



A fabulous way to incorporate many different exciting creative techniques with other areas of the curriculum including role play, literacy and religious education. A well known story with a tale relevant to all faiths.



Nativity Performance

Task

Devise, create and develop a nativity performance. Explore the Christian belief that Jesus is God's gift to the world. The starting point for this unit is the familiar practice of giving gifts at Christmas, shared by most Christians and people from a secular background.

Children should learn

To practise co-operative discussion, and work as a member of a group. Are the children working co-operatively? Does everyone in the group contribute?

To develop the ability to review and modify ideas and work. Develop a range of techniques, control of tools, and an understanding of how shows are made.

Vocabulary

Collage, mixed media, painting, decorative, craft, design, 3D, 2D, collaborate, shape, form, space, border, contour, edge, outline, alter, transform, vary, cutting, printing, assembling, construction, decoration.

Children should gain an understanding of these terms.

Activity

- Read or tell the story of the wise men and the gifts they brought to Jesus.
The birth of Jesus is told in the Bible in Luke 2: 47.
The visit of the wise men is in Matthew 2: 1-11.
- **The three kings:** Some children may have special gifts that they were given when they were born - talk about these. What gifts do people give to babies today?
- **The shepherds:** what gift do you think a Christian might take to Jesus in the stable? What is their most precious possession? What do they have that they would give to baby Jesus? Why did you choose this gift? Ask the children to draw the gift they chose and write a sentence saying why they chose it.
- Christians believe that Jesus is God's son and that God gave him as a gift to the world. Discuss what the children think this might mean and write down their responses. Introduce some of the qualities that Christians believe Jesus brought to the world, e.g. peace, love, hope, happiness, joy, *save the better ones to include in the performance.*

Curriculum links

Performance: Develops skills in speaking and listening, builds confidence and social skills, teamwork and self-presentation (ideal for circle time).

Literacy: Provides a context for work in literacy and offers an opportunity for children to make up their own Christmas play or to retell the Christmas story using their own words.

Working as a group: Negotiating and discussing how to consider alternatives and reach an agreement when planning as part of the group discussion. You could divide the class up into groups to undertake this project as a team exercise with pupils taking responsibility for making backdrops, costumes, stage management, writing the dialogue, making and decorating the masks and props.

Extension activities

- Children will be (now!) familiar with the Christmas story. Ask them to think how they might present it in performance.
- Try hot seating, flashback, improvisation, storytelling, tableaux narrators and role-play.
- Split off into groups for some improvisation work.
- As a class decide what were the best parts of each performance.

Nativity continued

You will need

Koloron Roll
Koloron Tabards
Koloron Tops
Cromar Metallic (assorted)
Cromar (assorted)
Oil pastels (Skin tone and Metallic)
Marvin Medium (litre)
Masks collage pack
Crowns and collage pack
Scissors
Fab Effects
Meltdown Paint

Scenery

Create a backdrop for plays by rolling out the required size of Koloron from a roll and painting it up.

- For different techniques you may try applying paint using fingers, vegetables or scrunched up crisp packets or plastic bags. These will give you interesting textural results (texture in paint means that it has a roughly patterned appearance).
- Draw out the scene - its better to use sponges or scrunched up plastic bags than brushes to apply large areas of paint, as the more texture in the background the better the finished backdrop will be. Experiment first.
- To add more texture, add some splatters of paint (perhaps just one or two pupils at a time here) by flicking paint from an old toothbrush.
- Try to keep paints transparent rather than opaque, try watering them down a bit with water and Marvin Medium (you don't want big blocks of 'solid' opaque colour). As well as saving time and money, it will look a whole lot better. Technically, what you are doing is allowing light to pass through the paint and reflect off the Koloron - this makes colours appear lighter and your image easier to recognise.
- If you are using Ready Mix to paint the backdrop, remember to add a generous dollop of Marvin to the paint otherwise it will not adhere to the Koloron.
- Forget what you know about painting in small scale. If you have painted a realistic scene, outline trees, houses, camels, hills, in fact everything, in black lines. If it stands still long enough, draw a line around it!
- Always go to the back of the class or the hall to look at your work, this will give you a better idea of how it looks to the audience.



Costumes

Koloron is a tough fabric paper with a range of very useful qualities: Water-resistant, strong, will not fray, will not tear easily.

Sewable, washable, glueable, use a heat gun to mould it, use an iron (through greaseproof paper) to make it into a web. (Great for dragon or dinosaur skin.)

You can print, draw and paint straight onto it like paper.

Takes: paints, inks, dyes, pastel pens, crayons. You don't need to prime it first and the colour won't bleed through like fabric. It's tough and will take various processes, e.g. batik with hot wax, you can sew it, stick it to itself with Marvin, with gluesticks, double sided sticky tape, or with glue guns.

Koloron feels like paper but is a lightweight non-woven fabric, strong enough to wear repeatedly; it is breathable, which makes it very comfortable to wear.

Use sponges rollers or brushes to paint onto Koloron. The tabards form an excellent basis for costumes as it is incredibly strong and you can paint and draw directly onto it. You don't need special fabric paint. It can be cut easily with scissors and does not need hemming.

Glue it to itself with Berol Marvin or Merlin Medium. Alternatively, use double sided sticky tape. Lightweight objects such as buttons, plastic flowers feathers etc. will glue very easily to Koloron.

Because the surface is slightly slippy and not absorbent you can print with paint rather than with inks. The Cromar range is fantastic with Koloron.

Use: Potato prints, string prints, hands, feet, anything! Use Berol fabric crayons/felts/Fabric markers over the top to 'draw into' your designs. Stick glitter, buttons, beads, etc. onto the surface of your work with Marvin Medium.

Angel's wings

Light aluminium or heavier florist wire can be used to support wing shapes for angels. Lay your wire shapes out over a piece of Koloron, and cut out a shape approx 4" (10 cm) bigger than the shape of your wing. Cut incisions in the Koloron up to the outside of the wire, then fold over and glue the Koloron to itself until the wire is completely hidden. Marvin Medium is best for this.

Sheep's feet

You will need four mitten shapes cut from Koloron. Draw around hands but add an extra 2" (5 cm) to the shape - you will need this as a seam allowance. Lay your mitten shapes out and spread a thin, even layer of Marvin Medium glue around the edge (about 1 cm) of one of the pair, don't forget to leave the bottom edge glue-free in order to get hands into them. Leave for a minute to get tacky, then sandwich the two together and leave until completely dry. Gently put your hand inside and pull the mitten inside out. Now you can paint on the hooves using Fab Effects (brown or black), Cromar or Acrylic paint. Remember Ready Mix paint will not adhere to Koloron and will need a generous dollop of Marvin mixed in with it in order to make it flexible enough for fabric. Make curly 'wool' from strips of Koloron wound and stuck onto double-sided sticky tape, or use cotton wool pulled and teased out until it's light and looks woolly!

Try: threading, weaving, plating, scrunching, tying, gluing, cutting, ripping, sewing.

