

## Unit 7.2 Christmas Around the World

### Key Questions

How is Christmas celebrated around the world?

Why is the celebration of Christmas different around the world?

### Key Vocabulary

St Nicholas, St Lucia and Orthodox

### Key Experiences

Making comparisons

Multi-cultural Christian Art

Having fun!

### Programme of Study to Include

Christmas celebrations around the world

Stories, food, decorations, music, artwork and Church services

Story of St Nicholas and December 6<sup>th</sup> celebrations

Story of St Lucia and celebrations in Sweden.

**The aim of this unit is to** develop children's perceptions of Christmas beyond their experiences in Britain and for them to realise Christianity is a world faith.

	Suggested Activities	Possible Level of Achievement
AT1	Explain that by the end of this unit the children will as a class, as groups or as individuals have written 'A guide to Christmas around the World'.	
AT1/2	Begin with a brief visit to the United Kingdom and the children's own experiences of Christmas celebrations. Although the secular influences are very strong focus upon and highlight the aspects that are clearly linked to the true meaning of Christmas. Then hop on an aeroplane and travel the world.	
Story	Resources are limited but growing. There is a wealth of material that can be found easily by searching 'Christmas around the world' on an Internet Search Engine. A great opportunity for developing research skills. <i>Born Among Us</i> published by USPG and The Methodist Church is an excellent resource containing information, activities, pictures and stories. <i>The Lion Storyteller Christmas Book</i> by Bob Hartman ISBN 0 7459 4684 4, is brilliant and tells the Biblical story plus Christmas tales and legends from around the world.	
AT1	Christian charities such as Christian Aid, Traidcraft and CAFOD sell Christmas cards that use designs and art from other cultures along with sets of Nativity characters from around the world. Comparisons can be made and similarities and differences spotted.	Level 3-5
	In many European Countries December 6 <sup>th</sup> , St Nicholas' day is a huge celebration. Why? St Lucia is remembered and celebrated on December 13 <sup>th</sup> . Why?	Level 4-5

## Religious Education Syllabus for Church Schools

<b>AT1</b>	<p>Children in the Orthodox Church have to wait until Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> for their gifts. Why?</p> <p>Again comparisons can be made and differences and similarities highlighted.</p> <p>Look at images of the Nativity portrayed in art work from around the world.</p> <p>How do they interpret the story?</p> <p>Does looking at art work give us a greater understanding of the story?</p>	<p><b>Level 4-5</b></p> <p><b>Level 3-5</b></p>
<b>AT2</b>	<p>What do the children find most interesting.</p>	<p><b>Level 3</b></p>
<b>AT1</b>	<p>Have fun making and tasting Christmas food.</p> <p>Sing carols in another language.</p> <p>Use clay and other art mediums to create Nativity scenes in the style of other cultures.</p> <p>Invite the whole school to contact any family or friends around the world asking them to send Christmas cards and decorations.</p>	
<b>AT1/2</b>	<p>Transform your classroom into a world wide multi-cultural experience of the celebration of Christmas.</p> <p>Invite other classes, staff and parents to visit.</p> <p>Children can give short presentations, art work and guide books can be viewed and special food tasted.</p>	<p><b>Level 1-5</b></p>
<b>AT1 Belief Impact</b>	<p>Throughout make links between the story, belief and impact.</p> <p>Highlight how behaviour reflects belief.</p> <p>What have the children learnt?</p> <p>Is the celebration of Christmas important? Why?</p> <p>How do they know?</p>	<p><b>Level 3-5</b></p> <p><b>Level 2-5</b></p>
<b>AT2</b>	<p>Do they have any unanswered questions?</p> <p>Why is the celebration of Christmas different around the world?</p> <p>What could Christians learn from studying all these different traditions?</p>	<p><b>Level 3-5</b></p> <p><b>Level 4-5</b></p> <p><b>Level 4-5</b></p>