



Year 3

(Unit 3/c)

3 hours

Christmas

Christmas Angels

Introductory Lesson - Names

- Why do we need names?
- Show personal items such as a passport or medical card.
- Discuss why we have names, rather than just identity numbers. Look at a birth certificate.
- Show a name book and point out that many names have meanings - both first names and surnames (and place names). Look up a few examples.
- Ask pupils if they know who chose their names and why. Are they named after someone else? Do they have any nicknames? Do they know if their names have a meaning?

Activities:

- Design a personalised passport on folded A4 paper. Include all names, leaving space for extra information to be researched at home. This could include place of birth, date of birth, the meaning of the name, who chose the name and why.

or:

- Write personalised acrostic poems using first name (if short use surname as well). An example is shown below.

I...

Can play the recorder
Am good at football
Like to eat chocolate
Love my dog Cindy
Understand how to play chess
Make model planes

or:

- Pupils could produce their own name, decorating the first letter as an illuminated script.

Angels

1. Christians believe that God wants to communicate with people today and that is why we have the Bible. On special occasions God used angels to bring his messages.
 - Think about some of the ways we send news to people - fax, radio, telephone, sign language, text messages.
 - Retell the Christmas story from a children's Bible or from 'The Tallest Candle' big book, given to Watford Schools a couple of years ago.
2. Read a letter and talk about receiving news.
 - Using drawings with captions or speech/thought bubbles ask the pupils to describe what Mary thought when she heard the angel's news that God was going to use her to have a very special baby.
 - Have pupils ever been given a special responsibility or honour? Look at 'The Annunciation' by Fra Filippo Lippi, courtesy of the National Gallery, London. We have worksheets available on this painting - or see 'Jesus Through Art'.
- 3 Show a letter and talk about the fact that it is addressed to a person by name.
 - Recap on names, their meanings and why we have been given them.
 - What did the angel tell Mary to call her baby? *Jesus* means 'God saves'. The name '*Immanuel*' means 'God is with us'.
 - **Activity:** Write an acrostic poem for the name '*Immanuel*'; an example is given below.

Inns were all full
Mary was tired
Make room in the stable
Angels sang the good
News to the shepherds
Under the star Jesus was born
Everyone worshipped the
Light of the World
4. Think about the Christmas story so far.
 - Who is missing?
 - Show a picture of a shepherd and talk about what a shepherd does. Shepherds were very ordinary people and yet God sent angels to bring his good news to them.
 - Tell the story from 'The Night the Stars Danced for Joy' by Bob Hartman.
 - **Activity:** Imagine you are a reporter and produce a newspaper or TV report on what the shepherds have seen - this could either be written or acted out.
 - **To think about:** the good news at Christmas is for everyone.