

Vocabulary

The Old and New Testament: The Old Testament is the original Hebrew Bible, Jews today call it the Tenakh, the sacred scriptures of the Jewish faith. The New Testament books were written by Christians in the first century AD, and added to make the Bible (which means library)

Gospels: The first four books in the New Testament are called the Gospels. Their titles are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These books tell the story of Jesus from people who were his disciples.

Epiphany: In many countries Epiphany (when it is said the Three Kings arrived to see the baby Jesus) is celebrated by the giving of gifts to children

Baboushka: One of the most famous things about Christmas in Russia, to people in western Europe and the USA, is the story of Babushka. Babushka means Grand Mother in Russian. It tells the story of an old woman who met the Wise men on their way to see Jesus

Advent: Advent is a time of preparing for the arrival of Christmas, the coming of Jesus to earth and reflections on when he will return again and judge the human race

Christingle: A Christingle is a symbolic object, used in the Advent services of many Christian denominations. Christingle means 'Christ Light' and is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World". Used primarily for Advent and Christmas, it is also used for Epiphany.

Priest: An ordained minister of the Catholic, Orthodox, or Anglican Church

Key learning

- Suggest reasons for some of the similarities and differences between Matthew and Luke's account of the birth of Jesus
- Suggest reasons for the impact of the coming of Jesus in a Christian person's life
- Apply important messages from the original Christmas story to a modern-day situation

Symbols/Images/artefacts

Russian Orthodox priest

Important people/places/artefacts

Christingle

Links to further learning

- Ask pupils to research practices of celebrating Christmas in the Orthodox Church or within an African church
- Ask pupils to compare and contrast a Christian celebration around Christmas with another celebration in a different religion
- Use a 3 circle Venn diagram and look at 3 different celebrations and see what they share, what is unique