



<p>What this unit contains</p>	<p>Advent – a time of preparation for Christmas. Christmas & Epiphany. The Christingle. The Christian family worldwide.</p>		
<p>Where the unit fits and how it builds upon previous learning</p>	<p>This is the first Christianity unit for Key Stage 2. It builds on pupils' knowledge about Christmas and the Christian community from Key Stage 1. It is suggested that it is placed in the Autumn term.</p>		
<p>Extension activities and further thinking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research how Christmas is celebrated throughout a range of countries and present your work to the class. ➤ Interview people at school who celebrate Christmas to find out how their families celebrate. ➤ Write a diary for Babushka, explaining why she didn't travel with the Wise Men. 		
<p>Vocabulary</p> <p>Christian Jesus Advent</p> <p>Christmas celebration Christingle</p> <p>Epiphany wreath St. Lucia</p> <p>preparation symbol Babushka</p>	<p>SMSC/Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shared times of celebration within communities. ➤ The world family of a faith. 		



Unit 6 Session 1

Learning objectives	A T 1	A T 2	Suggested teaching activities	Sensitivities, points to note, resources
<p>Pupils should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ know that Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas; ➤ know that the Advent Ring and candle are often used to mark the period leading up to Christmas; ➤ know that the church prepares for Christmas by lighting candles on an Advent wreath. 	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p>	<p>Recall previous knowledge about Christmas and Jesus' birth. Brainstorm preparations that people make for Christmas. List as a whole class activity. Show pupils Advent calendar. Do they know its name? Write Advent Calendar on the board. Do pupils know what Advent is?</p> <p>Explain that Advent as the start of the Church Year for most Christian churches. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, ending on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). Show pupils how the Advent Calendar helps families to count down the days in Advent. Link to Advent candles and how it is marked into portions that are burnt away to count the days. Advent is a time of waiting – how do we feel when waiting for something?</p> <p>Show pupils an Advent wreath / picture. Explain how it is lit in churches. Draw pictures of characters/ scenes from Christmas story & make a class Advent Calendar.</p>	<p>Resources Advent candle Advent ring Advent calendar</p> <p>Advent wreath information sheet.</p>



Unit 6 Session 3

Learning objectives	A T 1	A T 2	Suggested teaching activities	Sensitivities, points to note, resources
Pupils should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ know that Christians in Russia tell the story of Babushka; ➤ understand the meaning behind the story for Christians. 	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓	<p>Recall that Christians live around the world and celebrate in different ways.</p> <p>Introduce pupils to the Russian story of Babushka.</p> <p>Babushka is a traditional Christmas figure in Russia who distributes presents to children instead of father Christmas. Her name means grandmother and the legend is told that the Three Wise Men, following the star to find baby Jesus stopped at Babushka's cottage asking for food and shelter. She willingly took them in. They invited her to go with them to find the baby, but she said she had to clean her cottage, find her Sunday best clothes, select a gift and on and on. They left without her and she promised she would follow as soon as she had things ready for the trip. By the time she was ready the star had moved across the sky and disappeared and although she set out on the trip she got lost and never found the baby Jesus. That is why she leaves gifts in children's stockings today -- she is still searching for the baby Jesus in every house where there are children</p> <p>How do you think Babushka might have felt? Write speech / though bubbles of Babushka's feelings at different parts of the story.</p> <p>Using Russian folk art / icons / ballet costumes etc. as an inspiration make a fabric collage of Babushka. Play Russian music whilst pupils work. Add pupils' speech / thought bubbles to the collage.</p> <p>Explain that the day on which the wise men are supposed to have visited baby Jesus is called Epiphany and this is celebrated in the West on January 6th.</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Babushka story and illustrations</p> <p>Fabrics</p> <p>Art images from Russia</p> <p>Russian folk music</p> <p>Images of ballet costumes (Diaghilev & Ballet Russe)</p>



Unit 6 Session 4

Learning objectives	A T 1	A T 2	Suggested teaching activities	Sensitivities, points to note, resources
<p>Pupils should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ know that in many Christian churches the custom of making Christingles has become common during Advent; ➤ know how the Christingle symbolises a celebration of the life of Jesus; ➤ know how to make a Christingle. 	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>		<p>In this lesson the pupils will each make a Christingle.</p> <p>Explain to the class that a Christingle or 'Christ Light' is a symbol of the Christian Faith. The first Christingle service was held in Marienborn in Moravia in 1747, when the pastor, John de Wattville, wanting to find a new way of telling the Christmas story to children, gave each child a lighted candle tied with a red ribbon. He asked them to relight them at home and place them in their windows to show the Light of Christ to passers by. The tradition was kept alive by the Moravian church and in the United Kingdom was adopted by the Children's Society in the 1950s as a way of raising awareness of their work.</p> <p>Many churches and schools now hold Christingle services any time from Advent to the end of the Epiphany season. Each child is helped to take an orange (representing the World) and insert four cocktail sticks into it (representing the four seasons). Fruit, nuts and sweets can then be attached to the cocktail sticks to represent the fruits of the Earth. A red ribbon is then tied around the centre of the orange as a reminder that Christians believe Jesus died for the world. Finally, a small lighted candle is placed on top to symbolise Jesus Christ, Light of the World</p> <p>The Christingle orange represents the world, the red ribbon around it is the blood of Christ, the fruits symbolise God's creation and the candle represents Jesus, the Light of the World.</p> <p>Give out resources and make individual Christingles. Label with explanations of the symbolism.</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Oranges Red ribbon Cocktail sticks Small white candles Fruits – e.g. Raisin, sultanas, 'dolly mixtures' (n.b. do not use nuts in case of nut allergies)</p> <p>Websites</p> <p>http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/re/keynotesamples/Christingle.pdf http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/christingle/christingle.htm http://www.request.org.uk/infants/festivals/christmas/christingle/christingle01.htm http://www.cist.org/pv/fm/fr2421.htm</p>



Unit 6 Session 6

Learning objectives	A T 1	A T 2	Suggested teaching activities	Focus for assessment	Sensitivities, points to note, resources
<p>Pupils should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ know that Christianity is a worldwide religion where celebrations are influenced by local culture; ➤ know that there is a world family of Christians who celebrate Christmas in different ways. 	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p></p> <p>√</p>	<p>Recall what pupils know about Christians around the world celebrating at Christmas. Start with the local Christians, recall the St Lucia festival and how the Russians remember Babushka. Encourage them to appreciate that Christians live around the world.</p> <p>In this lesson in groups pupils should find out different things that are done by Christians in a different country when they celebrate Christmas.</p> <p>Assessment task What is the same and what is different about Christmas in the local church and in another country?</p>	<p>Assessment Levels <i>Level 2 Attainment target 1</i> Pupils use religious words and phrases to identify some features of religion and its importance for some people. They begin to show awareness of similarities in religions. Pupils retell religious stories and suggest meanings for religious actions and symbols. They identify how religion is expressed in different ways. <i>Level 3 Attainment target 1</i> Pupils use a developing religious vocabulary to describe some key features of religions, recognising similarities and differences. They make links between beliefs and sources, including religious stories and sacred texts. They begin to identify the impact religion has on believers' lives. They describe some forms of religious expression. <i>Level 4 Attainment target 1</i> Pupils use a developing religious vocabulary to describe and show understanding of sources, practices, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences. They make links between them, and describe some similarities and differences both within and between religions. They describe the impact of religion on people's lives. They suggest meanings for a range of forms of religious expression.</p>	<p>Resources Websites http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/index.htm http://www.chilembwe.net/africa/africaXmas/ http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/index.htm</p>



CHRISTIANITY KS 2

Unit 6: Festival of Christmas and Advent, a time of preparation

Unit 6 Session 1 Information Sheet 1

St. Lucia

December 13th: Saint Lucia Day

St. Lucia Day is celebrated on December 13th in [Sweden](#). Early in the morning, a young girl in each family is woken up, dresses in a white robe with a red ribbon around the waist and is crowned with a circle of candles. Her duty is to bring breakfast to her family. Special sweet buns flavoured with saffron are served. Boys, called star boys, wear long white shirts and pointed hats. They help carry the sweets.

The celebration has grown and now clubs and factories also select their own Lucias. Parades and parties are held as everyone gets ready for Christmas. Swedish school children, dressed as Lucia, bring morning coffee and cakes to their teachers.

Who Was St. Lucia?

Saint Lucia is a symbol of light and reminds the Swedish people that after December the long dark nights will get shorter. The day was named after a young girl who, during Roman times, was put to death for her Christian beliefs. She lived a long time ago in Sicily, Italy, when Christians were not allowed to worship God. Italy was ruled by the Romans who wanted the Christians to worship the Roman gods. If someone was found worshipping the Christian God they were punished and often tortured to make them change their minds.

This meant that Christians often had to meet at night or pray secretly in caves. The caves were also home to Christians who were hiding from the Romans. They relied on other Christians to bring them food to eat. Lucia was a Christian girl

***Unit 6 Session 1 Information Sheet 1Continued*****St. Lucia**

who was sorry for the Christians who hid in the damp, cold caves. At night she would visit them and take them food so they would not go hungry.

The Christians in the caves were careful to hide if anyone approached the entrance. They didn't want any Romans to creep up on them and arrest them. However, they knew when Lucia was coming as she wore a crown of candles on her head. She used the lit candles to find her way through the dark caves and to keep her hands free to carry food for the Christians.

One night, the Romans found out what she was doing and lay in wait to catch her. They caught her and locked her up in prison. They tried to make her believe in their gods but her belief in her Christian God was so strong that she refused to give in to them. In the end, when she still refused to change her religion, the Romans put her to death by beheading her.

**Unit 6 Session 1 Activity Sheet****Sweet bun recipe for St. Lucia Day****Ingredients:**

1 cup milk
2 oz. yeast (or 2 heaping Tablespoons)
6 oz. butter
1 cup raisins, 5 grains saffron
1 egg
4 cups flour, 3/4 cup sugar
25 almonds

Garnish

1 beaten egg, sugar and 10 chopped almonds.

Directions

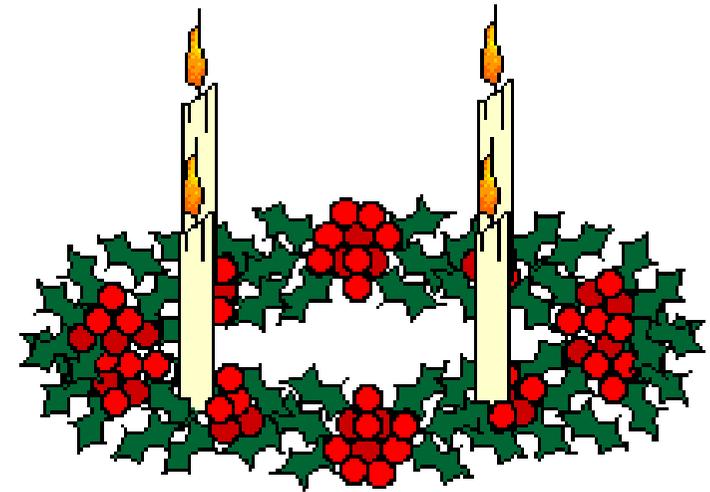
Warm the milk with the saffron. Stir in yeast and a bit of sugar. Add flour and egg. Mix until smooth.

Stir sugar and butter until light and creamy; add to dough. Work in raisins. Let rise for thirty minutes.

Scald almonds; chop fine; add to dough.

Place dough on floured board. Shape into buns. Mark these with a cross to remember Jesus. Place on buttered baking sheet. Let them rise for twenty minutes. Brush with the garnish.

Bake in a moderate oven until golden brown. Serve warm.



**Unit 6 Session 1 Information Sheet 2****Christmas in Sweden**

You will notice Christmas in Sweden is coming up when "advent stars" and "advent candlesticks" appear in each and every window. People gather to enjoy the famous "julbord," which is a traditional dinner with a variety of different Christmas dishes. On the first Sunday of December the first candle of the advent-candleholder is lit, to mark that Christmas will arrive in four weeks.

Although St. Lucia's Day on December 13 is observed in other Scandinavian countries, it is celebrated on a grand scale in Sweden.

St. Lucia, who was martyred in A.D. 304 for being a Christian, is important to the Swedes because, legend says, she brought food to Sweden during a time of famine. In the wee hours of December 13, thousands of young girls in white robes, acting the part of St. Lucia, serve pastry and coffee to their parents while they are in bed.

Swedes celebrate Christmas on 24 December. The greeting "God Jul" is the equivalent of "Merry Christmas."

The Swedish Christmas dinner table's centrepiece is the Julskinka, a specially prepared whole ham, which is eaten with pickled herring, liver paste, meatballs and sausages, different forms of cabbage, anchovies, potatoes and beetroot salad. Christmas is also the season of mulled wine, also known as glogg, presumably named after the sound it makes when swallowed.

On Christmas Eve day the family gathers in the kitchen for a ritual known as 'dipping in the kettle'. A kettle is filled with dripping, corned beef, pork, and sausage. Each person dips a piece of dark bread in the kettle until it is soaked through,

**Unit 6 Session 1 Information Sheet 2 Continued****Christmas in Sweden**

and then eats it. This ritual is meant to remind each family member of those who are less fortunate, and to encourage thankfulness.

The Swedish also have the Scandinavian tradition of the rice pudding with the hidden almond; only here the finder of the almond is destined to be married within a year. And like other Scandinavians, the Swedes have their gnome, known as Jultomten, who must be appeased.

Jultomten is also the one to put presents under the tree on Christmas Eve, presents that come with poems and are disguised. Jultomten rides the Julbock, a straw goat modelled after the one Thor had. On December 25, the first of two Christmas Days, there is an early morning church service. The day is filled with visiting and other religious observances. On December 26, the Second Day of Christmas, men ride through the villages to waken all early, and animals are given extra food.

Twelfth Night (Epiphany) is observed on January 6. Villagers dress up as Biblical characters and go from home to home singing hymns.

As King Knut had once declared that the Christmas should be celebrated for twenty days, the season doesn't officially end until January 13th, Saint Knut's Day. King Knut ruled Sweden from 1080-1086 and is honoured as a saint for his virtue and generosity. The days between Christmas and Saint Knut's Day are filled with parties for the children and adults. After this day, trees are taken down to mark the official close of the season.



CHRISTIANITY KS 2

Unit 6: Festival of Christmas and Advent, a time of preparation

Unit 6 Activity Sheet 2

Advent Wreath Fact sheet

- ❖ Five candles are lit in an Advent wreath.
- ❖ In week one, one candle is lit, week two sees two are lit etc.
- ❖ In the middle is a white candle-the Christ candle, lit on Christmas day.
- ❖ First Sunday: The first candle reminds Christians of Abraham and David, Old Testament ancestors of Jesus.
- ❖ Second Sunday: The second candle reminds Christians of the prophets, who foretold the birth of Jesus.
- ❖ Third Sunday: The third candle recalls John the Baptist, who proclaimed and baptized Jesus in the Jordan.
- ❖ Fourth Sunday 24th: The fourth candle represents Mary, Jesus' mother.
- ❖ Christmas Day: The fifth candle reminds of the birth of Jesus.

