-	490	580
Jerusalem	840	10	490	-	90
Nazareth	810	110	580	90	-

9. 0.625

10. a) $10 \times 0.625 = 6.25$ b) $110 \times 0.625 = 68.75$ c) $490 \times 0.625 = 306.25$ d) $850 \times 0.625 = 531.25$

Stargrid

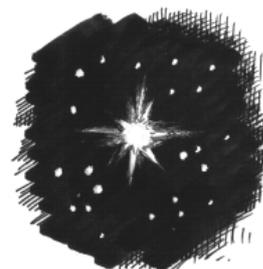
- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Mary | 2. Herod | 3. Census | 4. Myrrh | 5. Quirinius |
|---------|----------|-----------|----------|--------------|

Wordsearch

Number: Your Saviour is born

Cryptic: Sage, Twelve, Camel, Christmas Eve, Rudolph, Eight, Boxing Day, Three, Nought, Candles, Forty five, Star, Six, Shepherds, Angel, Turkey, Cards, Herod, Fir, Bethlehem, Norway, Mary, Gift, Rings, Crib, Save.

Christmas activities



UNIT A4

The First Christmas

Two thousand years ago a young woman called Mary was sitting in her home when an angel appeared in front of her! The angel told her that she would soon have a baby called Jesus who would be king for ever.

Soon after this Mary, who lived in Nazareth in the North of Israel, had to travel south to Bethlehem near Jerusalem with her fiancé, Joseph. They probably took a donkey to carry their belongings and for Mary to ride when she became tired because she was pregnant.

Bethlehem was full of travellers and Mary and Joseph could not find a room to stay in. Eventually they were offered the use of a stable and that night Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in some strips of cloth and used a feeding trough as a cot.

On the same night a group of shepherds were in the fields nearby. A crowd of angels appeared and told them that God's Son had been born in Bethlehem. The shepherds hurried into town and found everything just as the angels had told them.

Some time later, Jesus had more visitors but with them came danger. Wise men from the East had studied the night sky and seen an unusual new star. It was so bright that they decided that it heralded the birth of a new king. They followed the star to Jerusalem where King Herod lived and asked him if there was a new prince in his household. Herod was puzzled but also afraid that someone wanted to steal his throne.

When the wise men eventually found Jesus in Bethlehem, Herod made plans to kill Jesus. God warned Joseph about this in a dream and Joseph took Mary and Jesus into Egypt to escape from the anger of King Herod. They only returned to their home in Nazareth many years later when Herod was dead.



How many miles to Bethlehem?

1

When Jesus was born, his family went on a long journey but travelling was very different 2000 years ago.

Have you ever been on a long journey at Christmas time?
How did you travel? By car? Train? Plane?

Read 'The First Christmas' and notice all the journeys that took place.

Below is a two-way table that shows the distances between some of the places mentioned in the story. The distances are as accurate as possible and are given in kilometres (km).

	Babylon	Bethlehem	Cairo	Jerusalem	Nazareth
Babylon	-	854	1261	840	805
Bethlehem	854	-	476	14	105
Cairo	1261	476	-	489	583
Jerusalem	840	14	489	-	91
Nazareth	805	105	583	91	-

The wise men travelled from the East. It is not known exactly where they came from. It could have been Babylon, Persia or Arabia. We have chosen to record their journey from Babylon.



Similarly the Bible does not mention exactly where in Egypt Mary, Joseph and Jesus travelled to when escaping from Herod. We have chosen the place where Cairo now stands.



1

How many miles to Bethlehem? continued ...

Use the story and the table to answer these questions:

1. How far did Mary and Joseph travel from their home to Bethlehem?
2. How far away was Herod when Jesus was born?
3. How far did the wise men travel before they met King Herod?
4. How far did the wise men travel from their home until they found Jesus?
5. How far did Mary, Joseph and Jesus travel to escape from Herod?
6. How far did Mary, Joseph and Jesus travel back to Nazareth once Herod was dead?
7. Why do you think there are five blanks in the table?
8. Copy out the table on the previous page but round off all the distances to the nearest 10 km.
9. If $8\text{ km} = 5\text{ miles}$, what is 1 km in miles? (Show your method). Check your answer with your teacher before trying question 10.
10. Using your answers to questions 8 and 9, work out these distances in miles:
 - a) Bethlehem to Jerusalem
 - b) Nazareth to Bethlehem
 - c) Jerusalem to Cairo
 - d) Babylon to Bethlehem.
11. For each of the distances in your answer to question 10, write down the name of a place that is approximately that distance from your home.



Choose one of the journeys in the Christmas story.

Imagine what it would be like to travel that distance now from your home. Then imagine what it might have been like travelling that distance on foot, camel or donkey 2,000 years ago in the Middle East.

How would you feel at the end of the journey?

Stargrid

		I	J	K	L	M	N		
		★	★	★	★	★	★		
H	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	O
G	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	P
F	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	Q
E	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	R
D	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	S
C	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	T
B	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	U
A	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	V
		★	★	★	★	★	★		
		Z	Y			X	W		

Start on the black star facing in the direction of the arrow.

Stargrid

2

To play 'Stargrid', start on the black star facing in the direction shown. Turning instructions tell you which way to face, moving instructions tell you how many places to go forwards or backwards. Whenever you land on a shaded star, write down the letter beside it. (It may help to make a small arrow to move around the grid.)

Example:

Forward 4, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 4.

You should be on the shaded star S facing right.

Backward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 1.

You should now be on the shaded star T facing right.

Finish this word as follows:

Backward 6, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 2, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 1.

Backward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 4, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 6.

You should now be on the patterned star labelled R facing right and all the instructions so far should have spelled the word "STAR".

Now try these. Start each new question at the black arrow. Each word relates to the Christmas story and is followed by a clue.

1. Forward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 2, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 8.
Backward 8, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 5.
Backward 6, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 4, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 5, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 5.

She met an angel.

2. Forward 8, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 3.
Backward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 3, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 7.
Forward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 3, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 2, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 4, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 5.

Not a very nice man!

2

Stargrid continued ...

3. Forward 3, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 3.
Backward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 2, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 6, Turn $\frac{3}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 4.
Backward 5, Turn $\frac{3}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 1, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 2, Turn $\frac{3}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 2, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ anticlockwise, Forward 2, Turn $\frac{3}{4}$ anticlockwise,
Forward 2.

It means we count people.

4. Forward 7, Turn $\frac{1}{8}$ clockwise, Forward 2.
Backward 3, Turn $\frac{1}{8}$ anticlockwise, Backward 6.
Turn $\frac{1}{8}$ clockwise, Forward 5.
Turn $\frac{1}{8}$ clockwise, Backward 2, Forward 2.
Backward 4, Turn $\frac{3}{8}$ anticlockwise, Forward 3.

An eastern gift.

5. Forward 6, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 4.
Backward 4, Turn $\frac{1}{8}$ clockwise, Forward 4.
Backward 6, Turn $\frac{3}{8}$ anticlockwise, Forward 1.
Backward 4, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 6.
Backward 6, Turn $\frac{3}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 4.
Backward 5, Turn $\frac{1}{8}$ clockwise, Forward 5.
Backward 5, Turn $\frac{7}{8}$ clockwise, Forward 5.
Backward 7, Turn $\frac{1}{4}$ clockwise, Forward 6.
Backward 2, Turn $\frac{7}{8}$ clockwise, Forward 2.

This man was the Roman governor of Syria at the time Jesus was born.

Now make up your own 'Stargrid' questions for other Christmas story words and give them to a friend to solve.

Number Wordsearch

3

Y	O	F	O	U	R	E	E	R	H	T
U	E	S	E	I	G	H	T	E	N	R
N	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	E	S	A
E	G	N	O	V	V	I	V	O	U	R
E	H	E	I	N	E	E	T	X	I	S
T	T	V	S	B	S	N	F	I	V	E
R	E	E	V	L	E	W	T	S	O	E
I	E	L	F	O	U	R	T	E	E	N
H	N	E	E	T	F	I	F	R	E	I
T	W	E	N	T	Y	N	O	W	T	N

The numbers 1 to 20 are written in this wordsearch.

They may be written horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

They may be written backwards or forwards but always in a straight line.

Some letters may be used in more than one word. When you find a word, check whether it is part of a longer word, e.g. 6 and 16 appear separately.

As you find each number, colour in the squares.

When you have found all the numbers from 1 to 20, you should have exactly 17 letters left.

Write them out in order to spell out the message that the angels gave the shepherds when Jesus was born.

Cryptic Wordsearch

4

C	R	I	B	Y	E	K	R	U	T	R	E
A	H	N	O	U	G	H	T	F	I	G	E
N	E	R	X	Z	H	P	L	O	D	U	R
D	R	B	I	I	Y	A	W	R	O	N	H
L	O	E	N	S	S	E	V	L	E	W	T
E	D	T	G	D	T	Y	E	B	I	E	B
S	L	H	D	R	R	M	V	J	G	H	L
G	E	L	A	A	A	H	A	A	H	X	E
N	G	E	Y	C	A	A	S	S	T	A	R
I	N	H	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S
R	A	E	N	I	I	M	A	R	Y	V	X
T	Z	M	F	O	R	T	Y	F	I	V	E

Words may be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally and may be written forwards or backwards but will always be in a straight line. Some letters may be used in more than one word.

Clues

- Another name for a wise man, or a herb?
- According to the song, Christmas has this many days.
- A wise man probably rode on this animal.
- The day before Christmas Day.
- This animal had a red nose at Christmas.
- Take the square root of the Christmas Day date and add 3.
- Is this the day for fighting about yesterday's presents?
- Traditionally there were this many wise men.
- Subtract the number of days in December from the number of days in January.
- Jews and Christians put a match to many of these at this time of year.
- Multiply the number of letters in CHRISTMAS by the number of letters in CAROL.
- The wise men followed this.
- After Christmas Day there are only this many days left in December.
- These workers with animals visited Jesus soon after he was born.
- This heavenly being told Mary about the birth of Jesus.
- This large bird is not looking forward to Christmas.
- The postman has to carry huge numbers of these at Christmas.
- This king was on the throne when Jesus was born.
- Christmas trees are usually of this type.
- Jesus was born in this town.
- The people of this country give the people of Britain a tree for Trafalgar Square.
- The name of Jesus' mother.
- Another word for a present.
- In the Christmas song there were five of these, all made of gold.
- Another word for a cradle.
- Christians believe Jesus came to ---- us from our sin.