

The First Christmas

Jesus is Born

At that time, the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When the first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone went to register himself, each to his own home town.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of King David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was expecting a baby, and while they were there in

Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in baby clothes and laid him in a manger---there was no room for them to stay in the inn. (Luke 2: 1-7)

Now, pretend you are Joseph. Complete this short story.

Hi there,

I'm Joseph. I will never forget that journey from Nazareth down to Bethlehem.



The Shepherds and the Angels



There were some shepherds in that part of the countryside, who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news, which will bring

great joy to all the people. This very day, in David’s town, (Bethlehem), your Saviour was born---Christ the Lord. And this is what will prove it to you: You will find him the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told”.

So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told Mary and Joseph what the angels had told them about this child. All who heard it were amazes at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel told them. (Luke 2: 8-20)



Now, pretend you are one of those shepherds. Complete this short story.

Hi there. I’m a shepherd called Jacob.

Wolves had attacked our sheep earlier and we were on lookout on the hills around Bethlehem to make sure they didn’t attack them again. All of a sudden,

Visitors from the East



Soon afterwards, some men, who studied the stars, came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the baby, born to be King of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”

“In the town of Bethlehem in Judea”, they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote: Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah”.

On their way, the men from the East saw the same star again. How happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child, with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him. (Matthew 2: 1-10).

You are Casper, one of the Wise Men. Read this piece and complete the story.

Hi there,
I’m Casper. Melchior, Balthasar and myself were star-gazing one night when we noticed a new star shining brightly in the sky. What really amazed us was that it began to move across the night sky. “This is our chance, let’s go,” I said, and so we decided to head west.



Read the story of their return journey home. See Matthew: Chapter 2: 1-13 or Luke: 2: 39-52.

