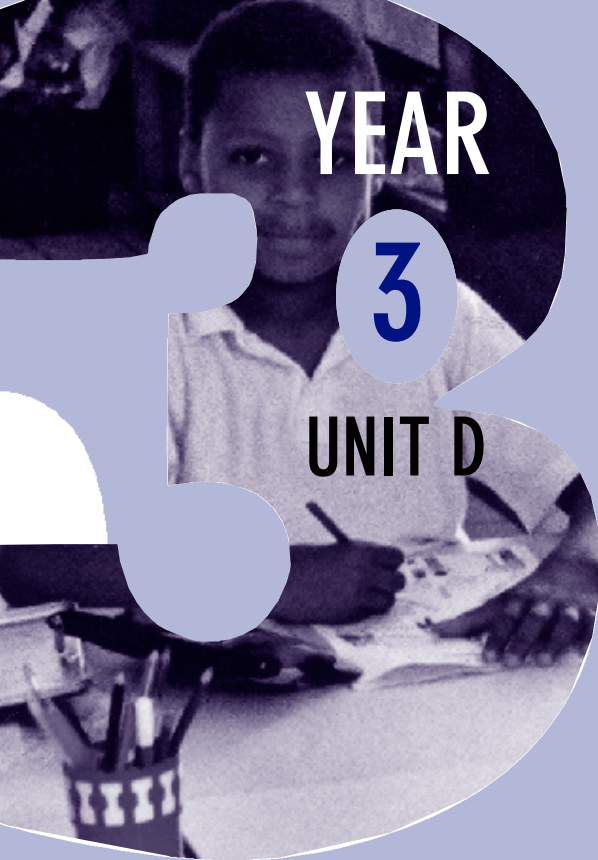




YEAR

3

UNIT D

CHRISTMAS

ABOUT THE UNIT

About the unit In this unit the story of the shepherds provides a focus for children to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and who he is.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous learning of the story of Christmas.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- an overview of the story of Christmas.

SKILLS

Discussion skills, group work, empathetic writing, research, map reading, interpreting symbols.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know the story of the shepherds and how they reacted to the news of Christ's birth. They will be able to empathise with the feelings and reactions of the shepherds at this event. Know that the Crib is an important symbol of prayer and devotion.

Less able children will recall elements of the story of the shepherds and understand that the Crib reminds us of the Birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

More able children will know and be able to explain in detail the reactions of the shepherds to the news of Christ's birth. They will be able to discuss and remember the titles given to Jesus by the Angels. The children will also be able to explain in some depth why the Crib is an important reminder of the birth of Christ.

VOCABULARY

Amazed, shocked, surprised, Christmas, shepherds, angels, Christ, Saviour, Lord, crib, Francis of Assisi.

A.T.1 A.T.2

2a 2b
2c

2a 1a
1b 1d

3a
3b 3b
3c 3c
3d

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

R1 That the Bible is God's living Word; that in word and deed Jesus revealed the love and mercy of God.

- Know the story of the visit of the shepherds to Bethlehem.
- Understand that this was an extraordinary moment in their lives.
- Empathise with the thoughts and feelings and reactions of the shepherds.
- Be able to identify and discuss the meaning of the titles given to Jesus by the angels.

C3 Of the significance and power of signs and symbols.

C11 Increased understanding of the variety of forms of prayer.

- Know the story of St. Francis of Assisi and the first crib.
- Understand that the crib helps Christians to remember the presence of Jesus in the world.
- To reflect on the manger scene and what it tells us about Jesus.

Find Bethlehem on the map.

Create displays with the titles given to Jesus by the angels.

Imagine you were the shepherd returning from Bethlehem. After all you had seen write your prayer to God about that night.

Use internet to discover other Christian Christmas customs which help us to recognise the presence of Jesus.

Create crib scenes. Think about the multicultural aspects, e.g. the colour of the characters and the clothes they would have worn. Look at multicultural pictures of the crib scene.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 2: 8-20 – The Angels and the Shepherds

OTHER LINKS

Art Work: Look at pictures of the adoration of the shepherds from religious art. Draw and paint their own pictures.

D.T. Make a class Crib scene.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Learn some Christmas Carols about the shepherds visiting Jesus.
- Use some of the titles given to Jesus in their prayers.
- Write and use some “Shepherd’s Prayers” about Christmas.
- Use the Crib for moments of quiet prayer and reflection.
- Invite your priest or deacon to bless the class Crib.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?