

Create Your Own

Nativity Scene

with cutout puppets in color and B&W!



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Christmas Around the World

Transport your family through 10 countries learning about **traditions, decorations, Christmas songs, and more!**

Engaging Text

Comprehension Questions & Narration

Additional Research

Fun Bonus Activities & Research Projects

Christmas AROUND THE WORLD

Stories of Christmas Traditions and Celebrations

Additional Research questions include:
- What is a popular Christmas song in Brazil?
- What is a popular Christmas song in Australia?
- What is a popular Christmas food in Australia?
- What is a popular Christmas decoration in Australia?
- What is a popular Christmas tradition in Australia?
- Draw a picture of something you learned about that represents Christmas in Australia and describe it below.

Christmas Around the World Bonus Activities:
- Christmas traditions in ten countries plus a bonus one if you did the research.
- Draw your favorite Christmas tree and write down one you learned about below.

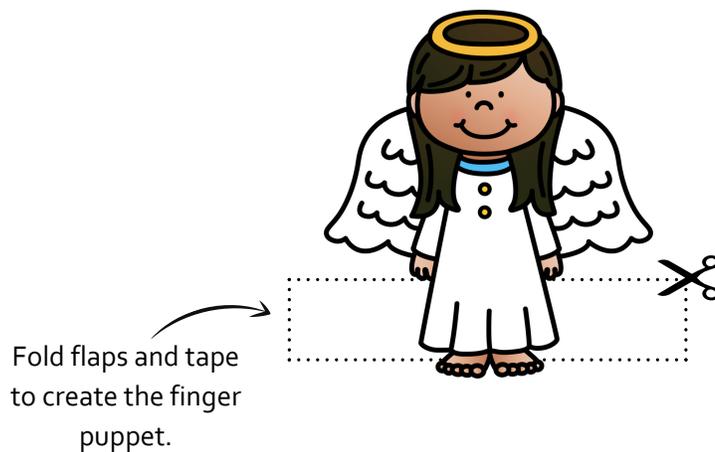
Christmas Around the World Research Project:
- Research Christmas traditions. Write an essay below. Use a map to help you.

How To Use This Resource

Read the birth story of Jesus to your children. There are characters throughout that can be cut out and use to tell the story or help your child recreate one of their own!

The cutouts can be used as finger puppets, placed on popsicle sticks for story re-enactment, and/or cut and pasted onto a sheets of paper to recreate the story of the birth of Christ. They are available in color and B&W (for coloring).

To create a finger puppet, simply cut a 1" rectangle shape across the bottom of an image to create flaps that can be taped together to create the puppet (pictured below). For popsicle stick puppets, but them out and tape onto a popsicle stick.

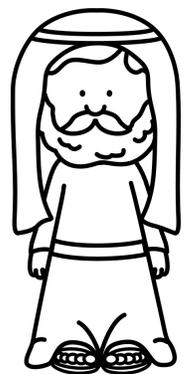
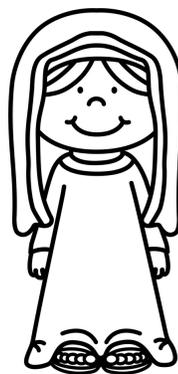


The Birth Story of Jesus

About 2000 years ago, God sent the angel Gabriel with an important message to a young woman who lived in the northern town of Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary, and she was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

Gabriel went to Mary and said: 'Peace be with you! God has blessed you and is pleased with you.' Mary was very surprised by this and wondered what that meant. The angel then said to her, 'Don't be afraid, God has been very kind to you. You will become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a baby boy, and you will call him Jesus. He will be God's own Son and His kingdom will never end.'

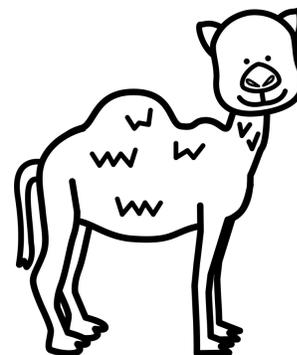
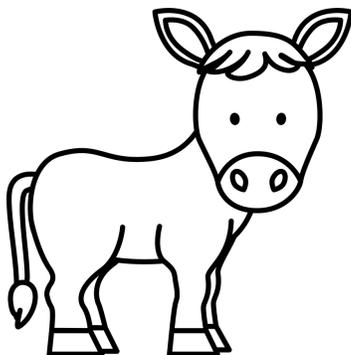
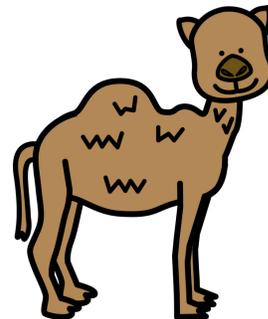
Mary became afraid, but she trusted God. 'Let it be as God chooses,' she replied to the angel. Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth who everyone thought was too old to have children, would have a baby boy whom God had chosen to prepare the way for Jesus.



The Birth Story of Jesus

During the time of Mary and Joseph, they lived in part of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor Augustus wanted to have a list of all the people in the empire, to make sure they paid their taxes. (This is also known as taking a census.)

He ordered everyone to return to their hometown and enter their names in a register there. Mary and Joseph traveled about 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, because that is where Joseph's family came from. Most of the people had to walk, but some lucky people had a donkey to help carry the goods needed for the journey. Joseph and Mary traveled very slowly because Mary's baby was due to be born soon.

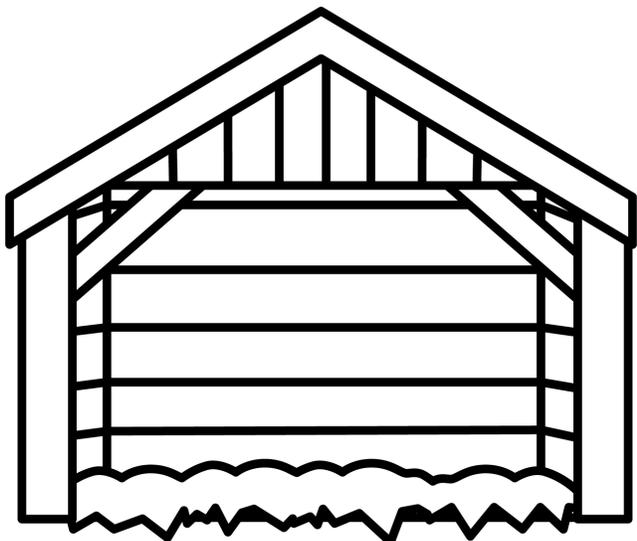
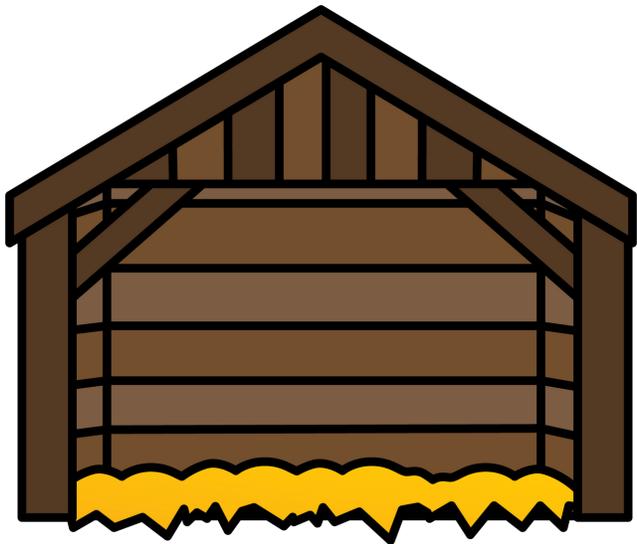


The Birth Story of Jesus

When they reached Bethlehem they had problems finding somewhere to stay. So many people had come to register their names in the census, that every house was full and every bed was taken in all of the guest rooms. The only place to stay that they could find was with the animals.

People often kept animals in the house, especially at night, and used them like 'central heating!' People normally slept on a raised/upper level with the animals below to give them extra warmth.

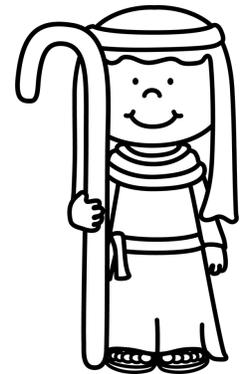
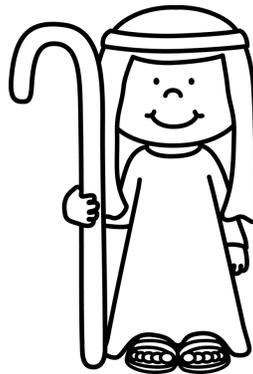
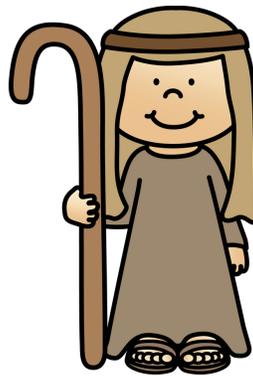
So in the place where the animals slept, Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God.



The Birth Story of Jesus

In those days it was the custom to wrap newborn babies tightly in a long cloth called 'swaddling clothes'. Jesus' bed was the manger that the animals ate their hay from.

In the hills and fields outside Bethlehem, shepherds looked after their sheep through the long night. As the new day began, suddenly an angel appeared before them and the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were very, very scared, but the angel said, 'Don't be afraid. I have good news for you and everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born for you. You will find the baby lying in a manger.'

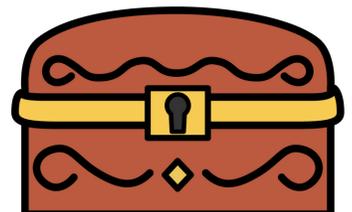
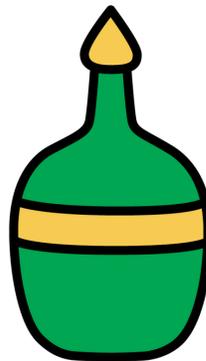
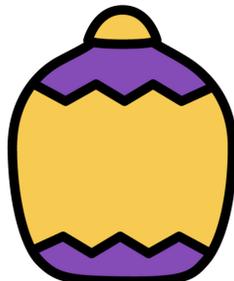
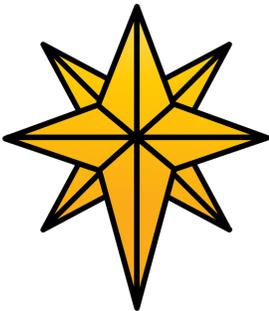
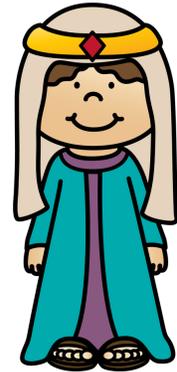
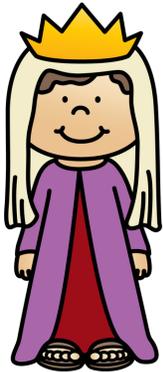


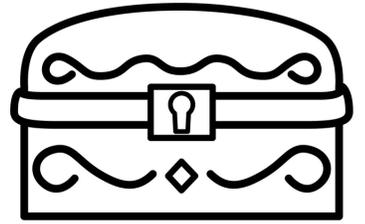
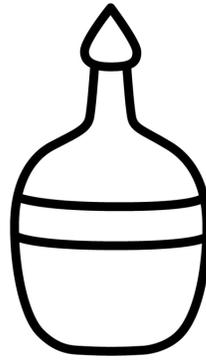
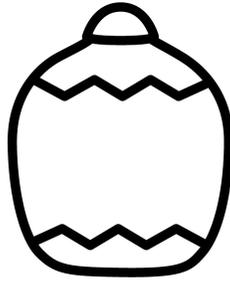
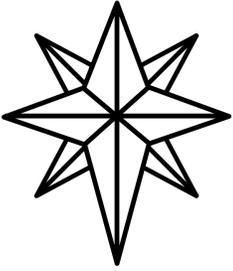
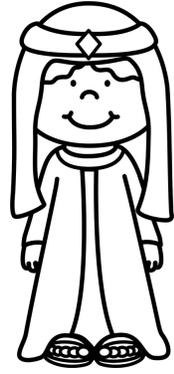
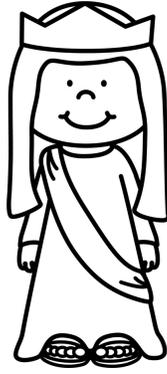
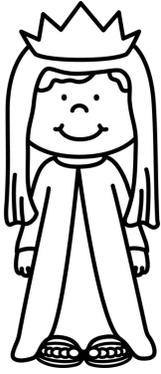
The Birth Story of Jesus

When Jesus was born, a brand new bright star appeared in sky. Some Wise Men in faraway countries saw the star and guessed what it meant. They were very clever men that studied the stars and had read in very old writings that a new star would appear when a great king was born. They set out to find the new king and bring him gifts.

The Wise Men followed the star towards Bethlehem (where it said that the king would be born in the old writings). It seemed to stop and shine directly down upon the place where Jesus was born.

The Wise Men entered the house where they now lived and found Jesus with Mary, they bowed down and worshipped him. The Wise Men spread the the gifts they had brought before Jesus. The gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh.





The Birth Story of Jesus

When the Wise Men had gone, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' the angel said, 'Take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for Jesus to kill him.' So Joseph got up, took Jesus and Mary during the night they left for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died.

When Herod realized that he had been tricked by the Wise Men, he was furious and he gave orders to kill all the boys aged two or younger in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. This was a plan by the enemy to try and kill the new King, as his plan to find the location of the new King from the Wise Men had failed.

After Herod had died, Joseph had another dream in which an angel appeared to him. The angel said, 'Get up, take Jesus and Mary and go back to Israel, for those who were trying kill Jesus are dead.'

So Joseph got up, took Jesus and Mary and they went back to Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son was now King of Judea, he was afraid to go there. So instead they went to Galilee, and lived in their old town of Nazareth.

