

Interesting facts about Christmas

The Christmas story happened more than two thousand years ago. The biggest miracle in history, when an angel came to a young lady named Mary and told her that she was going to have a very special baby. .

However, there are some historical and cultural details that are also fascinating.

1. The date



The greater part of the world celebrates Christmas on December 25, while some countries celebrate it on January 7. However we don't know the exact date of the birth of Christ. The shepherds were watching over the **flocks** that night and shepherds usually **watch over** the sheep at night when the little lambs are born. Sheep usually give birth to the lambs in late winter or early Spring. So it is **likely** the Jesus was born at that time.

2. The calendar



The way history was separated into BC and AD refers to Jesus Christ. BC stands for 'before Christ' while AD, also in Latin, stands for 'Anno Domini', which means 'The year of our Lord'. The full original phrase "Anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi" translates into "in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ".

3. The name.



Mary didn't have to make a list of names to choose from. The angel told her how to name the Baby. "Jesus" means "God saves". It **indicates** the full and true mission of Jesus on Earth. He came to give His life to pay for the sins of all the people in the world, so that those who believe in Him could have **eternal** life.

4. The king David.



Both Joseph and Mary were **descendants** of king David (reign 1010-970BC). Hundreds of years before, it had been promised to king David that the Savior would be his descendant.

5. The Wise Men.



Nobody knows exactly how many Wise men came to visit Jesus. People **assume** that there were three, because of the three types of gifts they brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

1. Which of the facts mentions:

- a) how history is divided;
- b) the royal ancestor;
- c) a natural phenomena;
- d) why Jesus was born;
- e) the presents.

2. Look at the highlighted words. Match them with ones that have similar meaning:

- a) to look after
- b) to think, but not be sure
- c) great... grandchildren, opposite to ancestors.
- d) possibly, probably
- e) shows

- f) groups of animals
- g) that lasts forever

3. Do you know the story of the birth of Jesus? Can you put the pictures in the correct order?



4. Vocabulary work.

Write 3 things **that are likely to** happen this year.

Write 3 things you **assume** are happening in each picture:



5. Answer the questions.

What do BC and AD stand for?

What time of the year do sheep usually give birth to their babies?

What was the mission of Jesus?

Who was Jesus' royal ancestor?

What were the gifts that the Wise men brought to Jesus?

What interesting facts about Christmas can you remember?

Which fact was the most interesting?

Which fact have you already known?