

Key Vocabulary	
Advent	The four weeks leading up to Christmas (starting on the nearest Sunday to 30 th November).
Christians	Followers of the religion of Christianity.
Christmas	The Christian festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus . Christmas Day is celebrated on 25 th December.
Jesus	The founder of Christianity, believed by Christians to be the son of God.
Bethlehem	The place of Jesus ' birth.
celebrate	To take part in enjoyable activities for a particular occasion.
Diwali	The Hindu festival of light.
Hindu	Followers of the religion of Hinduism.

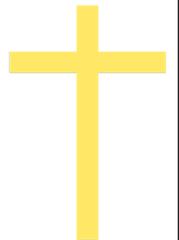
Advent

Advent is the start of the **Christian** year. It is when **Christians** start to prepare for **Christmas**.

Churches display an **advent** crown or wreath. These usually contain five candles, which remind **Christians** about the light of God coming into the world through the birth of **Jesus** Christ.

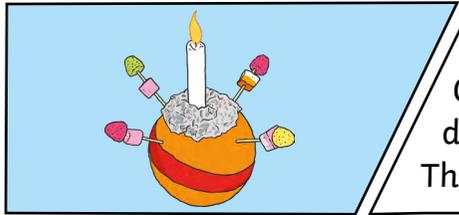
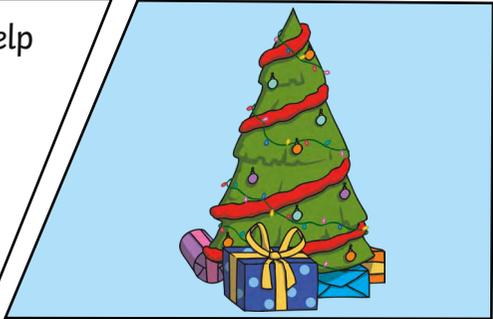


Light is important to **Christians**, as they believe **Jesus** to be the 'light of the world', bringing light and hope to people, even in times of darkness.



Christmas

Christians use lights to help them **celebrate Christmas**. There are many types of lights, e.g candles, tree lights and hanging light decorations. A star is often placed on top of the **Christmas** tree, as a reminder of the star that led the Three Wise Men to **Bethlehem**.



Many churches and schools hold **Christingle** services. A Christingle is an orange decorated with a red ribbon, sweets and a candle. The lit candle represents **Jesus** as the 'light of the world.'

Diwali is celebrated by **Hindus** and Sikhs in October or November. It is the start of the **Hindu** new year and lasts for five days. The word '**Diwali**' comes from a word that means 'lighted row of lamps'.



Key Vocabulary	
exile	To be made to stay away from home.
victory	A win against the enemy.
evil	Very bad.
diva	A small oil lamp (usually made from clay).
Lakshmi	The Hindu goddess of wealth.
Hanukkah	The Jewish festival of light (also known as Chanukah).
Jewish	Relating to the religion of Judaism (or the followers of that religion).
miracle	An amazing event that happened, but cannot be explained.
menorah	A special candlestick used in Jewish worship.

Diwali

Diwali celebrates the victory of good over **evil** and light over darkness. At **Diwali**, some **Hindus** remember the story of Rama and Sita returning from **exile**, where their way home was lit by lamps. **Hindus** light **diva** lamps at **Diwali** to welcome **Lakshmi** into their homes.



Fireworks are set off during **Diwali celebrations**.



Hanukkah

Hanukkah celebrates one of the greatest **miracles** in **Jewish** history. After their temples were destroyed by the King's army, the Jews found a tiny amount of oil at the temple in Jerusalem to light a **menorah**. The **menorah** had seven branches. It kept burning for eight days and nights - a **miracle!**

The Hanukkah Menorah

A **Hanukkah menorah** has nine branches, not seven. The branch in the middle, holds the candle that is used to light the others. On each night of **Hanukkah**, a branch of the **menorah** is lit as a reminder that God is with you, even during difficult times.

Celebrating Hanukkah

Jewish people eat oil-based foods during **Hanukkah**. The festival begins in December or late November. Presents and coins are given and a game called Dreidel is played.

