

**Meaningful Chocolate 2016  
Resources for Advent**

**Assembly Title 1:**

**The Christmas Story  
Memory Test  
KS1-2**

**NOTES**

**to accompany Powerpoint presentation**

**Aim:**

To tell the Christmas story re-inforcing it through the aid of a memory game that challenges children to use simple lateral thinking.

**Notes give a guide to:**

- Items and information that provide clues to the Christmas story
- How to use the memory game
- The Christmas story presentation using the beautiful illustrations of Alida Massari from the Meaningful Chocolate Advent Calendar 2016
- How to analyse the clues used in the memory game in order to eliminate one item that is 'the odd one out'.

**Resources:**

PowerPoint (Download from [www.realadvent.co.uk/resources](http://www.realadvent.co.uk/resources))

Notes for narration, points for reflection and information (this document)

**Props: you will need:**

A tray holding a

1. Feather
2. Scroll (make a simple scroll)
3. Crown (hope you've got one in your dressing up box, from a cracker etc)
4. Present
5. Baby-Grow
6. Coin
7. Perfume or After-Shave
8. Wool – If you live in the countryside you will probably be able to collect some sheep's wool from a nearby fence or field but if not, a ball of wool will be fine.
9. Globe or map with the Holy Land on it
10. Mug or cup

**Technical:**

Please familiarise yourself with the presentation beforehand and make any adjustments necessary. The fonts used are Arial or Helvetica.

The first slide gives opportunity for you to add your school name, logo and ethos statement.



Use this slide as a backdrop for the introduction of the Memory Test. Start the assembly by putting an empty tray on a table in front of your assembly and announcing you are challenging everyone to a memory test.

Explain that you have 10 items and you are going to place each item on the tray one at a time, making sure that everyone has a good look at it.

### **Feather**

What do you think of when you pick up a feather? What has wings? (See if anyone comes up with 'angels'). I've always wanted to make a quill out of one of these. You know what a quill is? A long time ago, people used to write with feathers.

### **Mug or cup**

What do we use these for? They are something every one of us has in their homes.

### **Scroll**

Does anyone know what this is? A scroll was invented as one of the earliest ways of recording information before they used books. In Egypt a scroll was made out of tough water grass called 'papyrus'. In other countries they used 'vellum' which is animal's skin. What do you think I mean when I say 'scroll down on your computer screen'? This is where the word 'scroll' comes from because you roll a scroll down to read it.

### **Crown**

What's this? Different types of hat tell us a lot about the wearer don't they? Sometimes they tell us, like this crown, that they are very important.

### **Present**

Well, it is near Christmas, so I thought a present ought to be in our story somewhere

### **Baby-grow**

What's this?

## Coin

This is just an ordinary coin but it does have a picture of Queen Elizabeth on it. Did you know that the earliest clues about what people looked like are on coins? So we know what the Roman Emperors looked like because they had their faces on the money of the day.

## Perfume or After-shave

This is my favourite perfume/after-shave. What do you think? (Let someone have a sniff).

## Wool

We want the children to know what it is, and that it is carded, spun into wool and then knitted into jumpers.

## Globe

Point out where you live and then where the story takes place.

What a strange bunch of objects. Now have one more good look and then I'm going to cover them up. Think you can remember them? Now, all those objects are part of a story. While you are thinking about that I'm going to tell you another story...

Now, here's a story that you will all remember. **The Christmas Story.**



This is the story of the birth of Jesus. He's not an ordinary baby. Not at all. Nothing about Him is ordinary.

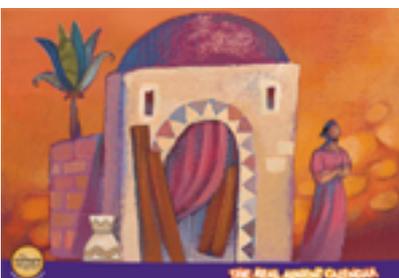
More than 2,000 years ago in the Holy Land, the people were very sad because their country was ruled by the Romans.

The people hated being ruled by the Romans. They wanted God to send them a king to free them.



Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. One day, an angel called Gabriel visited Mary. Meeting an angel was very scary but Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid!

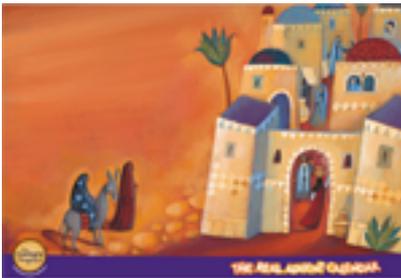
"You are going to have a baby," the angel told Mary. "He will be called Jesus; He will be the one that everyone is waiting for – the promised King."



Joseph was worried when he heard that Mary was pregnant. He was upset because he didn't know if he should marry Mary.



An angel came to Joseph and told him not to be afraid to marry Mary, saying: 'She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus.'



One day the Roman Emperor decided to count everyone and find out how much money they had! He ordered everyone to go to their place of birth.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to the town of Bethlehem to be counted. It was busy and bustling due to everyone moving there to be counted



Hundreds of miles away, wise men saw a special star in the sky. "That star means a new king," they said excitedly. They saddled their camels and left right away.

The star shone brightly as the wise men followed it.



What do you give a new King as a present? The wise men packed some very unusual presents.

One wise man brought a gift of gold for the new King.

Another wise man brought frankincense which was used when praying to God.



The last wise man carried a gift of myrrh for the baby, a bitter and spicy perfume.



The wise men travelled to King Herod's palace because they thought that is where the new King would be born. King Herod was surprised to hear who the wise men were looking for. "A new King?" he said, "I'd love to meet him." Herod was a very bad king and he wasn't to be trusted. He did not want Jesus to be king and wanted to get rid of the baby. "If you find that baby let me know," he said to the wise men.



The star led the wise men on to Bethlehem. In a dream, an angel told the wise men not to go back to King Herod.



Mary and Joseph and lots of other travellers had arrived in their home town of Bethlehem for the census. There weren't enough rooms for everybody. "My wife is having a baby," Joseph begged. "Isn't there a bit of room for us?"

Mary and Joseph were so tired they would have slept almost anywhere. At last, someone said, "I have a stable. It's not very clean but it's warm and dry. You will have to lie down with the animals." But then there was something else - the baby was coming!



It was a quiet night in the hills above Bethlehem. There were shepherds looking after their sheep. An angel appeared.



Another angel appeared and then the whole night sky lit up with angels singing and praising God for the birth of the new born King.



“We’ve got to see him,” the shepherds all said. Without leaving anyone to guard the sheep, off they went down the hillside, towards the lights of Bethlehem.



The shepherds did not expect to find the new King in a stable with sheep and cows! But they knew this would be no ordinary baby. He was their new king, the One they had been waiting for.



Where were you born? Bet it wasn’t in a stable. That’s where Jesus was born – with smelly animals all around him. The shepherds were poor and smelled a bit. The wise men were rich and important.

It doesn’t matter. All that matters is that they came to see Jesus. They wanted to say, “You are my King,” to kneel and thank Him for coming.



Now back to the Memory Test! Let’s see how many items you can remember.

Now have you worked out what story all these objects make?

Well, if I say that the feather stands for Angel’s wings... what do you think the story might be?

Did anyone guess? **The Christmas Story! Was there something on the tray that didn’t fit the story? Now which object DOESN’T fit into the story?**

Let's just have one more look at what's on this tray shall we? You can now ask the children what each object might stand for.

1. There's the feather – that's for the angel that visited Mary and Joseph
2. The Scroll represents the Census – all people's details were written down
3. A Crown is for a king – in this case King Herod
4. Present – the Wise Men brought presents
5. Baby-Grow – Jesus wouldn't have had a Baby-grow – but he was wrapped in a cloth.
6. Coin – The Roman Emperor ordered a census to be taken so that people would pay their taxes
7. Perfume or After-Shave – one of the gifts the Wise Men brought
8. Wool – the shepherds left their flocks of sheep to see Jesus
9. Globe or map with the Holy Land on it – I pointed out the part of the world that this happened in.
10. Does the mug (or cup) fit into the Christmas Story? No, I don't think so either.

Well done!

Did you know that your brain is like a computer filing system? It can store an amazing amount of information.

Let's thank God for the Christmas Story and for us being able to tell the story from year to year.

As we remember all the wonderful things about Christmas  
We thank you for the Christmas story  
That Jesus came to earth as a baby  
A King for the whole world

Amen

For a possible song choice see *Sing Christmas – a cracking collection of 19 festive songs to light up your Christmas celebrations* by leading children's writers and published by Out of the Ark Limited.

### **Follow up resources**

Along with this resource we provide a memory game – Advent Pairs Match. The cards can be printed from the pdf file and laminated to provide a game of matching pairs that tell the Advent story. The cards can also be used by children as an opportunity to 'tell the story back', focusing on key words on each card, promoting story-telling and communication skills.