



Christingles



In Christianity, it is believed that the coming of Jesus was like a light appearing in the darkness. In fact, the word Christingle actually means 'Christ's light'.

During the time of Advent, which is the time of preparation for Christmas, many Christian people will attend a Christingle service. The Christingle itself is made using specific objects and each one represents something significant.

The Symbolism of Christingles

A Christingle begins with an orange to represent the world. A red ribbon is positioned around the outside of the orange, which Christian people believe is symbolic of Jesus' love and his blood in the sacrifice he made to save humankind.



Four sticks are stuck into the orange. People believe that they represent the four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter. The sweets or pieces of fruit on the end of the sticks represent God's creations and the blessings which people are grateful for.

The candle is symbolic of the Christian belief that Jesus is the Light of the World. In the Bible, this is one of the names given to Jesus that Christians people read about.



The Origins of the Christingle

Christingles were first used in 1747 in Germany. Johannes de Watteville, a bishop, was conducting a service during Advent and gave all the children who attended the service a candle with a red ribbon around it. His intention was to give them all a simple sign to remind them of the happiness that can come from knowing Jesus.

In 1968, over 50 years ago, Christingles were used in a church service to raise money for a charity called The Children's Society. These Christingles incorporated the ribbon and candle that the bishop had used before, but were developed using the oranges, sweets and sticks people recognise today.

The Children's Society continues to raise money to help ensure that children have their basic needs met sufficiently and are happy and healthy.

Traditionally, at a Christingle service, all the lights are turned off and when people light their Christingle candle, they think about how the birth of Jesus brought light to the world. Many Christian people find the Christingle service a special chance to reflect on how they can help others, being like a light in other people's dark times.



Questions

1. Which statement is false? Tick one.
 - ☐ The first Christingle was a candle with a red ribbon around it.
 - ☐ The first Christingle was used to raise money for the Children's Society.
 - ☐ Johannes de Watteville wanted children to remember that happiness comes from knowing Jesus.
 - ☐ A Christingle service can be a chance for Christian people to reflect.
2. What do the sticks with fruit or sweets represent?
 - ☐ the coming of Jesus
 - ☐ the four seasons
 - ☐ God's creations
 - ☐ Jesus as the light in the darkness
3. What is the purpose of the Children's Society charity?

4. Find and copy one word which shows that turning off the lights during a Christingle service is a long-established custom.

5. Where were Christingles first used?

6. Do you think sweets are a good choice for what they symbolise on a Christingle? Explain your answer.

7. Think of a different but equally symbolic object which could be used to make a Christingle. Explain your choice.

8. **The Christingle itself is made using specific objects and each one represents something significant.**

What does the word 'significant' suggest about the objects used to make a Christingle?

9. Summarise the main points in the last paragraph.

Answers

1. Which statement is false? Tick one.

- ☐ The first Christingle was a candle with a red ribbon around it.
- ☒ **The first Christingle was used to raise money for the Children's Society.**
- ☐ Johannes de Watteville wanted children to remember that happiness comes from knowing Jesus.
- ☐ A Christingle service can be a chance for Christian people to reflect.

2. What do the sticks with fruit or sweets represent?

- ☐ the coming of Jesus
- ☐ the four seasons
- ☒ **God's creations**
- ☐ Jesus as the light in the darkness

3. What is the purpose of the Children's Society charity?

It raises money to help ensure that children have their basic needs met.

4. Find and copy one word which shows that turning off the lights during a Christingle service is a long-established custom.

traditionally

5. Where were Christingles first used?

Christingles were first used in 1747 in Germany.

6. Do you think sweets are a good choice for what they symbolise on a Christingle? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that fruit is a better choice than sweets because fruit could be seen as one of God's natural creations whereas sweets are man-made.

7. Think of a different but equally symbolic object which could be used to make a Christingle. Explain your choice.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that a flower could represent the beauty of the Earth. This is because flowers are beautiful and could be seen as one of God's creations.

8. **The Christingle itself is made using specific objects and each one represents something significant.**

What does the word 'significant' suggest about the objects used to make a Christingle?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'significant' suggests that each of the objects of the Christingle represent something important to Christian people.

9. Summarise the main points in the last paragraph.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Lights are turned off during a Christingle service. The candles remind Christian people that Jesus' birth brought light to the world. Christingle services are a time to think about how people can help others.