

Unit 1.2: Gifts and Giving

Is it better to give than to receive?

About the Unit:

The intention of this unit is to explain the Christmas story focussing on the journey and gifts of the Magi linked to an idea about precious things. Pupils will explore why Christmas is important for Christians. There are opportunities to use festivals from other religions in the context of 'gifts'.

Where the Unit fits:

This unit builds on work covered in the Foundation units, *F.4 Special Things /F.2 Special Times /F.6 Special Books*.

Key Vocabulary:

Magi, gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh), Bible, Epiphany, celebration, precious, mystery, Christmas, Jesus, nativity scene, birth

Suggested Resources:

Bible, mystery parcel(s), gold, frankincense and myrrh, stories of Papa Panov, food and music for celebration, (candles), audio-visual variety of artistic impressions of the Magi (e.g. National Gallery), CEM Unit: *Gifts and Gift Bringers, Christmas Tinderbox* (A. & C. Black), *A Gift to the Child* (Articles of Faith), www.christingle.org

Levels of Attainment:

Level	AT1 (Knowledge and Understanding)	AT2 (Reflection and Response)
1	Talk about a family celebration and to know that this might include giving special gifts	Ask questions about why people celebrate and exchange special gifts
2	Retell what happened in a celebration, knowing why these celebrations occur and retell the story e.g. Christmas	Talk about what it feels like to be part of a celebration and what it feels like to give and receive gifts
3	Make links between different celebrations where gifts are exchanged	Consider the feelings of people involved in an unfamiliar celebration where gifts were exchanged and begin to think about the significance of the gifts

Points to Note/Further Suggestions

The term Epiphany - meaning 'showing' - represents the 'showing of Jesus' to the world, a Messiah for all people.

The Magi should be referred to as wise men/Magi not kings.

Alternative faith stories: Hindu - Lakshmi, Jewish - Simchat Torah, Islam - Eid-ul-Fitr

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Teaching Objectives	AT1 Learning Outcomes Knowledge & Understanding	AT2 Learning Outcomes Reflection and Response	Teaching Activities
Children should have opportunities to:	Children should be able to:	Children should be able to:	
<p>CELEBRATIONS (3) explore the idea that there is a variety of religious and other traditions</p> <p>PEOPLE (3) learn about simple features of the lives of key figures</p> <p>RITUALS & CEREMONIES (2) develop an awareness of the use of ceremony</p> <p>WRITINGS (2) experience a wide range of stories and writings used to communicate beliefs</p>	<p>(e) recognise what happens in some festivals</p> <p>(e) recount an event or events in the life of a key figure</p> <p>(c) recognise a religious ceremony in simple terms</p> <p>(c) recognise that some religious stories linked to faith come from a named text</p>	<p>(f) respond sensitively to their own feelings and to those of others taking part in a festival</p> <p>(e) listen to and reflect upon a story about something in the life of a special person</p> <p>(c) talk about their feelings concerning what happened at a special event</p> <p>(c) talk about a belief in a religious story</p>	<p>Connect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on a basket of parcels - guess what might be inside. • What would be in your parcel? What is the most precious thing you could give someone? • What is the most precious gift someone has given you? <p>Consider and Respond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw/invent a precious gift that doesn't cost money. Make a gift tree. Draw a gift inside an empty presentation box - a gift for the world? • Talk about the Bible used in worship as a special book – a gift in sense of passing on precious stories – a gift from God. • Read a simple version of Christmas story, concentrate on order of events and the belief of Christians that Jesus was the Messiah. • Focus on the story of the Magi and the meaning of their gifts - meaning of Epiphany - Mary showing Jesus as a precious gift. • Explore the gifts - have examples of gold, frankincense, myrrh - discuss/draw/write about. <p>Celebrate and Reflect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate and plan together a ceremony such as an Advent service or Christingle. • Discuss what makes this a religious ceremony and talk about the symbolism. • Talk about your feelings as you were taking part. <p>Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose one gift that you think everyone in the world should have. Say why. • Reflect on Jesus – a special person, a gift to the world.

Recommended teaching time: 1 hour per week over half a term.
At least one visit to each section of the *Teaching Activities* is recommended.

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