

# D.I.Y CHRISTMAS

Blue Peter style

500AD

1000AD

1500AD

2000AD

Some things change, some stay the same.

What makes Christmas Christian?



In my last church the vicar decided to suspend a large net of balloons from the church ceiling. When the service was over the balloons were released. It was so popular he did the same thing next Christmas. And the next one. Eventually nobody really cared about the balloons.

But nobody could imagine Christmas without them.

Last Christmas my family discontinued stockings for the first time. As I am 25 and my sister is 22, I can see the logic!

I thought myself a cynic; that I could take or leave Christmas. That I didn't get sentimental about rubbish. The kind of presents I gave and received last year were not radically different from the year before that. They were just not in stockings.

But I really missed the stockings.



If Christmas is the season to be Jolly, can we be gloomy the rest of the year?

## COMPARE AND CONTRAST

### Baby Jesus:

meek, gentle, never cries  
Cute and fluffy

### Adult Jesus:

Big scary bearded man  
who dies horribly, then  
lives again

Could sheep on parachutes  
become a new Christmas  
tradition?

Why are children in the church expected  
to believe in Father Christmas, yet taught  
not to worship false idols ?



## Santa or Saint?

Saint Nicholas is remembered for giving gifts to a family in order to liberate young women from poverty debt and prostitution. Santa clause is the figurehead for a festival which destabilises families by promoting false hopes and encouraging debt and despair.



What does the gift of Christmas mean to you?

Thousands of children are made happy through the presence of Santa in the streets at Christmas.

How can you let someone know this this Christmas?

Are you going to tell them that they are wrong?

What do your friends and workmates think is good about Christmas?

What does it mean to them?

When do you share in common?

Design a Christmas where your beliefs and expectations and their beliefs are both respected and fulfilled.

You will need:

Common occasions — like meals, parties ...

Decorations—like candles, holy

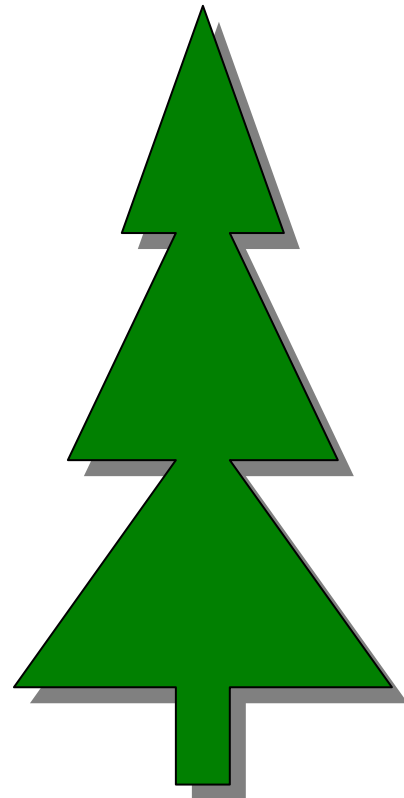
Traditions—like gift giving

Stories and myths

Meaning

Symbols

You will find everything you need to design your Christmas lying around, in your memory, on TV, in conversations and so on.



Go on, do it now! There is paper and pens available to help you write down ideas or sketch things out!