

Year 5: What are the themes of Christmas?

Religious songs or secular songs?

Christmas can be a religious celebration or a secular celebration. It can also sometimes combine the two.

- Carols explore the Christian story of the birth of Jesus, Christian beliefs and ideas.
- Some songs are **secular** celebrations of Christmas, e.g., songs about parties, putting up the tree, snow and Santa.
- There are some songs which, although appear **secular**, explore some of the themes from the birth story. These themes may include family, light over darkness, **love**, **peace**, **giving** and **joy**. The song 'War is over' by John Lennon, and 'Do they know it's Christmas?' by Band Aid, are some examples.


Christian or secular?

There are many things that we associate with Christmas that don't actually have any link to the Christian religion or the birth of Jesus.

Can you identify which ones are Christian and which would be secular?

- Christmas cards
- The Advent ring
- Star
- Nativity
- Christmas tree
- Presents
- Christingle
- Holly
- Carol sheet
- Tinsel
- Father Christmas

Take time to reflect



Is your Christmas a religious celebration or a secular celebration?

Vocabulary

empathy	The ability to understand and share the feelings of others.
festival	A time of celebration.
giving	Providing love or emotional support.
goodwill	Friendly, helpful or cooperative feelings.
joy	A feeling of pleasure and happiness.
love	To care very much about someone.
peace	Freedom from disturbance. To have calm.
secular	Something that is not linked to religion.

