

Should we celebrate Harvest or Christmas?

Year 1

Autumn Term 2

Key Questions

Are you looking forward to Harvest or Christmas more?
Is Harvest or Christmas more important to Jews and why?
Is Harvest or Christmas more important to Christians and why?
What difference does it make?
Is it possible that they are both equally important?
Are there things that are similar?
Are there similarities between the Jewish and Christian Harvests?
Which festival do you think is more important now?
Have you changed your mind?

In this unit the children will learn:

- They will know that Christmas is a Christian festival, and that Sukkot is a Jewish festival.
- That the celebration of Harvest is a fairly new Christian festival.
- They will learn the basic stories of Cain and Abel and Noah.
- They will learn the basic story of the Exodus.
- They will be able to describe the key features of Sukkot and the key features of Christmas.



Key content:

- Harvest festival, as celebrated by the church today, was begun in the 19th Century in Cornwall.
- The Old Testament sets out the rules for Jewish harvest festivals, of which Sukkot is the final one of the year.
- During Sukkot, many Jewish families will live in booths or shelters, erecting these in their gardens.
- The tradition of giving thanks for the harvest is first seen in the story of Cain and Abel (not the murder) when they bring gifts to offer God and at the end of the story of Noah, where he builds an altar to give thanks for his rescue.
- Christians give thanks at Christmas for the birth of Jesus and the festival is marked with church services, carols, and symbols of light (candles, etc.) to remind Christians the Jesus is called the Light of the world.

Key content:

- During Sukkot as well as living in booths 4 spices are waved (etrog – the fruit of a citron tree; the lulav – a ripe, green, closed frond from a date palm tree; the hadass – boughs with leaves from the myrtle tree and the aravah – branches with leaves from the willow tree).
- The items are viewed as representing parts of the human body.
- Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- The story of the birth of Jesus is only told in two of the 4 Gospels (Matthew 1 & Luke 2).
- To remind Christians the Jesus is called the Light of the world. Christmas begins on 25th December and lasts for 12 days as a feast and until 2nd February as a church season.
- The period from 1st to 24th December is called Advent and was traditionally a period of fasting (going without certain foods).

Key Vocabulary

- **Church:** a place where Christians worship
- **Bible:** the Christian scriptures, consisting of the Old and New Testaments
- **Harvest:** the process or period of gathering in crops
- **Christmas:** the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth
- **Sukkot:** a Jewish autumn festival of double thanksgiving
- **Cain:** the eldest son of Adam and Eve
- **Abel:** the second son of Adam and Eve
- **Noah:** is instructed by God to construct an ark

