

# Epiphany



## What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is a Christian feast day. It is on 6<sup>th</sup> January. It is a celebration of when the Wise Men visited the Baby Jesus.

## The Visitors

One night, some Wise Men were looking at the stars. They were surprised to see a new star they had not seen before.

The Wise Men read their books and found out that the star meant a new king had been born.

So the men decided to follow the star to see the new king.

## The Journey

The journey would have been very long. They would have travelled on camels for many miles.

They followed the star, which stopped over the town of Bethlehem in Israel.

## Worshipping the New King

The star came to rest over the place where Jesus was. Jesus was now living in a house with his mother Mary and his father Joseph, in Bethlehem.

## The Gifts

The Wise Men worshipped the Baby Jesus and gave him gifts. The gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh.

### Fun Fact

These Wise Men lived in the East, which was a long way from where Jesus was born.

### Did you know?

The Bible never says how many Wise Men there were. As there were three gifts, people often think there were three Wise Men.



## Gold

This gift of the precious metal showed love for the new baby king.

## Frankincense

This came from an African tree. It would have been burnt to smell nice.

## Myrrh

This is from an African tree. This would have been very expensive.



# Questions

1. What date is Epiphany?

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2. It is a celebration of which people visiting Jesus?

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3. Where did they live?

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4. What did the new star mean?

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5. How did the Wise Men travel?

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6. Where did the star stop?

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7. In what sort of building did they find Jesus?

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8. What were the three gifts they gave the baby?

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9. What did the gift of gold show?

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10. Why do people often think there were three Wise Men?

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1. What date is Epiphany?  
**Epiphany is on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.**
2. It is a celebration of which people visiting Jesus?  
**It is a celebration of the Wise Men visiting Jesus.**
3. Where did they live?  
**They lived in the East.**
4. What did the new star mean?  
**The new star meant that a new king had been born.**
5. How did the Wise Men travel?  
**The Wise Men travelled on camels.**
6. Where did the star stop?  
**The star stopped over Bethlehem.**
7. In what sort of building did they find Jesus?  
**They found Jesus in a house.**
8. What were the three gifts they gave the baby?  
**The three gifts that they gave the baby were gold, frankincense and myrrh.**
9. What did the gift of gold show?  
**The gift of gold showed love.**
10. Why do people often think there were three Wise Men?  
**People often think there were three Wise Men because there were three gifts.**

# Epiphany



## What is Epiphany?

The Feast of Epiphany is celebrated in Christian churches, usually on 6<sup>th</sup> January. It is a celebration of the Baby Jesus being seen by the visitors who had travelled to see him.

## The Visitors

On the night that Jesus was born, hundreds of miles away, there were some Wise Men looking at the stars with their telescopes.

One night, they saw a very large and interesting star.

The Wise Men were clever, and looked in their special books to find out what this star meant. The books told them the star meant that a very special and new king had been born.

So the men decided to pack their bags, and follow the star, wherever it went.

## The Journey

The journey would have been very long. On their camels, they crossed deserts and mountains. The Wise Men would have travelled for many miles, often in hot weather. They and their animals would have become quite tired.

They followed the star, which led them to the town of Bethlehem in Israel.

## Worshipping the New King

The star came to rest over the place where Jesus was. It is often thought that the Wise Men visited the baby on the night he was born in the stable, but in the Bible it is written that they actually arrived much later. By then, Jesus and his mother Mary and father Joseph, were living in a house in Bethlehem.

### Fun Fact

These Wise Men lived in the East, so they were possibly from Persia (now known as Iran).



### Did you know?

The Bible is the Christian holy book. Information about the life of Jesus can be found in the Bible.

## The Gifts

The Wise Men thought that a new king would be in a palace. They truly believed that this baby was the king, so they worshipped him and gave him gifts. The gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh.

### Gold

This was the most precious metal that could be given to a king. The Wise Men brought it as a sign that they loved the new king.

### Frankincense

This was a strong smelling gum which would have come from a tree in Africa. By giving it to Jesus, it showed the Wise Men had faith.

### Myrrh

This too is from the inside of an African tree. These trees grow in the shallow, rocky soils of Ethiopia and Somalia.

### Did you know?

The Bible never mentions how many Wise Men there were, but because there were three gifts, people often think there must have been Three Wise Men.



# Questions

1. What does Epiphany celebrate?

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2. Where would the Wise Men have probably come from?

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3. What did the interesting star mean and how did the Wise Men know this?

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4. What might have made the journey quite difficult for them?

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5. Where did the star lead them?

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6. Why was Jesus not in the stable by the time the Wise Men arrived?

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7. How do we know about this story?

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8. Why did the Wise Men give the baby gold?

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9. Where does frankincense come from?

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10. Name one of the countries where the tree that myrrh comes from, might be found.

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# Answers

1. What does Epiphany celebrate?  
**Epiphany celebrates the Baby Jesus being seen by the visitors who had travelled to see him.**
2. Where would the Wise Men have probably come from?  
**The Wise Men probably came from Persia in the east.**
3. What did the interesting star mean and how did the Wise Men know this?  
**The star meant that a new king had been born. The Wise Men knew this because they had read about it in their special books/They were very clever.**
4. What might have made the journey quite difficult for them?  
**The hot weather would have made the journey quite difficult for them/It was a long way away so they would have got tired.**
5. Where did the star lead them?  
**The star led them to Bethlehem in Israel.**
6. Why was Jesus not in the stable by the time the Wise Men arrived?  
**Jesus was not in the stable by the time the Wise Men arrived, because they arrived later than the night he was born/They did not arrive on the night he was born because they had travelled a long way.**
7. How do we know about this story?  
**We know about the story from reading the Bible.**
8. Why did the Wise Men give the baby gold?  
**The Wise Men gave the baby gold to show their love for him/because he was a king.**
9. Where does frankincense come from?  
**Frankincense comes from a tree in Africa.**
10. Name one of the countries where the tree that myrrh comes from, might be found.  
**Myrrh comes from Ethiopia/Somalia.**



# Epiphany



## What Does Epiphany Mean?

The word 'epiphany' comes from the verb 'to appear'.

The feast of Epiphany is a Christian celebration, which usually takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> January. It is a celebration of the Baby Jesus being seen or appearing to the visitors who had travelled to see him.

So, who were these visitors?

## The Visitors

A long, long way away, there were some Wise Men studying the stars and constellations with their telescopes.

One night, they saw a very interesting star that they had never seen before. It was very interesting indeed!

The Wise Men were intelligent and understood the religious writings and books that had been written many years before.

The writings predicted that one day there would be a great star, and the star would mean that a new king, the king to save all people, had been born.

So the men were very excited to see this star and decided to pack up their belongings, and follow the star to wherever it led them.

## The Journey

The journey would have been very long. They probably travelled on camels, across deserts and over mountains. The Wise Men would have travelled for many miles, often dealing with extreme weather, tiredness and having to rest their weary animals.

They continued to follow the star, which led them to the town of Bethlehem in Israel.

### Fun Fact

These Wise Men lived in the East, so they were possibly from Persia, which is now called Iran.





## Worshipping the New King

The star came to rest over the place where Jesus was. Although many people think the Wise Men visited the baby on the night he was born in the stable, in the Bible it is written that they actually visited quite a long time after the birth. By then, Jesus and his mother Mary and father Joseph, were living in a house in Bethlehem.

The Wise Men had expected to find a new king in a palace, but they had such faith that this was the king, they worshipped Jesus and gave him expensive gifts. The gifts were gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## Gold

This was the most precious metal that could be given to a king. The Wise Men brought it as a sign that they respected the new king and bowed to his position of importance.



## Myrrh

This was also from the sap of an 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 willing to obey the new king.

## Frankincense

This was a strong smelling gum from an African tree. It was burnt as incense. By giving it to Jesus, it showed the Wise Men had faith.



## Did you know?

The Bible never mentions how many Wise Men there were, but because there were three gifts, people often think there must have been three Wise Men.

# Questions

1. Which religion celebrates Epiphany?

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2. How did the Wise Men find that a new king had been born?

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3. Which word means the Wise Men were expecting that one day a special king would be born, from reading their books?

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4. How did they know where to look?

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5. Explain, in some detail, where they found Jesus.

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6. Why do you think the Wise Men took such expensive gifts?

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7. What was the gift of gold a sign of?

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8. What did the gift of frankincense mean?

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9. Do you think Mary and Joseph would have ever seen myrrh before? Explain your reasons.

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10. Why is it thought there were three Wise Men?

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# Answers

1. Which religion celebrates Epiphany?  
**Christians celebrate Epiphany/Epiphany is a Christian celebration.**
2. How did the Wise Men find that a new king had been born?  
**The Wise Men found out that a new king had been born by reading about an interesting star they had seen.**
3. Which word means the Wise Men were expecting that one day a special king would be born, from reading their books?  
**The word which means the Wise Men expected that one day a special king would be born, is 'predicted'.**
4. How did they know where to look?  
**They knew where to look because they followed the star. It led them to where Jesus was born.**
5. Explain, in some detail, where they found Jesus.  
**The Wise Men found Jesus in Bethlehem in Israel. He was living with his mother Mary, and father, Joseph, in a house.**
6. Why do you think the Wise Men took such expensive gifts?  
**Pupil's own response based on the Wise Men thinking kings should be given special gifts.**
7. What was the gift of gold a sign of?  
**The gift of gold was a sign of love.**
8. What did the gift of frankincense mean?  
**The gift of frankincense meant the Wise Men had faith.**
9. Do you think Mary and Joseph would have ever seen myrrh before? Explain your reasons.  
**Pupil's own responses. Examples: No, because myrrh was from Africa and Mary and Joseph had not been to Africa/ weren't from Africa.**
10. Why is it thought there were three Wise Men?  
**It is thought there were three Wise Men because three gifts were given.**