

British Culture

Festivals and Holidays



Philosophy
and
Religious
Studies



Christian Christmas

Mary was betrothed to Joseph

Mary is believed to have been about 13-15 years old, because this was a normal age for a girl to be betrothed to a man, and a virgin.

The angel Gabriel tells her that she will bear God's son through the Holy Spirit. – this is called the *annunciation*.

The story of Jesus' birth is in two gospels of the Bible - Matthew and Luke.

The events listed is a joining of the two versions to make a complete picture of the event.



Christmas: The Christian celebration of the birth of their Messiah and Son of God, Jesus.

Symbolism:

Presents are exchanged – the three wise men gave gifts

There may be an angel on the tree – Angel Gabriel
Stars – The star that led the wise men and shepherds

Christmas Tree – An evergreen like Jesus; eternal

Christmas Mass – to welcome the symbolic birth of Jesus Christ

1. Joseph doubts Mary
2. Angel Gabriel tells Joseph that God made Mary pregnant through the Holy Spirit
3. The Roman emperor called a census
4. Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem
5. Mary gives birth to Jesus
6. Jesus' bed is an animal manger as there is no guest room
7. The wise men go to King Herod to seek Jesus' location
8. The wise men go on to see Jesus led by a star
9. Angels tell local shepherds that the messiah is born
10. The shepherds went to see Jesus and spread the news of his birth
11. The wise men offer Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
12. The wise men are warned in a dream not to return to Herod
13. Angel Gabriel warns Joseph to flee to Egypt
14. King Herod has all boys in Bethlehem under the age of two killed

Jewish Passover

The Israelites smear sacrificed lamb blood above their doors, so the angel of death would pass-over!

The angel of death killed all first-born Egyptian sons

The Israelites ran to the edge of the Red Sea, which Moses parts with his staff

The pharaoh is chasing them, but the people cross safely.

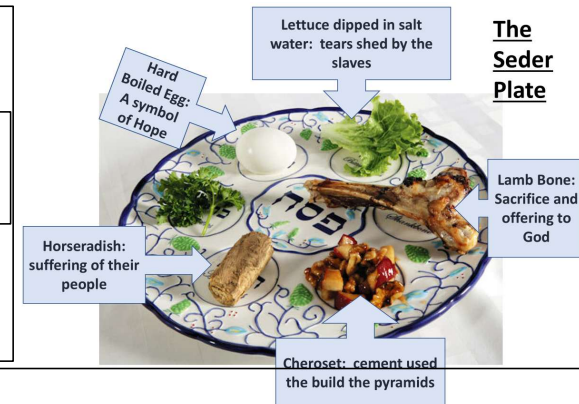
Moses allows the sea to close around the pharaoh and his men, killing them.

Moses and the Israelites go to Mount Sinai where Moses receives the Ten Commandments

The Israelites wander the desert for 40 years!

Passover is an important festival for Jews today because it is a reminder of their past and how God helped free them from slavery.

Passover: The Jewish festival that recalls their escape from Egypt



The Sikh Khalsa

Guru Gobind Singh initiated (started) the Khalsa in 1699
The guru asks people who is willing to die for their God and Guru.

Five men enter the tent, and the crowd think that they have all been beheaded by the guru!

When men join the Khalsa, they become lion 'Singh'
When women join the Khalsa, they become princess 'Kaur'
The Khalsa are committed to God, the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib, justice and sewa (selfless service)

Vaisakhi: the biggest Sikh festival that celebrates the day the Khalsa was initiated.



What happens on Vaisakhi:

Some Sikhs may be initiated into the Khalsa and some Khalsa members will renew their vows

The Flag and flagpole cloth are replaced and there is a service in the Gurdwara

Prayers and readings are read from the Guru Granth Sahib

A sweet dough is given to everyone who then all go to the langar hall together to eat

There is a procession of the faithful in the community, with dancing, singing and drummers
Mock duels and sword fighting to remember the warrior nature of being a member of the Khalsa and willingness to fight for God and justice when needed.

Speeches about charity and fighting injustice and respect for all life as God's creation

Holy Week • The Messiah Arrives (Palm Sunday) • Temple temper (Monday) • Humble servant (Thursday) • Last Supper (Thursday) • Garden of Gethsemane (Thursday) • Betrayal by Judas • Trial and sentence (Friday) • Crucifixion (Friday) • Sabbath (Saturday) • The Resurrection - He is risen (Sunday)	 	Easter Traditions Chocolate Easter Eggs Easter Bonnets Easter Bunnies Easter Egg races Egg painting Seeing friends and family Worship and prayer Easter Sunday Lunch Hot cross buns	Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's triumphant arrival in Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd. During Palm Sunday services, large palm branches are carried in processions Maunder Thursday is the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist and is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the Roman Catholic church the priest washes the feet of 12 people to commemorate Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples. Good Friday remembers the execution of Jesus by crucifixion and is a day of mourning in church. During special Good Friday services Christians meditate on Jesus' suffering and death on the cross by visiting the 12 stations of the cross in a church and praying for forgiveness. Holy Saturday In the Greek Orthodox Church, the Easter Vigil service traditionally begins outside and a candle is lit from the fire as a symbol of Christ, risen as the light of the world. The candle is carried into the church, where the candles held by the congregation are lit from the Paschal candle. Easter Sunday commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the most important Christian festival, and the one celebrated with the greatest joy. Most Christians will go to church on this Sunday and Catholics have Easter Mass. Churches are filled with flowers such as lilies, and there are special hymns and songs.
Muslim Ramadan & Eid Not everybody fasts during Ramadan. Children, pregnant women, the elderly and those who are ill or who are travelling do not need to fast. Muslims will try to give up bad habits including, gossiping, swearing and having negative thoughts about others. Ramadan is a time of forgiveness and reflection. Muslims believe the devil is locked up in Ramadan therefore they cannot be tempted to any wrong actions and if they do. Muslims must give Zakat which is 2.5% of their savings and Muslims receive a greater reward if they fulfil their pillar of <i>Zakat</i> in the month of Ramadan. Muslims break their fast with a date as they are following by the example of Prophet Muhammad. They also digest quicker and are a good source of energy and nutrients which is needed after a long fast! There is a special three-day festival to mark the end of Ramadan called Eid Al-Fitr. Everyone wears their best or new clothes, and decorate their homes. There are special services out of doors and in mosques, processions through the streets, and of course, a special celebratory meal - eaten during daytime.	Ramadan is considered to be one of the holiest months which involves Muslims observing strict fasting from sunrise till sunset. Eid Al-Fitr is the celebration at the end! • The Qur'an instructs Muslims to fast • Time to consider the poor • Self discipline is taught • Devote time to Allah Piety: the quality of being religious or reverent. Diwali is the festival of light that has its origins in the Ramayana. When Rama and Sita return home after 14 years in exile. Driving away the darkness of evil in Ravanna It lasts for 5 days, and includes prep time, such as deep cleaning. Lamps are lit throughout the festival to represent the light of knowledge in driving away the darkness of ignorance. Rangoli patterns are highly detailed and colourful patterns drawn outside houses. People will gather and eat, dance and have firework displays.	Holi is the festival of colour that marks the end of winter and honours the triumph of good over evil. People light bonfires, throw colourful powder called <i>gulal</i>, eat sweets, and dance to traditional folk music. This festival usually takes place during March and is celebrating the start of Spring and the triumph of good over evil. They often pray to the god Lord Shiva, known as the destroyer. The first night they burn a bonfire for the destruction of evil and sometimes a figure of Holika, who was killed by the god Vishnu. The second day is the festival of colour, where people gather to throw bright coloured powder around. The colours are linked to an avatar of Vishnu, called Krishna, who was blue and his use of colour and pranks! Over both days there are special foods, meeting with friends and family with music, singing and dancing.	

The background of the slide is a dark, blurred image of a large crowd of people. Overlaid on this is a semi-transparent layer of stylized human figures. Most of these figures are dark brown or black, but one figure in the center is a lighter, greyish-blue color and has its arms raised in a 'V' shape, signifying inspiration or leadership. The text 'Inspirational People' is centered over the image in a white, sans-serif font, with a thin white horizontal line underneath it.

Inspirational People

Chico Mendes

Chico was a Christian and a great example of someone who worked hard to look after the environment (stewardship).

Christian

Born 1944 Dec 15th

Gunned down Dec 22nd 1988 as he was about to celebrate Christmas

Protested by using human chains

Rubber Tapper

Travelled the world giving his message of stewardship – voice of the Amazon

Didn't fear the cattle ranchers and loggers

Killed for his protests and his belief against deforestation



Stewardship: a responsibility to look after the earth; this means people and the planet.

Deforestation: is when humans remove or thin forests for wood, or to use the land where the trees stood

1. Jesus states "Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me." (Matthew)

When you help people and the earth, you are helping God

2. The Bible states that 'The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.' (Genesis)

Adam was told to 'work it and keep it' not destroy it.

3. The Bible states that 'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils' (1 Timothy)

Those driven by money will create evil

4. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24)

The earth does not belong to us



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Faithful Christian
- Involved in a plot to stop Hitler
- Wanted to do the will of God
- A leader of the Confessing Church
- He believed what the Nazi’s was doing was against God
- God was calling him to take action
- He helped 7 Jews out of Germany
- He was arrested and the plot to kill Hitler was uncovered
- In 1945 he was hanged



illegal – something that is not allowed by a country’s laws

Because Hitler was in charge of Germany, he was also in control of the laws that were in place. Some of the laws that he introduced included:

- Jewish doctors were no longer allowed to treat German patients.
- Jews were not allowed to own gardens.
- Jews were banned from cinemas, the opera, and concerts.
- Jewish children were banned from public schools.
- Robbing Jews became legal, and Jews were forced to surrender all jewelry of any value
- Jews could not marry a German who was not Jewish.
- Jewish lawyers were banned from working



Ecumenism is a movement for unity among all different Christian churches. The Confessing Church was a movement among some German churches to resist Hitler’s regime. The resistance wanted to find a way to overthrow Hitler

In the Bible St. Paul states that “There is neither Jew nor Gentile ...you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians

In the Bible Jesus states that we should “love our neighbour”

Sojourner Truth

Abolition: the action of getting rid of an unfair system
She was fighting for the abolition of the slave trade.

Sojourn: a short period when a person stays in a particular place
My sojourn to the countryside was too short.

Truth: acting or speaking with fact or reality
We had to accept the truth of her accusation.



Sojourner Truth was one of the few African American women to participate in both the abolition of slavery and women's rights movements. Sojourner Truth, born a slave and thus unschooled, was an impressive speaker, preacher, activist and abolitionist. Truth and other African American women played vital roles in the Civil War that greatly helped the Union army.

1. She originally went to court to fight for custody of her 5 year old son who had been illegally sold.
2. She dedicated the remainder of her life to seeking justice and spiritual understanding.
3. The name she was given at birth was Isabella Baumfree.
4. In America, when was the *abolition* of slavery? 1799
5. Isabella ran away with her daughter Sophia because her enslaver refused to set her free as agreed.
6. Isabella went out and preach because she believed that God told her to.
7. Her sermons denounced (spoke against) the oppression of African Americans and women in general
8. She renamed herself Sojourner Truth in 1843.
9. During the the Civil War of America she recruited soldiers and organized supplies for black troops
10. “I feel safe even in the midst of my enemies; For the truth is powerful and will prevail.”