

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Advent</b>	The four weeks leading up to <b>Christmas</b> (starting on the nearest Sunday to 30 <sup>th</sup> November).
<b>Christians</b>	Followers of the religion of Christianity.
<b>Christmas</b>	The <b>Christian</b> festival that <b>celebrates</b> the birth of <b>Jesus</b> . <b>Christmas</b> Day is <b>celebrated</b> on 25 <sup>th</sup> December.
<b>Jesus</b>	The founder of Christianity, believed by <b>Christians</b> to be the son of God.
<b>Bethlehem</b>	The place of <b>Jesus</b> ' birth.
<b>celebrate</b>	To take part in enjoyable activities for a particular occasion.
<b>Diwali</b>	The <b>Hindu</b> festival of light.
<b>Hindu</b>	Followers of the religion of Hinduism.

## Advent

**Advent** is the start of the **Christian** year. It is when **Christians** start to prepare for **Christmas**.

Churches display an **advent** crown or wreath. These usually contain five candles, which remind **Christians** about the light of God coming into the world through the birth of **Jesus** Christ.



Light is important to **Christians**, as they believe **Jesus** to be the 'light of the world', bringing light and hope to people, even in times of darkness.



## Christmas

**Christians** use lights to help

them **celebrate Christmas**. There are many types of lights, e.g candles, tree lights and hanging light decorations. A star is often placed on top of the **Christmas** tree, as a reminder of the star that led the Three Wise Men to **Bethlehem**.



Many churches and schools hold Christingle services. A Christingle is an orange decorated with a red ribbon, sweets and a candle. The lit candle represents **Jesus** as the 'light of the world.'

## Christingle

## Diwali

**Diwali** is celebrated by **Hindus** and Sikhs in October or November. It is the start of the **Hindu** new year and lasts for five days. The word '**Diwali**' comes from a word that means 'lighted row of lamps'.



## Key Vocabulary

<b>exile</b>	To be made to stay away from home.
<b>victory</b>	A win against the enemy.
<b>evil</b>	Very bad.
<b>diva</b>	A small oil lamp (usually made from clay).
<b>Lakshmi</b>	The <b>Hindu</b> goddess of wealth.
<b>Hanukkah</b>	The <b>Jewish</b> festival of light (also known as Chanukah).
<b>Jewish</b>	Relating to the religion of Judaism (or the followers of that religion).
<b>miracle</b>	An amazing event that happened, but cannot be explained.
<b>menorah</b>	A special candlestick used in <b>Jewish</b> worship.

## Diwali

**Diwali celebrates** the victory of good over **evil** and light over darkness. At **Diwali**, some **Hindus** remember the story of Rama and Sita returning from **exile**, where their way home was lit by lamps. **Hindus** light **diva** lamps at **Diwali** to welcome **Lakshmi** into their homes.



Fireworks are set off during **Diwali celebrations**.



## Hanukkah

**Hanukkah celebrates** one of the greatest **miracles** in **Jewish** history. After their temples were destroyed by the King's army, the Jews found a tiny amount of oil at the temple in Jerusalem to light a **menorah**. The **menorah** had seven branches. It kept burning for eight days and nights - a **miracle**!

## The Hanukkah Menorah

A **Hanukkah menorah** has nine branches, not seven. The branch in the middle, holds the candle that is used to light the others. On each night of **Hanukkah**, a branch of the **menorah** is lit as a reminder that God is with you, even during difficult times.

## Celebrating Hanukkah

**Jewish** people eat oil-based foods during **Hanukkah**. The festival begins in December or late November. Presents and coins are given and a game called Dreidel is played.

