

# RE Knowledge Organiser




## Year Four – Christmas Journey

### Unit Sequence of Sequence of Learning

- To learn about the importance of Bethlehem to Christians and to find out what a pilgrimage is.
- To find out about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- To find out about some of the key features of the nativity story.
- To find out how religious ideas can be expressed through music and art.
- To learn about how emotions of people in the story are the same emotions as people have today.

### Knowledge

- **Bethlehem** – This is now a merchant town that relies a lot on Jerusalem for trade. It is most known, however, as a religious location. Bethlehem is an important town throughout the Bible, starting in Genesis, but it is most famous as being the birthplace of Jesus.

 <p>Gold</p>	Gold is a metal that has been precious throughout history. It was traditionally a gift of kings. The wise men brought the baby Jesus gold because it was a symbol of how he would become king of the Jews.
 <p>Frankincense</p>	Frankincense is a resin that is burned. At this time, priests burned frankincense so that smoke would carry prayers up to heaven. This symbolises Jesus' role as a spiritual leader.
 <p>Myrrh</p>	Myrrh was an embalming resin that was used in the mummification process in Egypt. This symbolises how Jesus would die for the world.

### Key Vocabulary

Pilgrimage	A long trip undertaken for religious purposes, such as to visit a holy place.
Census	An official count of the people who live in a country or other area.

### Key Questions

What country is Bethlehem in?	Bethlehem is a town in Israel which is next to Egypt and Jordan.
What is the Church of the Nativity?	The Church of the Nativity is the oldest church in the world and where Christians believe that Jesus was born.
Why do you think the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would be hard?	The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would be hard because they are around 120km apart. It would have taken Mary and Joseph many days to make the long journey and this would often be in very hot weather. Mary was also pregnant and would have likely rode on a donkey, which would not have been comfortable.
Why do you think God sent the angels to the Shepherds?	God let the shepherds be the first to know about the birth of Jesus because it shows that he loves everyone in the world, not just the rich and powerful but also the poor.

### Nativity Story

Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-7)	At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone then went to register himself, each to his own town. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judaea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger - there was no room for them in the inn.
The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)	There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly, a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.
Visitors from the East (Matthew 2:1-12)	Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judaea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" "In the town of Bethlehem in Judaea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: Bethlehem in the land of Judaea, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judaea; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel." So Herod called the visitors from the east to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time that the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and presented them to him. Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.