

EPIPHANY – 6 January 2021



Project on the Magi



To help us celebrate Epiphany (the visit of the Magi to Jesus) in a different way this year as we will not be in whole school worship, here is a project for you to complete.

Please bring your project in to school on first day back this spring term. We will display excellent projects on our website and in our corridors!

Happy researching and thank you in advance for doing your very best on this task!

YOUR TASK:

- Read through the Bible text and story text below
- Think about, and research, where the Magi may have come from in the East
- Create a poster about the Magi for Epiphany
- Include a picture/painting/drawing/collage of the Magi as they could have looked coming from the East and bringing their gifts
- Write a small amount of text explaining the events leading to the coming of the Magi to Jesus (include where they came from and why they came, information about Herod)
- Add some facts about their gifts
- Think about the design of your poster so that it is eye-catching and factual
- Think about neat writing and font sizes
- You may like to include a map of their possible journey

Matthew 2:1-16

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' " 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. 13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Bible Story of the Three Wise Men

The Bible story of the Three Wise Men, from the gospel of Matthew, is also known as the biblical Magi or the Three Kings. This Bible story regards a group of scholarly foreigners who travelled to visit Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.' When King Herod learned this he was troubled, and all of Jerusalem with him. He called together all the leading clerics and scholars of the law, he questioned them where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they answered, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are

by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and found out from them the precise time the star had emerged. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

As directed by King Herod, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the East went before them until it stopped over the area where the child laid. Upon arriving at the house, they observed the child with his mother Mary, and they kneeled down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They were then miraculously warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, as he planned to kill Jesus in preserving his authority, and returned to their home by an alternative route.

Names & Characteristics of the Three Wise Men

Accounts have been told about the Three Wise Men and they have been given names. This is how they are often portrayed:

Gaspar (or Caspar), who wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels on it. He is the King of Sheba. Gaspar represents the Frankincense brought to Jesus.

Melchior, who has long white hair and a white beard and wears a gold cloak. He is the King of Arabia. Melchior represents the Gold brought to Jesus.

Balthazar, who has a black beard and wears a purple cloak. He is the King of Tarse and Egypt. Balthazar represents the gift of Myrrh that was brought to Jesus.

Meaning of the Gifts for Jesus

When the Wise Men discovered Jesus and Mary, they would have been residing in a modest house in Bethlehem, because by this time Jesus would have been aged between one and two. Their gifts seem somewhat unusual to give to a baby, however, Christians consider that they had the following purposes and meaning:

Gold: is affiliated with Kings and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings.

Frankincense: is occasionally utilized in worship in Churches and represented that people would worship and praise Jesus.

Myrrh: is a fragrance that is embedded on dead bodies to make them smell pleasant and represented that Jesus would endure persecution resulting in his death.

TOP TIP: If you do not have a large piece of paper for the project, you could use a piece of card from a cardboard box (the inside could be ideal and free of print)

DUE DATE: First day back to school in spring term