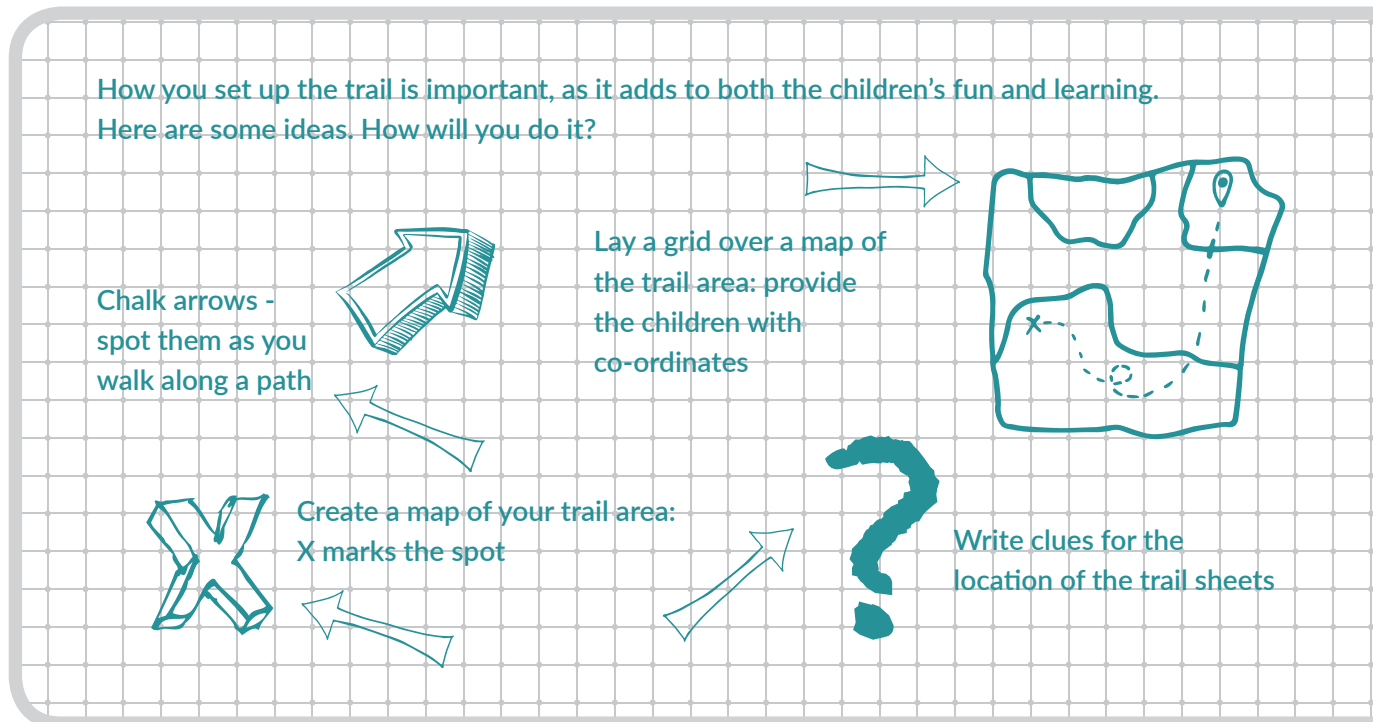


### Here's how you enjoy this trail:

Print the 7 trail sheets and place them around your trail area.



The trail works best if the children are in small groups or pairs. Plan how you'll organise the activity to ensure everyone isn't crowding around one trail sheet at the same time. The children don't need to find the trail sheets in a particular order.

Watch or read the Christmas story. You can find it in the Bible in Luke chapter 1, verses 26-38, Luke chapter 2, verses 1-20 and Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-12. A PowerPoint to help you tell the story is included in the downloads.

Ensure each child/pair has an answer sheet, a pencil and a clipboard and understands how they find the trail sheets and what they do when they find them.

Visit the trail sheets. They can be visited in any order. Children are challenged to find out what Christians believe about Jesus by completing three activities: collecting the letters on angels, answering questions to find a hidden word and solving a code.

After everyone has completed the trail, discuss what the activities have revealed about Jesus and who Christians believe he is. (The answers are: Saviour, Messiah, God's son and 'A king whose kingdom won't end'). Our "Christmas Explained" resource in the downloads will help you prepare for this discussion.

## Extend the Learning

There are lots of ideas in our lesson plans included in the downloads.  
Here's a few of our favourites:

### Challenge small groups of children

to race each other to make objects linked to the story from the story.

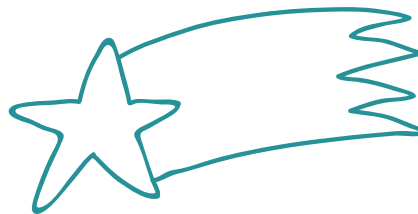
You could ask them to make: a star, a sheep or what they think is the most important part of the story.



### Challenge the children to use

natural objects to create their own trail based on the Christmas story.

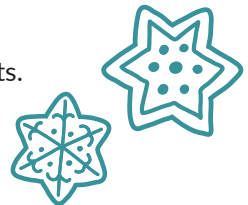
They must decide what will be 'followed' in the trail (stars? Angels?) and what will they put at the end of their trail?



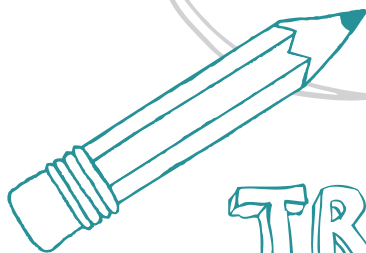
Ask each child to choose and draw a character from the Christmas story. They should add a speech bubble and a thought bubble to their drawing: What might their character say? What might their character be thinking?

Enjoy some Christmas baking, you could make and decorate star biscuits.

Or how about making 'Jesus in a manger'; mix some shredded wheat with melted chocolate to make straw and pop a jelly baby on top!



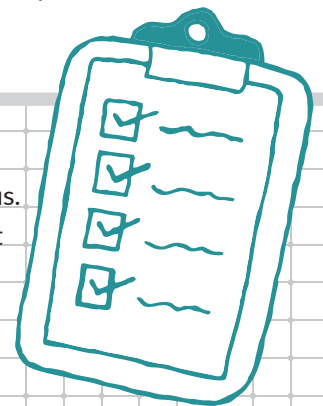
Draw a simple baby Jesus onto a pebble. Can the children make a manger for the baby?



# TRUST

Use session 3 of our second level resources to explore the theme of 'trust' in the Christmas story and consider what it means to be trustworthy.

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem because of a census. Can the children find out what a census is and then carry out a census of their class or the school?



Link to literacy by asking the children to pretend they are one of the characters and either writing a postcard home or some diary entries.



1.

Find the hidden word:

**Who was the mother of Jesus?**



Solve the code:

**fncr**

2.

Find the hidden word:

**Who told Mary she was going to have a baby?**



Solve the code:

**rnm**

### 3.

Find the hidden word:

**What did the wise men follow?**



Solve the code:

**zjhmjf**

4.

Find the hidden word:

**Who looked after the sheep?**



Solve the code:

**vgnrd**

5.

Find the hidden word:

**Who followed the star?**



Solve the code:

**jhmfcnl**

6.

Find the hidden word:

**Which building was Jesus born in?**



Solve the code:

**vnms**



7.

Find the hidden word:

**What was Mary's husband called?**



Solve the code:

**dmc**

## WHO IS JESUS?

Complete the activities to find out 4 things Christians believe about Jesus.

WRITE THE LETTERS IN THE BOXES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**What do the angels spell?**



**Find the hidden word. Write the answers to the questions in the correct boxes.**

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1					X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	2							X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3					X	X	
4										X	X	X	X	X	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5								
X	X	X	X	X	X	6							X	X	
X	X	X	7							X	X	X	X	X	

**Solve the codes to find out two more things about Jesus.**

a = b    g = h    m = n    s = t    y = z

b = c    h = I    n = o    t = u    z = a

c = d    i = j    o = p    u = v

d = e    j = k    p = q    v = w

e = f    k = l    q = r    w = x

f = g    l = m    r = s    x = y

1. \_ \_ \_ ' \_

2. \_ \_ \_

3. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6. \_ \_ \_ ' \_

7. \_ \_ \_