

# Epiphany

This Christian feast usually takes place in churches on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning 'appearance'. It is a celebration of the baby Jesus being seen, or appearing, to the visitors who had travelled to see him.



## The Visitors

Three men were looking at the stars and one night, they saw a new star. The men were very clever and understood the religious writings that had been written many years before. The writings said that one day there would be a great star and it would mean that a new king, the king to save all people, had been born. Packing up their things, they followed it. They are known as the Three Wise Men.

### Did You Know...?

The Wise Men lived in the East so they may have been from Persia which is now called Iran.

The Bible doesn't say how many Wise Men there were, but because there were three gifts, people think that there must have been three men.

The Wise Men are often called the Three Kings.

## The Journey

The journey would have been very long and tiring. The men probably travelled on camels. The star led them to the town of Bethlehem in Israel.

The star came to rest over the place where the Baby Jesus was. It is thought they were in the stable, but the Wise Men arrived so much later after Jesus was born. They found him living in a house in Bethlehem with his mother and father.

As the son of God, the Wise Men took special gifts for the new baby to celebrate his birth.





## Gold

A precious metal and a sign of wealth. The Wise Men gave it as a sign of their love for Jesus as the King of kings.

## Frankincense

Gum from an African tree which could be burnt as incense. By giving it to Jesus, it showed the Wise Men had faith in him.



## Myrrh



This was taken from the sap of another African tree. These trees grow in the shallow, rocky soils of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. By giving Jesus myrrh, the Wise Men were showing that they were happy to obey the new king.

## Did You Know...?

In Spain, some children fill their shoes with straw and leave them outside for the animals belonging to the Wise Men. In Spanish speaking countries, Epiphany is known as 'Dia de los Reyes' or 'Three Kings Day'.

1. Where does the word 'Epiphany' come from?

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2. What are the Three Kings also known as? Tick **one**.

- ☐ the Three Wise Men
- ☐ the Three Kind Men
- ☐ the Three Musketeers
- ☐ the Wise Kings

3. Where are the Three Kings believed to be from?

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4. What did the religious writings suggest to the three kings?

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5. What town did the star lead the three Kings to?

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6. What is Epiphany known as in Spanish speaking countries? Tick **one**.

- ☐ New King Day
- ☐ Three Kings Day
- ☐ The Day of the Star
- ☐ The Day of Three Kings

7. Once the Wise Men had arrived in Bethlehem, they found the baby Jesus in a stable. True or False? Explain your answer.

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8. List the three gifts and say which you think is the most important and why.

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