

Mary & The Angel Reading Comprehension



During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you." But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!"

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!" Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

Luke chapter 1 v26-38, International Children's Bible

Questions

Where did Mary live? _____

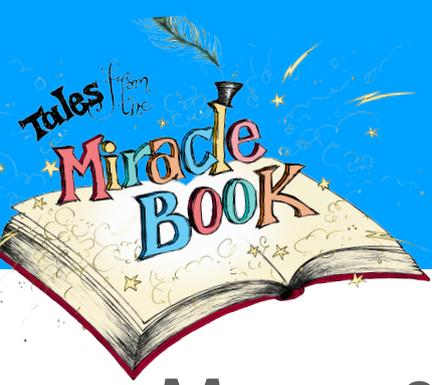
How did Mary feel when she first saw the angel? _____

Why did God choose Mary to have this baby? _____

What did the Angel say about Jesus' kingdom? _____

Who was unable to have a baby for a long time? _____

How did Mary feel about Gabriel's message by the end of the passage? Explain.



Mary & The Angel Reading Comprehension

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"



The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High... His kingdom will never end."

Luke chapter 1 v26-33, International Children's Bible

Questions

Where did Mary live? _____

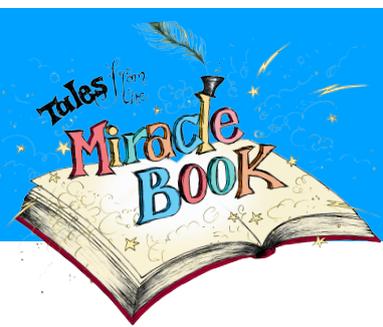
How did Mary feel when she first saw the angel? _____

Who was Mary engaged to? _____

What name was Mary to give her baby? _____

What did the Angel say about Jesus' kingdom?

Which part of the Bible is this reading taken from? _____



CHRISTMAS TALES

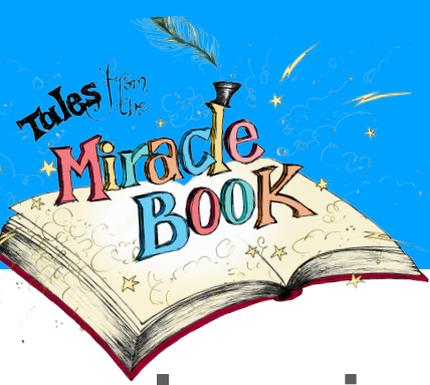
KS1

Angels & Surprises

The Christmas story is full of surprises... And perhaps nothing was more surprising, for the people involved, than the appearance of angels! And it was not only their appearance, but the extraordinary things that they said...

Draw a picture of an angel below. What do you think an angel might look like? Be as creative as you like!

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black outline, intended for a child to draw an angel. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the lower half of the page.



CHRISTMAS TALES

KS1 &
KS2

Imagine!

What might it have been like to see an angel?

Here's a picture of Mary. Choose some words from the word bank to describe how she might have felt after seeing the angel. Explain why she might have felt like that.



I think Mary might have felt...

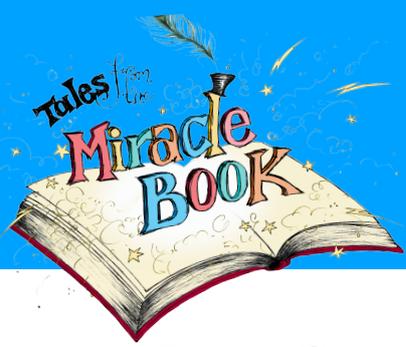
Here's a picture of Joseph. Choose some words from the word bank to describe how he felt when Mary told him the news. Explain why he might have felt like that.



I think Joseph might have felt...

proud	confident	sad	furious	delighted	
amazed	embarrassed	angry	upset	disbelieving	
scared	excited	faithful	honoured	humble	confused
joyful	shocked	relaxed	surprised	awe-struck	

Did Joseph feel different after Gabriel came to visit him? How might he have felt afterwards?



CHRISTMAS TALES

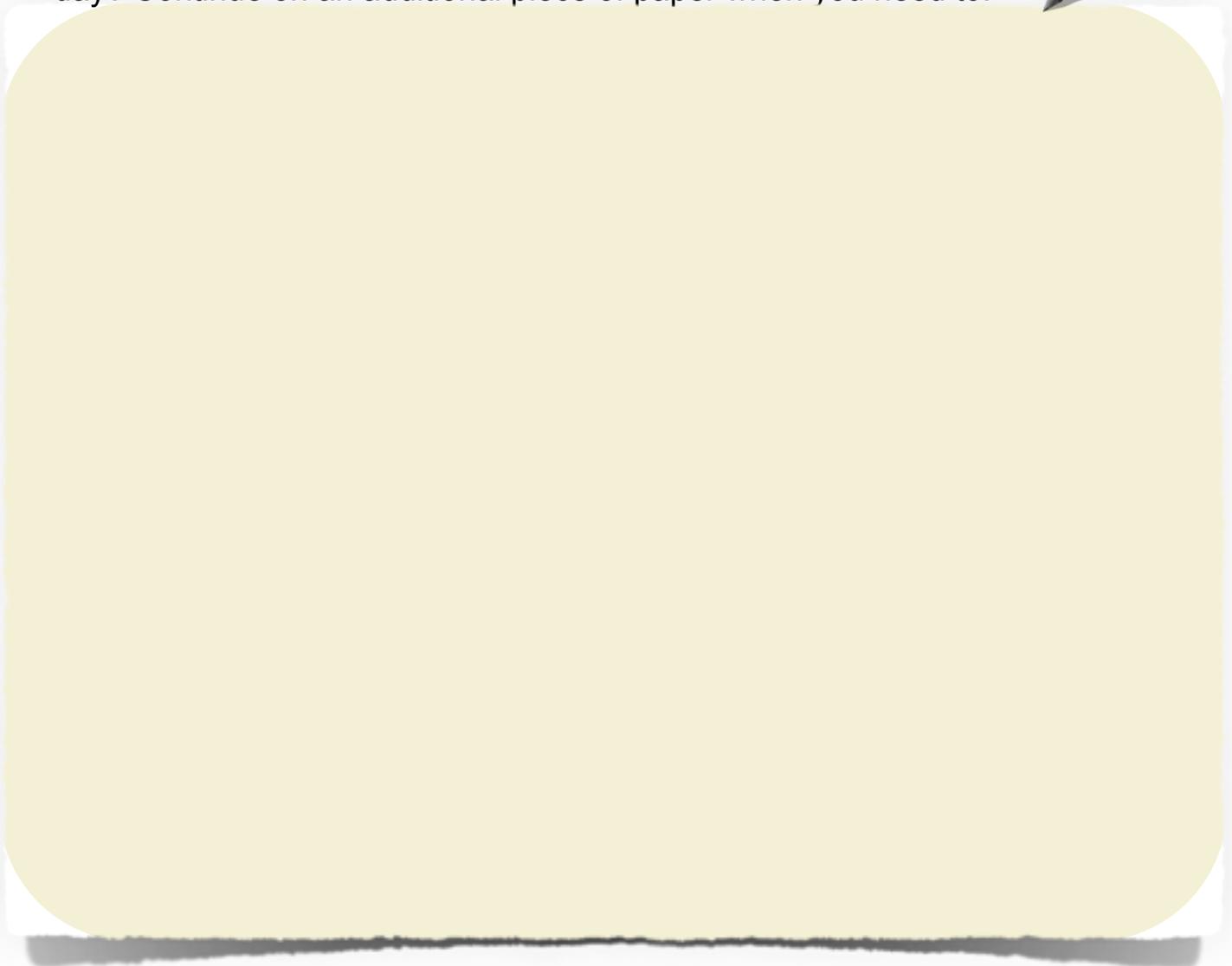
KS1 &
KS2

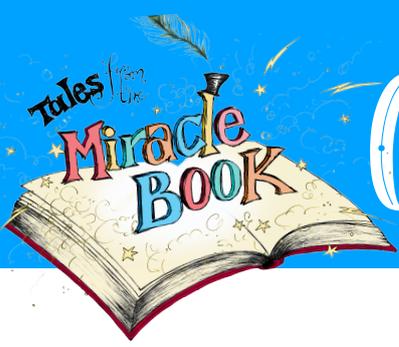
An Ordinary Day Becomes Extraordinary!

Discuss: Have you ever had a big surprise? Get into pairs (or threes) and share stories with each other.

Creative Writing

Imagine a day when something surprising happens that changes everything. It might be something as out-of-the-ordinary as the appearance of an angel or maybe something a little more down-to-earth like bumping into someone special. Who was it? And how did they change your day? Continue on an additional piece of paper when you need to.





Missing Words



Below is the account of Gabriel's visit to Mary, adapted from Luke chapter 1 (The International Children's' Bible). Unfortunately some of the words have been missed out. Can you fill them with the correct word from the word bank?

God sent the angel _____ to a girl who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Her name was Mary, and she was engaged to marry a man named _____.

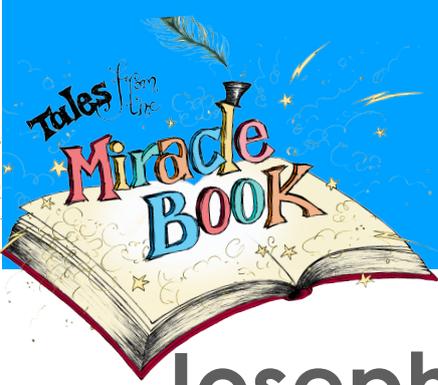
The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has _____ you and is with you."

Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don't be, _____ Mary, because God is _____ with you. Listen! You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and _____ will call him the Son of the Most High. His _____ will never end."

Mary said, "I am the _____ girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the _____ went away.

pleased servant people kingdom Gabriel
Joseph. angel afraid blessed



Joseph & The Angel Reading Comprehension

The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about.

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins (wrong-doing)."

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary...And Joseph named Mary's son Jesus.

Matthew chapter 1 v18-25, International Children's Bible

Questions

What did Joseph plan to do? _____

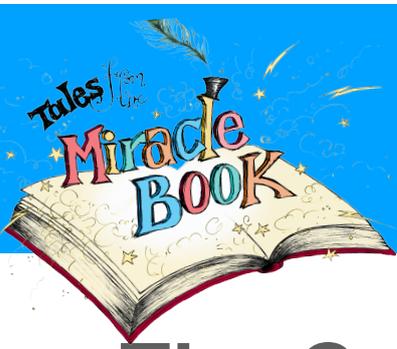
Who was Joseph a descendant of?

What did the Angel tell Joseph that Jesus would do?

What's another word for 'sin'?

What does Immanuel mean?

Which book of the Bible is this passage from?



The Census

The Census was big news! And it came at quite a tricky time for Mary & Joseph... Mary's baby was due to be born soon, and so it was not the ideal time to be going on a long journey, far from home...

How did Mary & Joseph each react to the news?

'This is terrible - there must be some sort of mistake'



'God doesn't make mistakes; we just have to trust him'



They were both in the same situation but they thought about the situation differently. Using wither words form the word-bank below or your own words write how you think each of them might have been feeling?

peaceful
curious
angry
excited

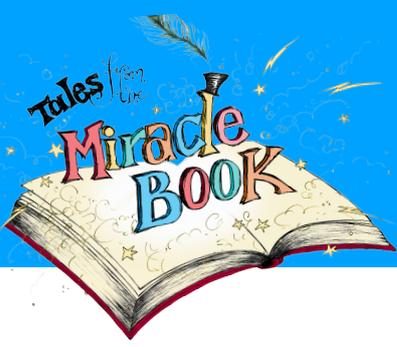
trusting
happy
relaxed
shy

scared
bored
stressed
brave

annoyed
confused
worried
encouraged

Joseph may have felt _____

Mary may have felt _____



The Census

The Census was big news! And it came at quite a tricky time for Mary & Joseph... Mary's baby was due to be born soon, and so it was not the ideal time to be going on a long journey, far from home...

How did Mary & Joseph each react to the news?

'This is terrible - there must be some sort of mistake'



'God doesn't make mistakes; we just have to trust him'



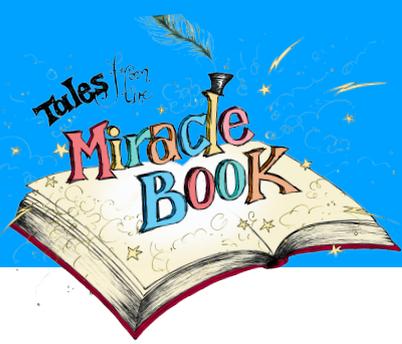
They were both in the same situation but they thought about the situation differently. In your own words write how you think each of them might have been feeling?

Joseph may have felt....

Why might he have felt like that?

Mary may have felt....

Why might she have felt like that?



Your Census Form

The Roman Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken. This meant that people had to go to the place where their family came from so that a list could be made of everyone. (It was a bit like a register, but more complicated). Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem. Complete the form below.

The Census

Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Number of older brothers: _____ **Number of younger brothers:** _____

Number of older sisters: _____ **Number of younger sisters:** _____

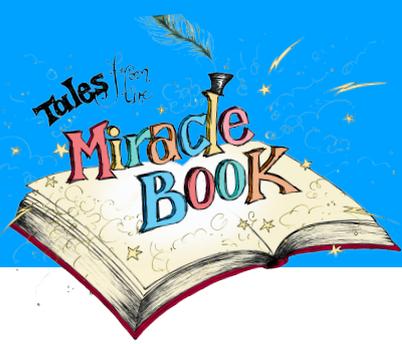
Eye Colour: _____

Hair colour: _____

Favourite food: _____

Pet: _____

How do you travel to school? _____



The Census - Collating Information Transport!

In tables/groups of 6-8

You will need your census form to have been completed and have them to hand.



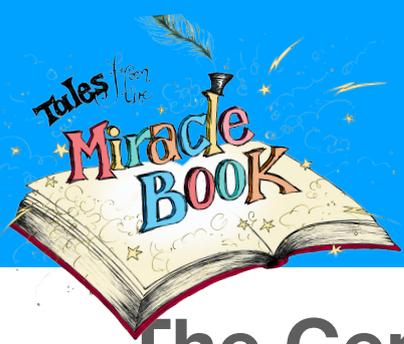
There are a few different graphs to complete from the data from your groups census forms. Decide in your group who will complete which bar graph with the information from your groups' census forms.

8					
7					
6					
5					
4					
3					
2					
1					
	Walk	Bus	Car	Cycle	Other

How many people walk to school? _____

What is the most popular way to travel to school? _____

Do more people come in the car or on the Bus? _____



The Census - Collating Information Eye Colour!

In tables/groups of 6-



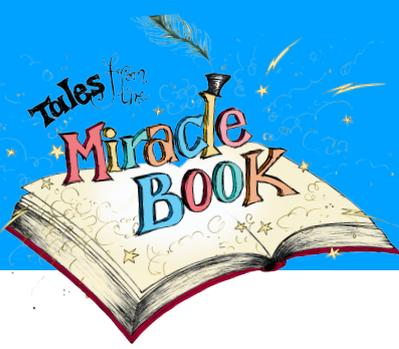
Use your groups' census forms to complete this bar graph.



What is the most common eye colour? _____

What is the least common eye colour? _____

How many people in your group have green eyes? _____



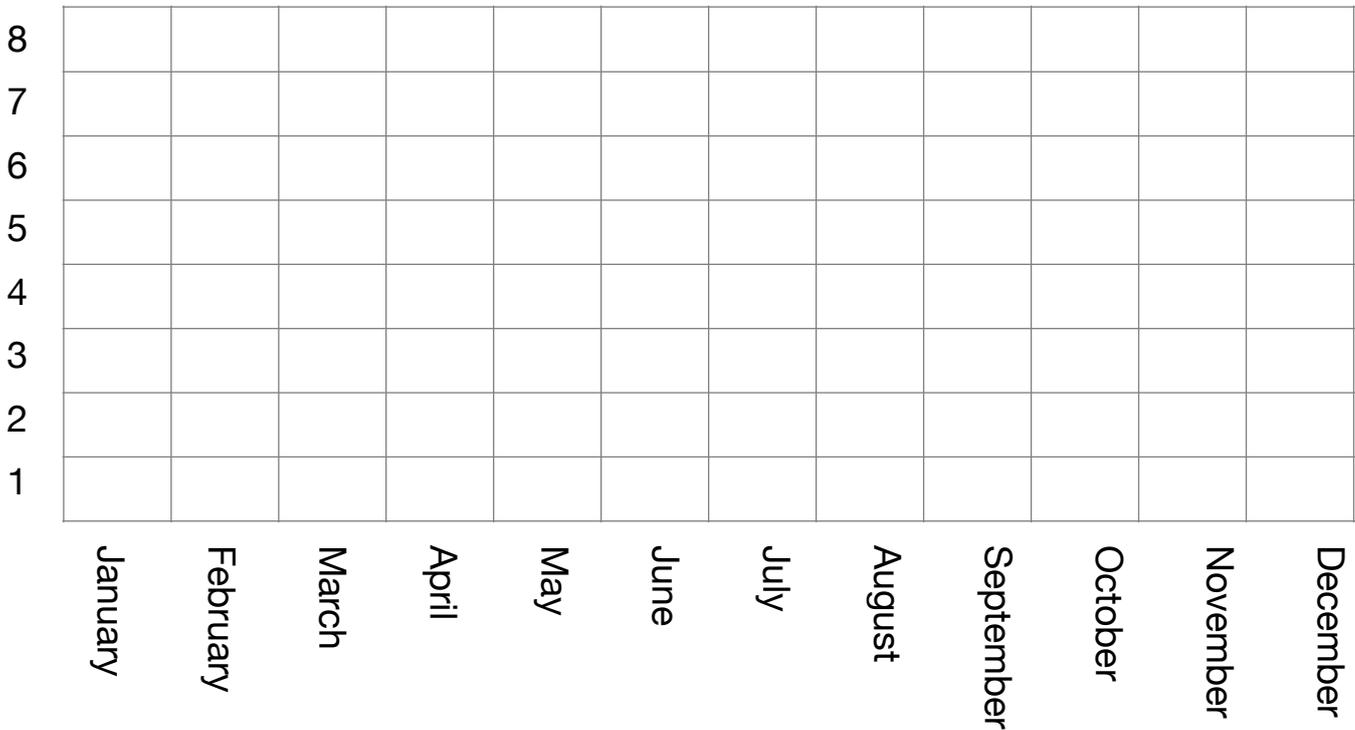
CHRISTMAS TALES

KS1 & KS2

The Census – Collating Information Birthdays!

In tables/groups of 6-8

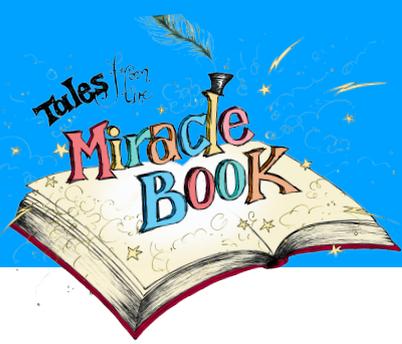
Use your groups' census forms to complete this bar graph.



What is the most popular month(s) to be born in?

Are there any months in which no-one in your group was born? Which ones?

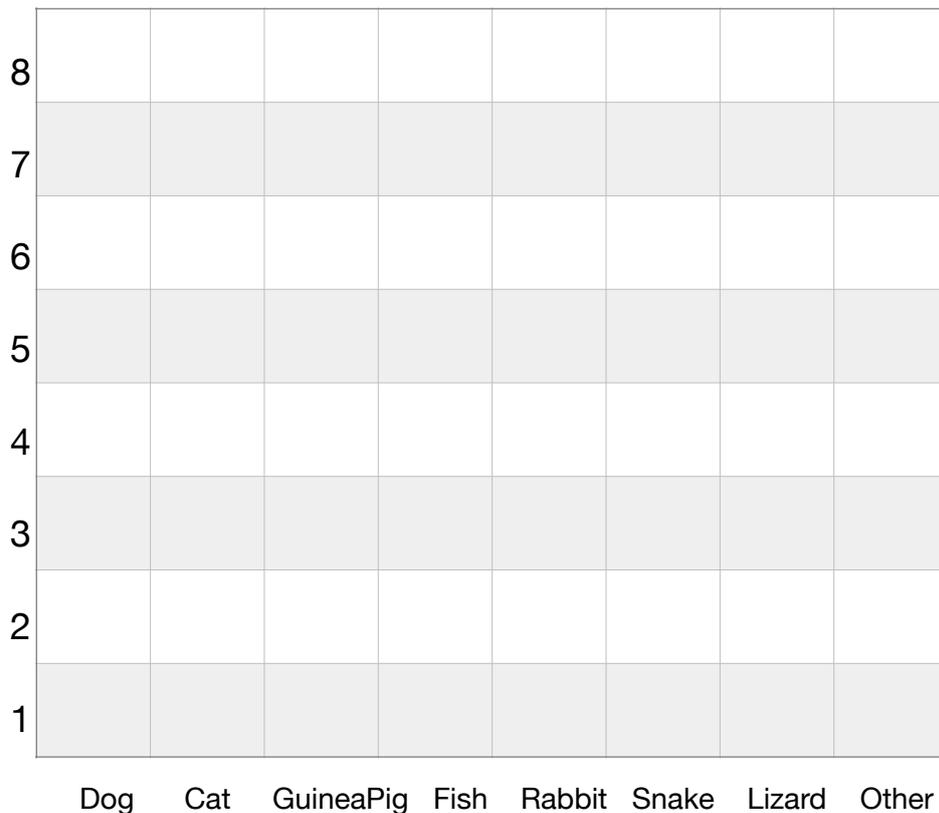
How many people have their birthday in December?



The Census - Collating Information Pets!

In tables/groups of 6-8

Use your groups' census forms to complete this bar graph.

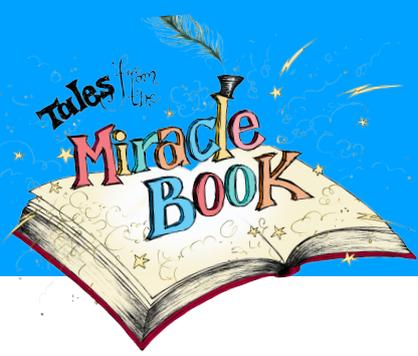


What is the most common pet? _____

Does anyone have a rabbit? _____

How many people in your group have cats? _____

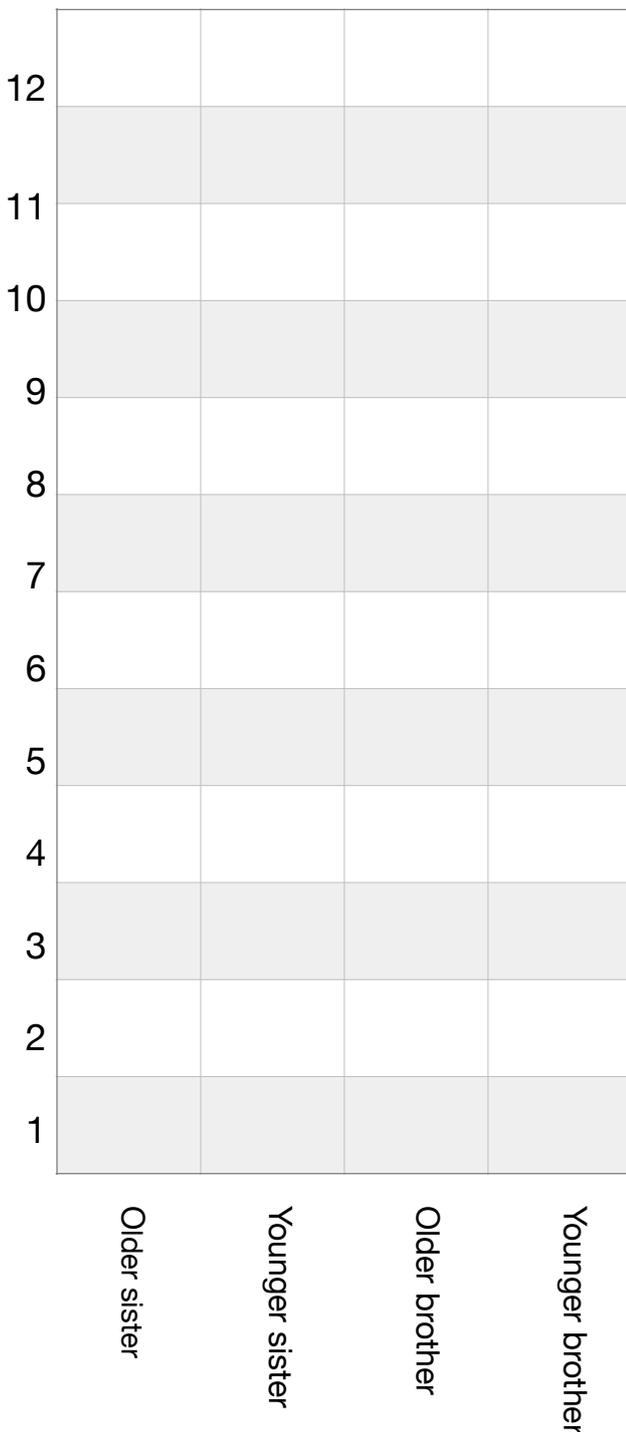
How many people have pets? _____



The Census -Collating Information Siblings!

In tables/groups of 6-8

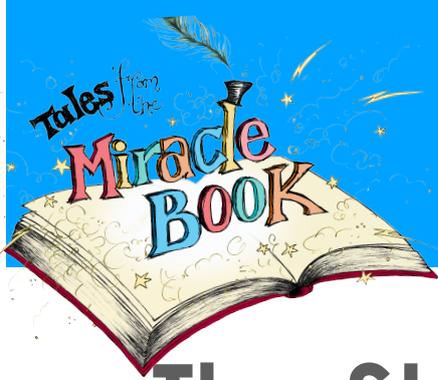
Use your groups' census forms to complete this bar graph.



Which is the most common sibling?

How many people have a younger brother?

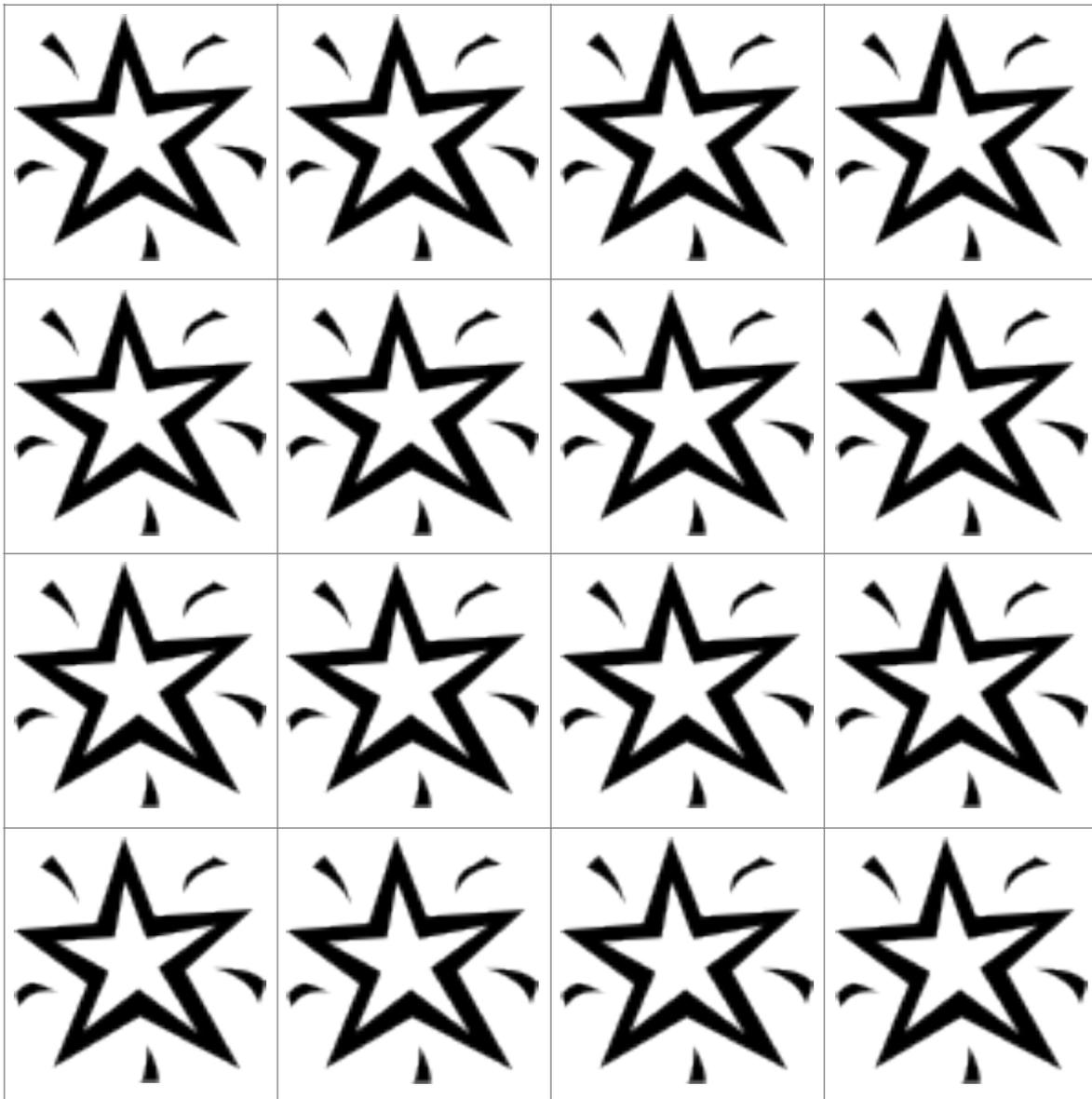
How many people in your group have brothers or sisters?



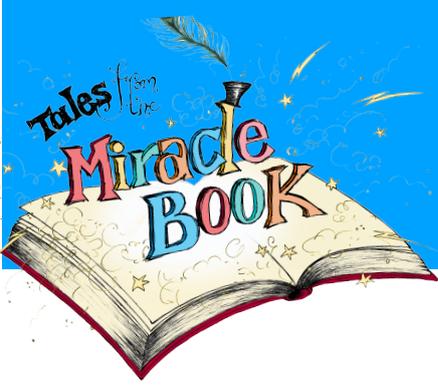
The Star

The Three Wise Men saw a special star in the sky. They followed it to find the place where Jesus had been born.

Colour in one star yellow. Colour in three stars red.
Colour in four stars blue. Colour in five stars green.



How many stars are not coloured in? _____



The Wise Men Reading Comprehension

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him.”

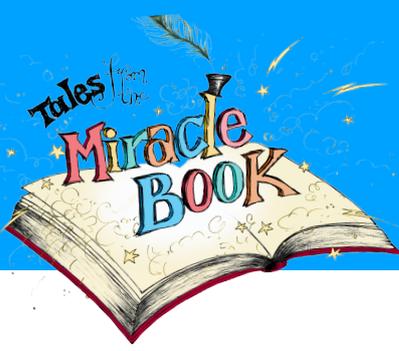
When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important among the rulers of Judah. A ruler will come from you. He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.’”

Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star.

Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, “Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too.”

The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.



The Wise Men Reading Comprehension Questions



Which region is the town of Bethlehem in?

Why had the Wise Men come to visit the baby?

How did King Herod feel when he heard about the new king?

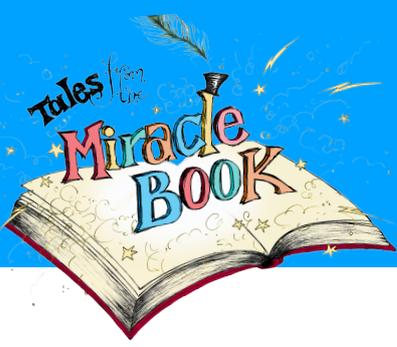
According to the scriptures why is the town of Bethlehem important?

Do you think King Herod did want to worship the child? Why or why not?

Where did the star stop? _____

What gifts did the Wise Men give to Jesus? _____

Why did the Wise Men not return to Herod? _____



The Three Wise Men

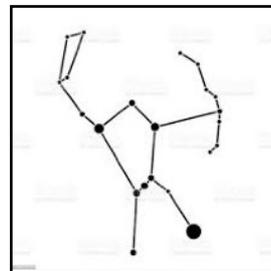
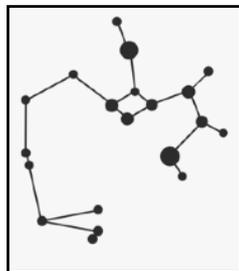
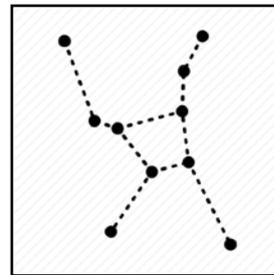
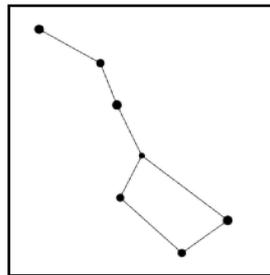
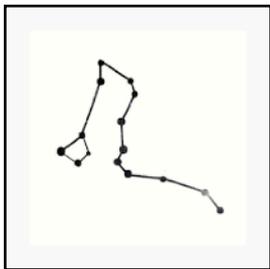
The wise men were busy watching the stars...
They believed that by studying their patterns, they would learn about the universe...



The patterns that stars make are called 'constellations'.
A constellation is a group of stars that, with some imagination, form a pattern when you join them together with an imaginary line.

Look at the diagrams of the constellations below. On a clear night you might be able to spot some of them!

Draw a line to match them with their name in the name bank.



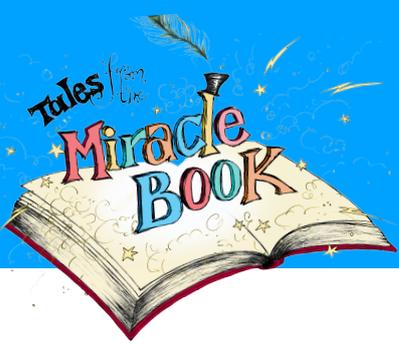
Hercules (strong man)

Ursa Major (or Big Dipper)

Sagittarius (a complex shape!)

Draco (the dragon)

Orion (the hunter)



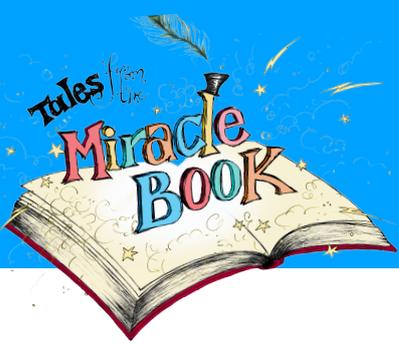
CHRISTMAS TALES

KS2

Create your own star constellation

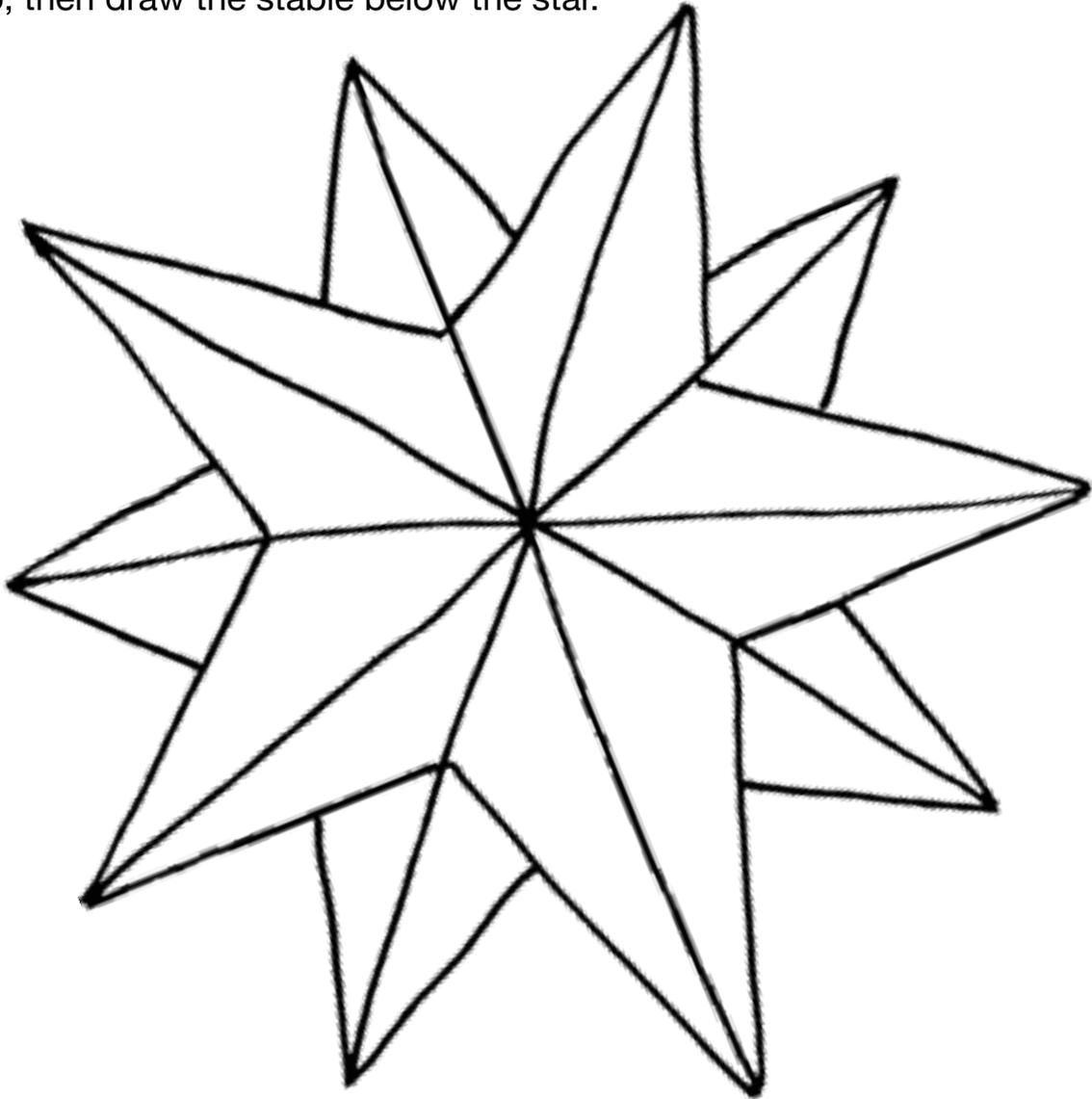
Design your own star constellation to represent something from the Christmas story in the box below. Give it a name.

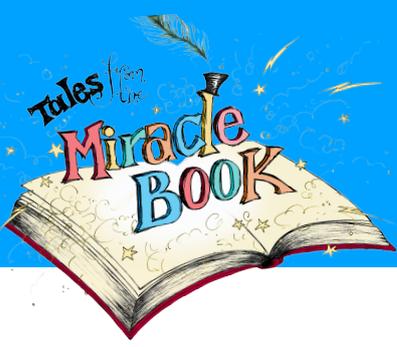
A large, empty, light-colored rounded rectangle with a black border, intended for drawing a star constellation.



Star colouring

Below is the outline of star. Colour the star in as many patterns as you would like to, then draw the stable below the star.





A Wonderful Prophecy

Definition of prophecy: “a prediction of what will happen in the future.”

As well as the stars, the Three Wise Men studied ancient books to try and learn about the birth of the wonderful new baby.

Christians believe that the birth of Jesus had been written about many years before it actually happened.

Here’s something written in an older part of the Bible called the Old Testament. It’s from a book called Isaiah. (If you go to a church service at Christmas-time, these words are often read out as part of the service.)

A child is born to us!
A son is given to us!
And he will be our ruler.
He will be called,
“Wonderful Counselor,”
“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”
“Prince of Peace.”

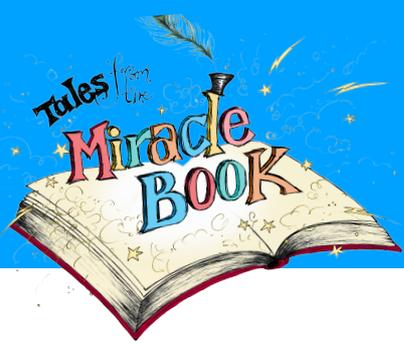


Circle the words which you think best describe how the Three Wise Men felt when they made their discovery:

excited / overjoyed / nervous / curious / bored / happy / scared / annoyed

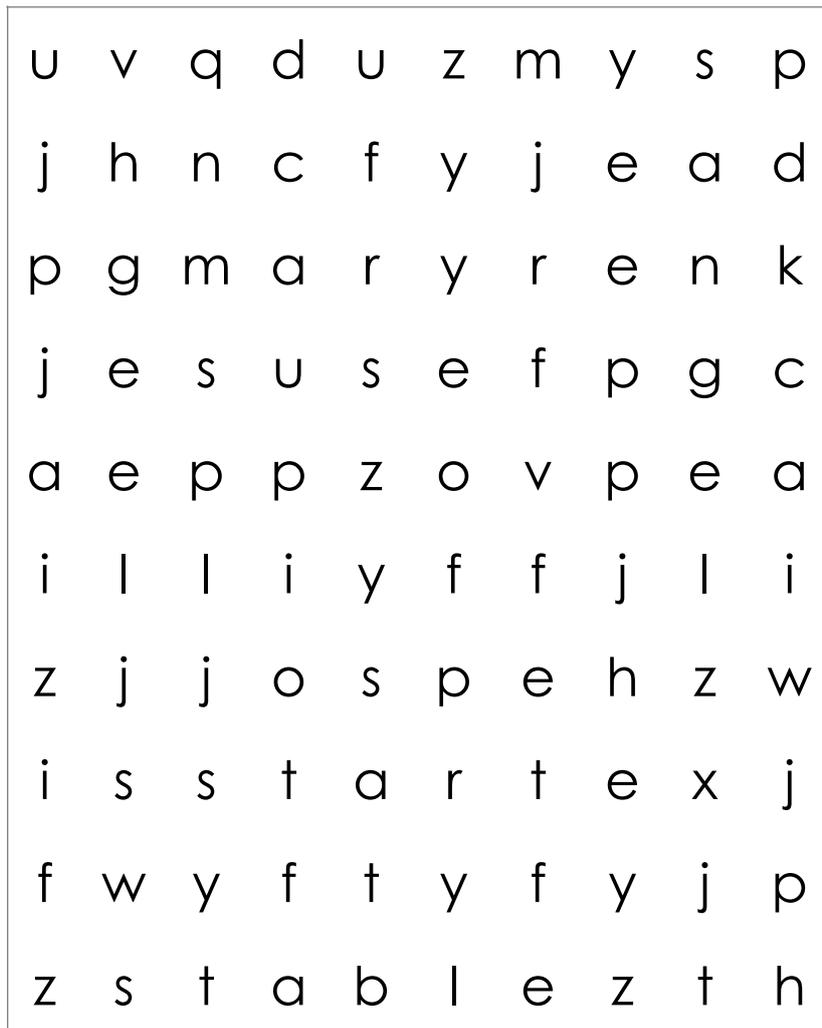
Discuss:

Why did the wise men decide to follow the star? What do you think they were expecting to find?

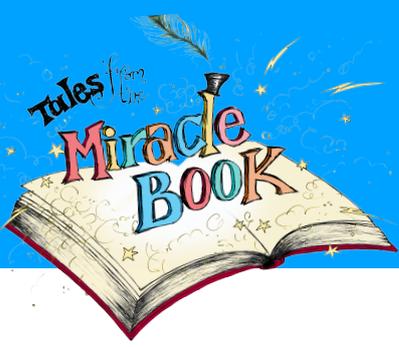


WordSearch

Find the six Christmas words from the box below. The words read in the following directions: → ↓



jesus joseph mary angel star stable



CHRISTMAS TALES

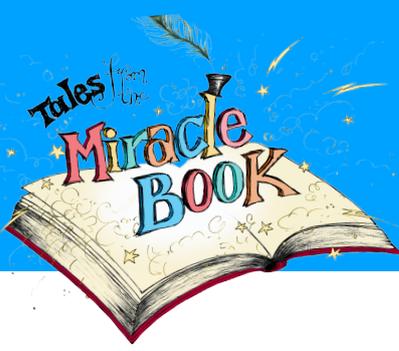
KS2

Word Search

Find the Christmas words from the box below. The words read in the following directions: → ↓ ↘ ↙ ← ↑



angel	bethlehem	carpenter	donkey	herod	jesus
joseph	king	mary	shepherd	stable	star



CHRISTMAS TALES

KS1 &
KS2

Drama games

'Wise men and camels' (*energy game*)

Get class to get into pairs. In pairs assign names: one of them as 'Wise man' and the other as 'camel'.



Get into a circle with camel kneeling in front of their wise man. The leader of the game then calls out either "wise men follow the star" or "camels follow the star". When "wise men follow the star" is called then the wise men have to run around the outside of the circle clockwise. When leader of the game calls out "Star!" the wise men have to get back to their space behind their camel as soon as possible. The last person to get back to their space gets both themselves and their camel out. They same happens for when camels run around the circle on the words "camels follow the star!". Make sure that they don't go back on themselves when leader calls out "Star".

"Do you have a room?" (*imagination game*)

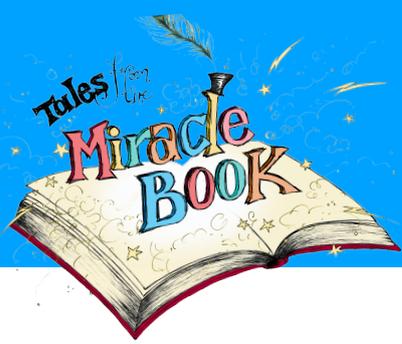
In the film the innkeepers gave their reasons to not give Mary and Joseph a room. Bu this time the innkeepers can be as imaginative as they like! This exercise gets the children to use their imagination and develop improvisation skills.

Get the class to stand in a circle. Get two people in the middle of the circle, one is Mary and one is Joseph. The rest of the children are the innkeepers. Mary and Joseph have to go up to different children in the circle and ask if they have a room. The child then has to become the innkeeper and give them the best excuse they can think of for why they don't have enough room without laughing.

Encourage the children to create a funny character, think of how they would look, what their voice or physicality would be like.

The winner is the one with the best excuse and who didn't crack a smile/laugh!





Easy Nativity Play Drama Freeze Frames p.1

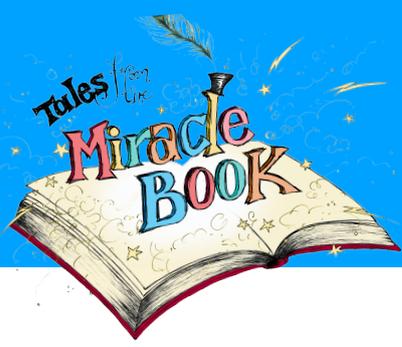
1. Get children into groups of the appropriate numbers (Group 1 needs to be smaller than group 4). In their groups each person should become a character in the scene (or a narrator to read out the title of the scene).
2. The children will need to decide who is which character in their scene.
3. Pupils can discuss how the character might have felt. The person playing the character then chooses to 'freeze' in an emotion or feeling that their character might express in that moment of the story.
4. For additional work you can ask older children to speak out an emotion/ feeling word (just one word) when they're showing their freeze frame to explain how the character may be feeling at this time.
5. Ask each group to show their freeze frame pictures to the class in order of the story (NB- group 3's last freeze frame comes in the middle of group 4s freeze frames) and you have your own little play. You can always record this to show to parents.

Group 1- 3 or 4 people

1. **An angel tells Mary that she is going to have a baby.** *Mary & Angel*
2. **Mary tells Joseph she's going to have a baby!** *Mary & Joseph*
3. **An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells Joseph they can still get married.** *Angel & Joseph*

Group 2- 3-6 people

4. **A Roman Soldier tells Mary & Joseph there's going to be a census and they need to travel to Bethlehem.** *Mary, Joseph & Soldier*
5. **Mary and Joseph travel a long way to Bethlehem.** *Mary, Joseph & donkey*
6. **Joseph can't find anywhere to stay.** *Joseph & innkeepers*
7. **An innkeeper offers a stable that Mary & Joseph can use.** *Joseph, Mary & Innkeeper*



Drama Freeze Frames p.2

Group 3- 4-8 people

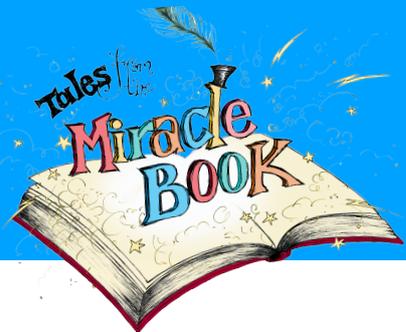
8. **Three Wise Men see a brand new star in the sky.** 3 wise men (possibly a star!)
9. **The Three Wise men visit King Herod hoping to see the new king. King Herod is shocked, angry and jealous.** 3 wise men & Herod (possibly a guard/soldier or 2)
10. **King Herod sends soldiers to look for the baby to kill him.** Herod & a few soldier

PERFORM THIS ONE LATER

14. **The Wise Men arrive at the stable and offer extraordinary gifts to the new king.** 3 wise men only who join group 4s picture.

Group 4- 7-20 people

11. **The baby is born amongst animals in a stable and the animals feeding trough is his crib.** Mary, Joseph & a some animals.
12. **A host of angels appear to a group of shepherds, telling them that a Saviour has been born!** 2-4 shepherds and 2-6 angels and some sheep!
13. **The Shepherds visit the baby Jesus, telling Mary & Joseph that an angel told them a Saviour has been born.** Mary, Joseph, shepherds, & sheep!
14. STAY IN No. 13 POSITION & ADD GROUP 3'S WISE MEN FOR THIS ONE
15. **Angels surround the stable declaring that his birth is just the beginning...** Mary, Joseph, shepherds and angels.



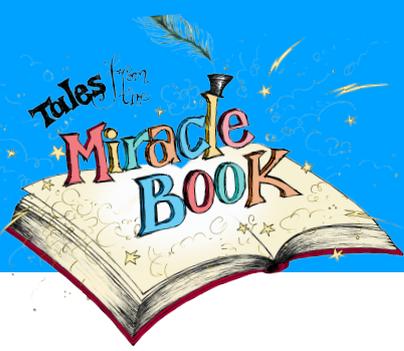
Easy Nativity Play Drama Freeze Frames

Have all the children sitting facing a 'performing space' then ask for volunteers to come up and 'act' out the story by making frozen pictures (completely frozen with no movement like a photograph has been taken).

You can do each of the 10 freeze frame pictures once through asking for volunteers to come up and join in each picture. (You can even ask the 'character' how they might have felt at each point in the story). If you do it a second time pupils can almost 'perform' it and you have your own little play. You can always record this to show to parents and even add a Christmas song like 'Silent Night' into the final picture.

1. The angel tells Mary that she will give birth to a baby and he will be God's son.
2. Mary tells Joseph that an angel has told her she will have a baby and he will be God's son
3. Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem.
4. Joseph and Mary can't find a hotel but are offered a stable instead.
5. Three Wise Men discover a new star in the sky.
6. The Baby is born in a stable amongst animals.
7. Angels appear to some shepherds telling them that a Saviour has been born.
8. The Shepherds visit the new little child.
9. Wise men visit the stable and give Jesus gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.
10. Angels surround the baby declaring that his birth is just the beginning.





Reading Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The Roman Emperor, Augustus, needed to make a list of the number of people there were living in the land. He therefore ordered a census to be taken. This meant that people had to travel to the place where their family came from. Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem, where Joseph's family came from.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem it was nearly time for the baby to be born and Mary needed to rest after the long journey. They tried to book into a hotel or inn. All the rooms in Bethlehem were already full. Eventually a kind inn keeper said that they could stay in his stable.

The stable was round the back of the inn and full of animals. This was where Mary gave birth to Jesus. There was no cot to put him in so they laid him in the manger, which was where the animals ate from.

In a field that night there were some shepherds looking after their flock of sheep. All of a sudden an angel appeared to them. The shepherds felt very scared, 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 the 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 lying in a manger." The shepherds then left their flock and went to see for themselves Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, and it was just as the angel had told them.

1. What is a census?

2. Why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?

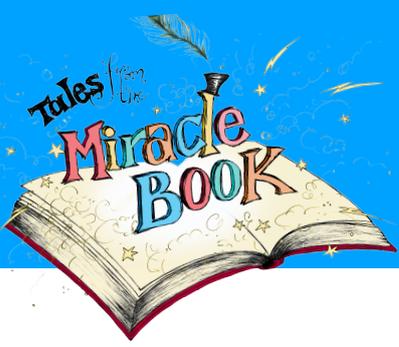
3. Why do you think it was very busy in Bethlehem?

4. What did the Inn Keeper do that was kind?

5. What do you think a manger is usually used for?

6. Why is a stable not a very nice place for baby to be born?

7. Who did the angel say that Jesus was?



Reading Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The stable was round the back of the inn and full of animals. This was where Mary gave birth to Jesus. There was no cot to put him in so they laid him in the manger, which was where the animals ate from.

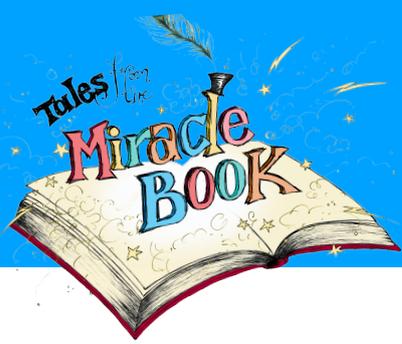
In a field that night there were some shepherds looking after their flock of sheep. All of a sudden an angel appeared to them. The shepherds felt very scared, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town the 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 lying in a manger." The shepherds then left their flock and went to see for themselves Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, and it was just as the angel had told them.

Questions

What is a manger is usually used for?

Why was a stable not a very nice place for baby to be born?

Who did the angel say that Jesus was?



Journey To Bethlehem

'But I was born in Bethlehem - that's miles & miles away...'

Mary & Joseph had a huge journey to go on... They had to travel all the way from their hometown of Nazareth, to the town of Bethlehem. (This was all because Joseph's family came from there and so that was where they were sent to register for the census). They didn't want to go there because it was a long, tricky journey to make - especially with the baby due to be born so soon.

Emotion Words:

Below is a box with a collection of words to describe who they might be feeling - but some wrong words have got in their as well. Can you cross out the wrong words & circle the right words?

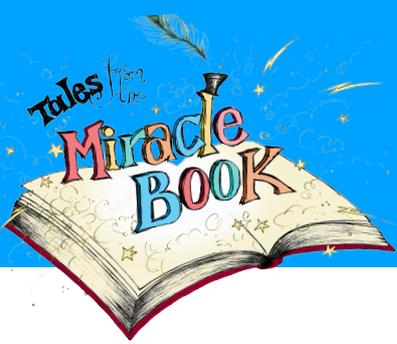


tired	excited	bored	weary	happy	excited	nervous
angry	relaxed	scared	amazed	surprised	frightened	

Discuss:

Have you ever been on a long journey? Tell the person next to you all about it. How long did it take? How did you get there? Did you enjoy the journey, or not? Why?

Imagine you've go to to pack for a long journey. **Make a list of the things that you might take with you.**What would you need on the journey? What would you need when you arrive?

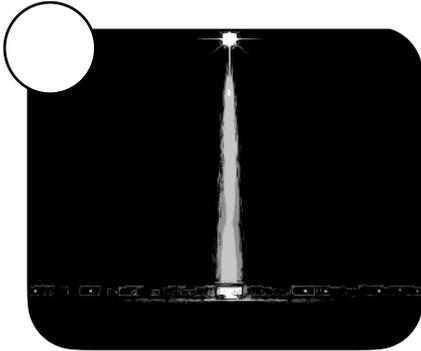


CHRISTMAS TALES

KS1 &
KS2

Sequencing

The pictures of the Christmas story have got jumbled up. Put the pictures in the right order by writing numbers 2-9 in the circles by the correct picture. Number 1 has been done for you!



An innkeeper lets them stay in his stable



The census is announced



Jesus is born



Joseph doesn't believe Mary's story about an angel



They can't find anywhere to stay



1.

The Angel Gabriel tells Mary she will have a baby



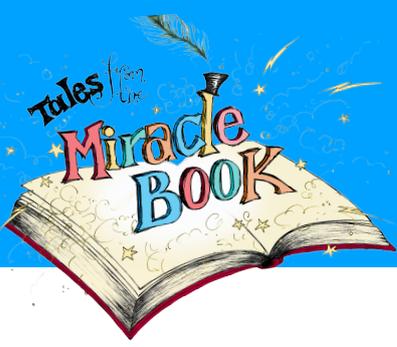
Shepherds and wise men visit the stable



Mary & Joseph travel to Bethlehem



The Angel Gabriel tells Joseph it's true



A Different Sort of King

When the Three Wise Men were searching for the new-born king, they thought that they would find him in a palace, but the wise men discovered a very different sort of king.

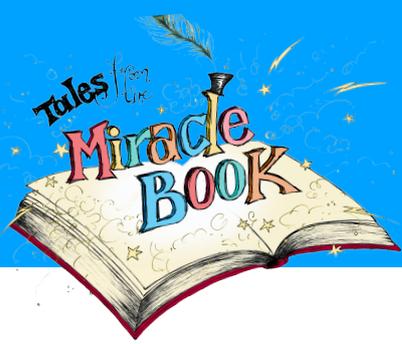
Below is a picture of a king. Circle some words from the word bank below to describe the picture of this king:

<i>royal</i>	<i>regal</i>	<i>posh</i>	<i>handsome</i>	<i>hungry</i>	<i>rich</i>
<i>powerful</i>	<i>strong</i>	<i>noble</i>	<i>grand</i>	<i>cool</i>	<i>ragged</i>
<i>humble</i>	<i>poor</i>	<i>dull</i>	<i>majestic</i>	<i>wealthy</i>	

Where does this king live? Draw the background to show where he might live.



The above picture is what the Three Wise Men expected...
But was that what they found?

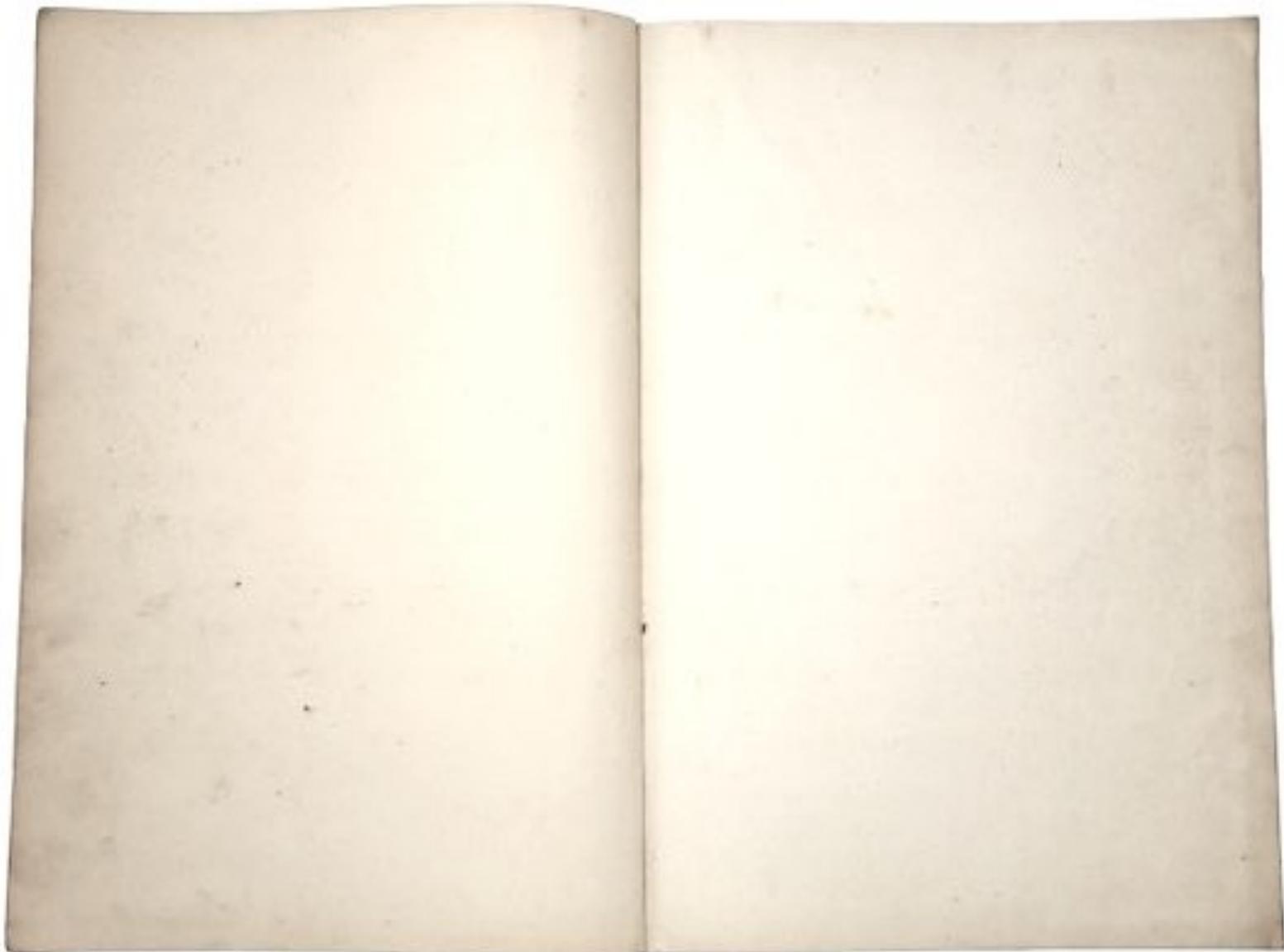


A Different Sort of King

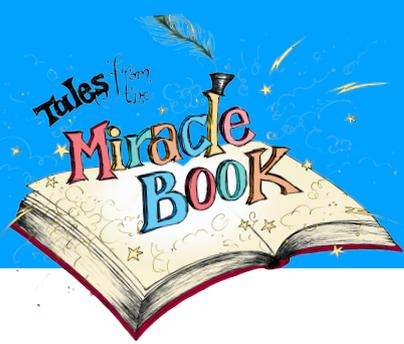
When the Three Wise Men were searching for the new-born king, they thought that they would find him in a palace, but the wise men discovered a very different sort of king.

Creative Writing:

Imagine that you'd been invited to Buckingham Palace. Write a diary entry to describe your day. Who did you meet? What were they like? How were they dressed? What was the palace like? Were there servants or guards?



In pairs or threes discuss: Why do you suppose Herod wasn't happy about there being a new king?



The Wonderful Child

MARY:

"You see, people have turned away from God. Now God himself has come to earth to make friends with everyone again. That's what this baby's all about."



It was very exciting when Jesus was born. He was a wonderful baby, who would grow up to become a wonderful person who did extraordinary things. Christians believe that Jesus wasn't only a nice person, but that he was in fact the Son of God.

Discuss: In pairs or threes talk about what you know about the grown-up Jesus. Can you think of any other Christian festivals associated with Jesus?

Scrambled Words

Below is a list of words connected to the life of Jesus, but they're all jumbled up. Can you draw a line from the jumbled up word to the word in the right order?

MIRACLES

HEALING

WALKING ON WATER

GOOD FRIDAY

THE CROSS

EASTER

PARABLES

PALM SUNDAY

LABPEARS

SCARLIME

MALP YANDUS

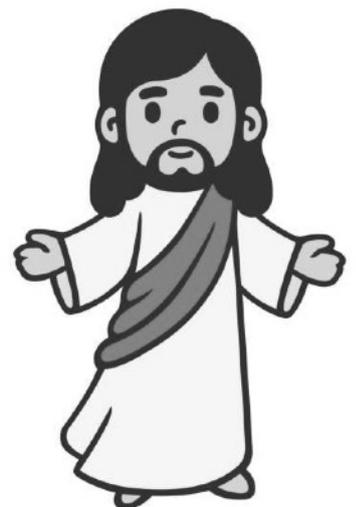
STAREE

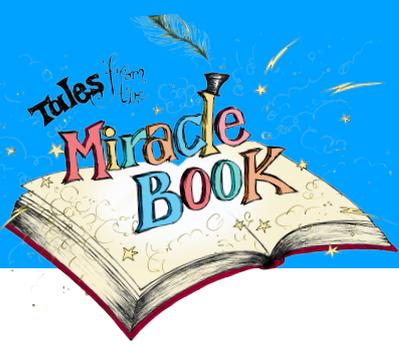
HET SOCRS

DOGO DRIFYA

GELHINA

KILAGNW NO EATRW





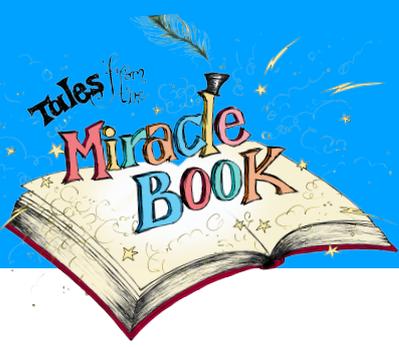
The Shepherds

A huge crowd of angels sang in the sky for the shepherds.

How many different kinds of angel can you draw?

“Don't be afraid! I
am here with good news for
you, which will bring great joy to
all the people!”





Missing Words

There were some _____ in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their _____. An angel of the _____ appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord _____ over them. They were terribly _____, but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with _____ news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born— _____ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a _____.”

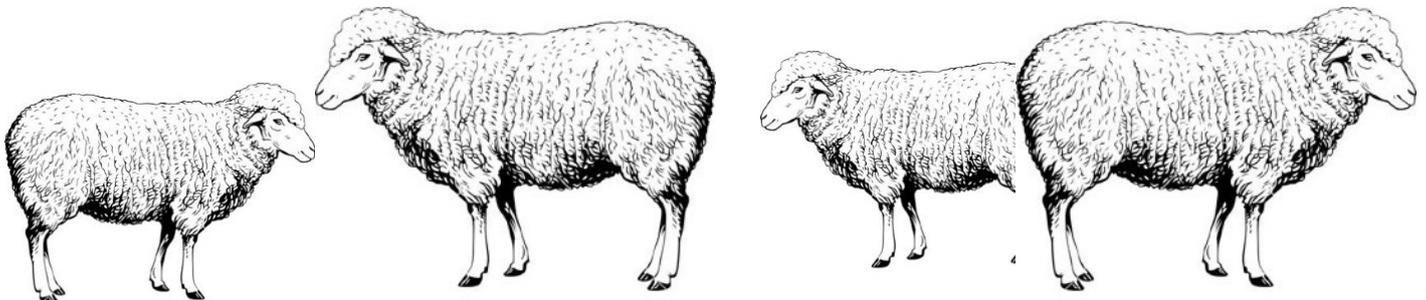
Suddenly a great army of heaven's _____ appeared with the angel, singing _____ to God:

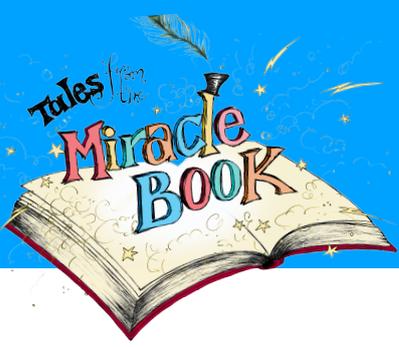
“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and _____ on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them back into _____, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to _____ and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”

Luke 1: 8-15

praises	Bethlehem	afraid	angels	flocks.
manger.	shone	heaven,	good	Christ
shepherds	Lord	peace		





Shepherds Scrambled Words

Many people believe Jesus was a very special person. And yet, when he was born, the angels didn't announce his birth to nobles & royalty. Instead the angels announced his birth to ordinary, every-day people like the shepherds (people whom others might not have thought were very important). The angels came to say that Jesus was for everyone in the whole world.

Below is a list of words describing how the shepherds might have been feeling when the angel gave them the message, but they're all jumbled up. **Can you draw a line from the jumbled up word to the word in the right order?**

SCARED

ZAMEAD

CURIOUS

DEFSONUC

CONFUSED

DRESAC

DELIGHTED

YOLUFJ

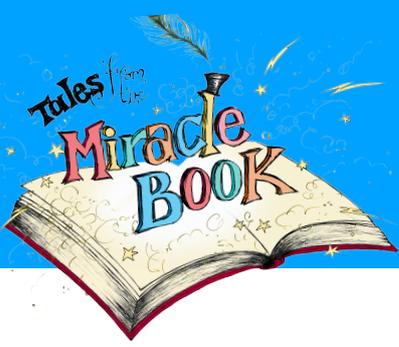
JOYFUL

ICURUSO

AMAZED

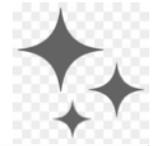
GILHEDTED



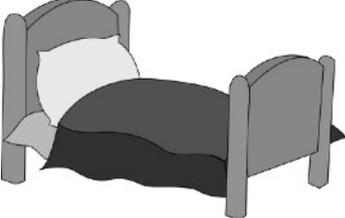


Hotel or Stable p.1

When they got to Bethlehem Mary and Joseph had hoped to stay in a nice comfy hotel. Use the words in the Word Bank to fill in the spaces below to find out what a hotel room might have been like for Mary and Joseph.



In a hotel room...

	The bed would be: _____
	The floor would be: _____
	The water in the taps would be: _____
	Everywhere would be: _____ _____
	The hotel would smell _____

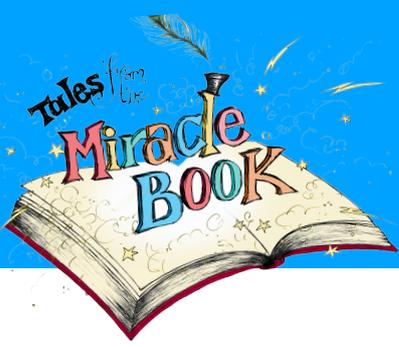
comfortable

nice

soft

hot

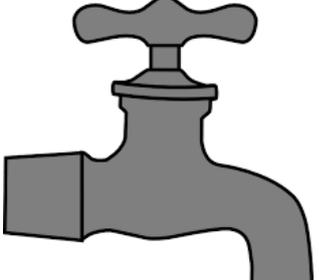
clean



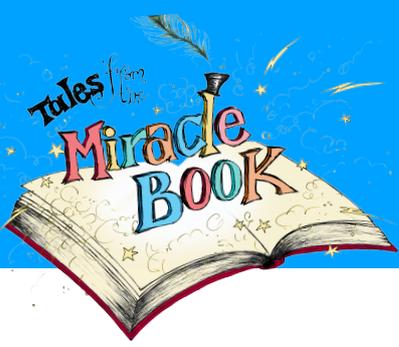
Hotel or Stable p.2

Now use the words in this Word Bank to fill in the spaces below to find out what the stable might have been like for Mary and Joseph and their new baby.

In the stable...

	The bed of straw would be: _____
	The floor would be: _____
	The water would be: _____
	Everywhere would be: _____ _____
	The stable would be _____

prickly cold smelly hard dirty



Hotel vs stable

It wasn't exactly what everyone had been expecting...



Mary & Joseph were probably hoping for somewhere nice to rest at the end of their long journey. But the place they found was rather different!

Use your own adjectives to fill in the blanks in the text below.

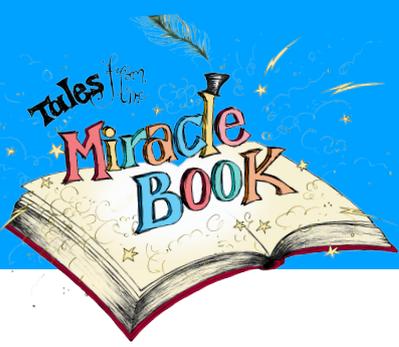
Hotel

In the hotel room the bed would be _____,
the floor would be _____ and the air would
be _____. The sink in the room would have
_____ water. Everywhere would be
_____ and smell _____.

Stable

In the stable the bed of straw would be _____, the
floor would be _____ and the air would
be _____. The water in the animals' trough would
be _____. Everywhere
would be _____ and it would smell
_____.





Giving & Receiving

Christmas is a time of giving and the very first Christmas was no different.

The Three Wise Men brought gold, frankincense & myrrh...



Can you draw a picture of them in the boxes below?

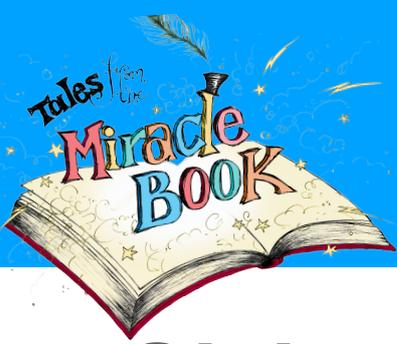
Gold
(money)

Frankincense
(a perfume)

Myrrh
(a sweet-smelling oil)

What would you have brought? _____

Can you remember what the shepherds decided to give?



Giving & Receiving

Christmas is a time of giving and the very first Christmas no different. The Three Wise Men brought gold, frankincense & myrrh.

Gold – a gift fit for king, symbolising Jesus’ royalty.

Frankincense – a sweet smelling fragrance used in religious ceremonies, symbolising his holiness.

Myrrh – an exotic spice used for funerals, symbolising that Jesus had come to die so that people could have the chance of a whole new life.



The shepherds brought something rather different.. Here’s what they said:

“Lord, you know that I haven’t got much - probably won’t ever have much either - but what I do have I give to you. I promise I’ll follow you all the days of my life. With everything that’s in my heart.”

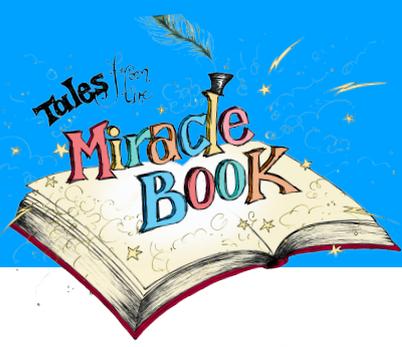
Discuss (in pairs or threes): What do you think they meant by that? Do the gifts that we give always have to be things that cost money?

Action:

As a class, discuss what sort of things people can give that don’t cost any money. It might be something you can make or a kind action you can do. Write a list of all the ideas. Which one will you choose to do?

This Christmas, I am going to.....

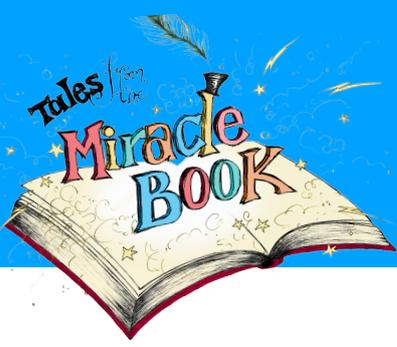
This Christmas, our class are going to...



Christmas Quiz p1

Circle the correct answer.

1. Who told Mary that she was going to have a special baby?
Father Christmas Joseph An angel
2. An angel told Mary that she would have..
A new dress A long journey A baby
3. Who ordered the census?
The Roman Emperor The Prime Minister An angel
4. Where did Mary and Joseph have to go for the census?
London Bethlehem Manchester
5. The census was to count...
Sheep People Angels
6. Where was Jesus born?
In a stable In a hotel In a hospital
7. What did the shepherds see in the sky?
An aeroplane Angels A magic cloud
8. What did the Wise Men see in the sky?
A new planet The moon A new star



Christmas Quiz p2

9. The Wise Men told Herod they were looking for:

The new king A room for the night The prime minister

10. To find the new king the Wise Men followed a:

A map A star A camel

11. The birth of Jesus was told to the Shepherds by:

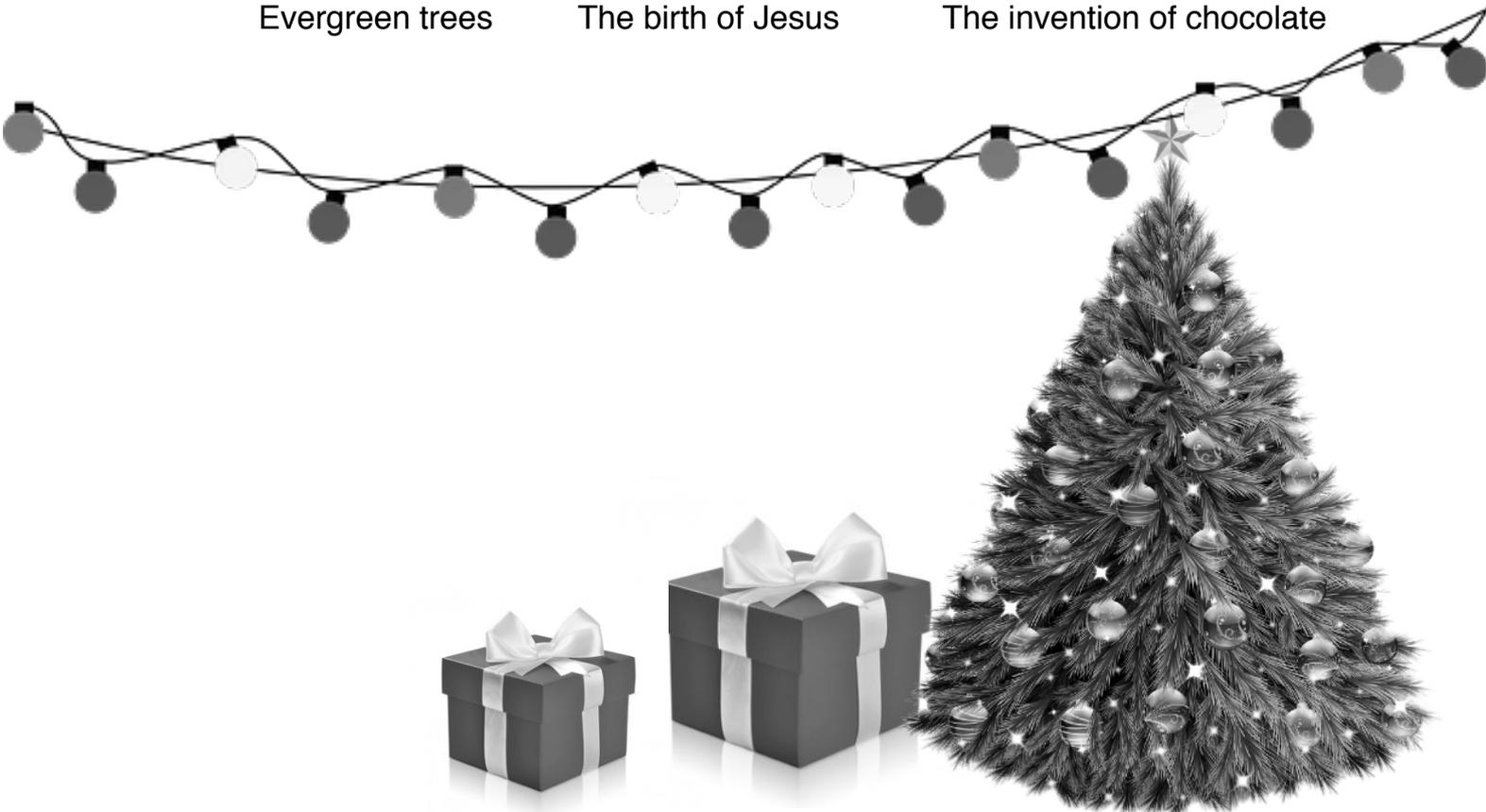
An angel A postman The wise men

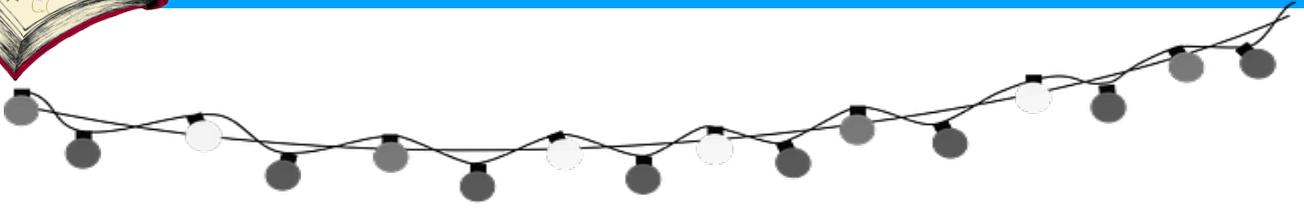
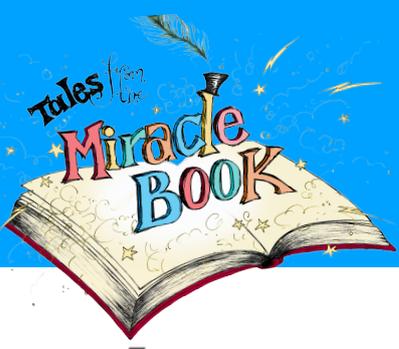
12. The Shepherds and Wise Men went to the stable to see:

The animals The new baby King Herod

13. At Christmas Christians celebrate...

Evergreen trees The birth of Jesus The invention of chocolate





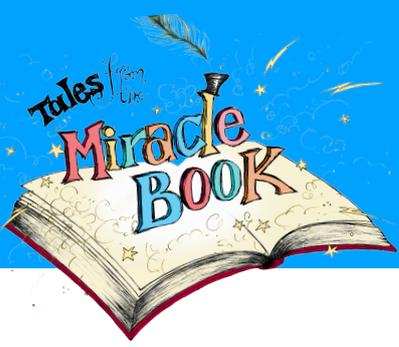
Christmas Quiz

1. What do Christians celebrate at Christmas? _____
2. Who told Mary that she was going to have a special baby?

3. Who ordered the census? _____
4. What was the census for? _____
5. Where did Mary and Joseph have to go for the census? _____
6. In what type of building was Jesus born? _____
7. What did the shepherds see in the sky? _____
8. What did the Wise Men see in the sky? _____
9. What did the Wise Men tell Herod they were looking for?

10. Why did the Shepherds and Wise Men go to the stable?





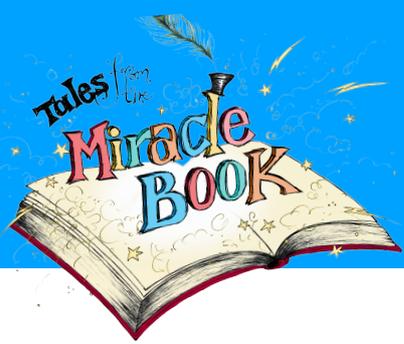
CHRISTMAS TALES

KS1 & KS2

Crack the Codes

Use the code on the next page to find out what was said then draw a line to the person who said it. You can check your answers by looking up the bible verses.

<p>Luke 1v 30 & 31</p> <p>              </p> <p>      </p>	<p>Caesar (The Roman Emperor)</p>
<p>Luke 2v 1</p> <p>             </p> <p>      </p>	<p>The Angel Gabriel</p>
<p>Matthew 2v 7 & 8</p> <p>                </p> <p>            </p>	<p>Herod</p>
<p>Luke 2v 11 & 12</p> <p>                 </p> <p>        </p>	<p>A sky full of Angels</p>



CHRISTMAS TALES

KS1 &
KS2

Code

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
✓						
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
						
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
						
v	w	x	y	z		
						