

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



## Table of Contents

Teacher Input Suggestions .....	2 - 4
List of Resources .....	4 - 5
Introductory Lesson .....	6 - 7
Jordan .....	8 - 11
Finland .....	12 - 15
The Netherlands .....	16 - 18
Germany .....	19 - 25
Brazil .....	26 - 29
Sweden .....	30 - 34
Poland .....	35 - 39
Austria .....	40 - 43
Japan .....	44 - 46
Italy .....	47 - 50
Norway .....	51 - 54
Denmark .....	55 - 59
Greece .....	60 - 65
Mexico and Spain .....	66 - 70
France .....	71 - 73
Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S) .....	74 - 79
Canada, the United States and Great Britain .....	80 - 91

©1992 S&S Learning Materials Limited Permission is granted to the individual teacher who purchases one copy of the book "**Christmas Around the World**", to reproduce the activities for use in his/her classroom **only**. Reproduction of these materials for an entire school or for a school system, or for other colleagues or for commercial sale is **strictly** prohibited.

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



## Jordan

Christmas is a religious holiday which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Most Christians observe Christmas on December the 25th. The story of Christmas comes mainly from the Gospels of Saint Luke and Saint Matthew in the New Testament. Luke tells the story of how an angel appeared to shepherds outside the town of Bethlehem and told them of the birth of Jesus. Matthew tells how Three Wise Men, called Magi, followed a bright star that led them to the Baby Jesus. On Christmas Eve, Christians from all over the world come together for a special religious service at midnight mass in Bethlehem which is known as the Holy Land. It is a town in Jordan about 8 km (5 miles) south of Jerusalem. People kneel to kiss a silver star that is set in the ground at the spot where Jesus' birth is believed to have taken place.

According to the story, Mary and Joseph travelled from their Nazareth home to Bethlehem on December the 24th because the master of the then known world, Augustus Caesar, issued a decree ordering a general registration of all his subjects. This was for the purpose of revising or completing the tax lists. When Mary and Joseph arrived, they had no shelter. There was no room at the inn, or khan. So they had to stay in a stable, a place provided for cattle. And so in Bethlehem, Jesus was born and Mary "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger".

Tradition tells us that as the shepherds watched their flocks on this night, they were dazzled by a light more brilliant than the stars. Angels appeared singing the glad tidings. These shepherds were the first to hear and spread the news. It is because of this event that the angels were heralding, that people rejoice and join the throng of Christians in the City of the Nativity each year. It is also because of this event that there is today so much "peace on earth" and "good will toward men". During the Christmas season, many homes and churches display a crèche or Nativity scene showing figures of Mary and Joseph watching over the Infant Jesus in the stable, surrounded by figures of angels, shepherds, Wise Men and several animals - some sheep, perhaps, and a donkey.

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



Gift giving is an important part of Christmas because when Jesus was born, the shepherds and Three Wise Men wanted to show their love by bringing Him gifts. The shepherds brought such things as fruit, honey, and a white dove. The Three Wise Men brought precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



## Jordan

### I ABC Order:

Put the following words in alphabetical order then write their meanings. Use a dictionary to help you.

shepherd

decree

khan

swaddling

manger

tradition

tidings

heralding

throng

frankincense

myrrh

### II Once Upon a Christmas Time:

Retell the story of the first Christmas experience from the point of view of **one** of the following:

- a) a poor shepherd boy
- b) Mary or Joseph
- c) One of the Wise Men

### III Poetry:

Write an acrostic poem telling the story of Christmas using the letters of Jordan to start each line of your poem:

e.g. J - \_\_\_\_\_  
O - \_\_\_\_\_  
R - \_\_\_\_\_  
D - \_\_\_\_\_  
A - \_\_\_\_\_  
N - \_\_\_\_\_

# CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



## IV Diorama:

Using a shoebox, create a diorama depicting the Nativity scene.

Make figures from clay, paper maché, or plasticine. Include figures of the Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, several animals, shepherds, Wise Men, and angels.

