

Christmas Challenge



Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ...

Together we'll discover the origins of Christmas, how it came to be celebrated on 25th December and of course enjoy all the festivities of the season!

For even more programme ideas check out our 'Nativity' board over on www.Pinterest.com/PawprintFamily

#AdventureForAll
www.PawprintFamily.com

Meet the FAMILY

Hi there! We're Charlotte & Jamie, the husband and wife team behind the Pawprint Family and we believe in #AdventureForAll.

It's our mission to help leaders, teachers and parents save time by providing ideas and opportunities to help them deliver everyday adventure and skills for life. We do this through our family of brands; find out more below and head to the website for your next adventure!



PAWPRINT BADGES

Pawprint Badges provides thousands of free activity ideas and resources to help leaders, teachers and parents deliver fun and adventure.

Every activity helps you share skills for life and is linked to one of our pawesome embroidered badges. Build your collection and celebrate adventures, new skills and knowledge gained.

PAWPRINT TRAILS

Pawprint Trails are treasure-hunt style walks around locations in the UK. Solve puzzles, track down the answers and explore everything our great country has to offer.

From historical sights to popular culture discover something new or rediscover a love for where you live then collect the badge to remember your adventures!

Whether you're looking for the perfect addition to your next family holiday or a few hours of fun with friends; each trail can be completed in a few hours or extended with our activity suggestions in to a weekend or a week's worth of fun!

PAWPRINT TALES

Pawprint Tales are fully illustrated stories that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Join Alfie (our fox-red Labrador) on his adventures around the UK – solving puzzles, turning detective and making new friends. With twists and turns, every tale is an opportunity to discover new places, people and history without needing to leave the comfort of your own home.

Enjoy Pawprint Tales alongside your Pawprint Trails or as a standalone adventure!

PAWPRINT TRUST

Every brand in the Pawprint Family supports the Pawprint Trust with a percentage of profits from every sale providing grants to young people. We're passionate about enabling young people to access life changing adventures.

Share your adventures and join us over on our social channels for even more adventures and a nosy behind the scenes at Pawprint HQ!



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PAWPRINT BADGES

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www.pawprintfamily.com/terms-conditions



Craft

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- + Create your own Advent wreath (also known as an Advent crown). An evergreen wreath with 4, sometimes 5, candles to mark the passing of the 4 weeks before Christmas Day. Find out what the colour of the candles mean.
- + Make your own Nativity scene using materials of your choice.

Why?

In many countries including Italy and Malta the crib (Nativity scene) is the most important Christmas decoration. In Naples, Italy, Nativity scenes have been used since the 10th Century and were popularised by St. Francis of Assisi who put on the first Nativity play in 1223. St. Francis told the story and used wooden figures for the different characters.

- + Create your own star tree topper or an angel for your Christmas tree this year to represent the Star or Bethlehem or the Angels who appear throughout the Christmas story.
- + Set up your own Jesse tree and decorate on each day of Advent or on each Sunday of Advent. Make your own decorations for an additional challenge.

What?

Jesse Trees are a tradition that started in the medieval times. The tree's decorations tell stories from the Bible from creation to the Christmas story. The name comes from Jesse who was the father of the Jewish King David.

- + Frankincense was one of the gifts given to Jesus by the Maji (Wise Men). Frankincense is an aromatic resin used in perfumes. Smell some if you can and have a go at creating your own perfumes.
- + Make your own incense burner and burn some myrrh incense. Myrrh was another of the 3 gifts presented to Jesus by the Wise Men.
- + Make and give a gift to a new baby. What will you give and why? Think about the gifts brought for Jesus by the Wise Men and discover the symbolism. What will your gift symbolise?
- + Use holly, ivy and evergreens to make your own decorations. Holly and ivy were used long before Christianity came to Europe but they have developed Christian meanings. Ivy has heart shaped leaves to represent the coming of Jesus and his love while holly represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified and the berries represent his blood.
- + Create your own Advent Calendar to mark the countdown to Christmas.



Food

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- † Create an edible Advent wreath to share with family and friends. Why not make it out of bread to include the symbolism from the Communion service which is often held on Christmas eve.
- † Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus so why not make Jesus a birthday cake or have a birthday tea party and read the Christmas story.
- † Give your time to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.

Why?

Boxing day is traditionally the day when churches would open their alms boxes (collection boxes for the poor) and distribute the contents to those in the community that needed help. Help someone less fortunate than you by giving your time.

- † Complete a 'Reverse Advent' and put an item of food into a box each day of Advent to donate to your local food bank. The Bible teaches Christians to help those less fortunate and feed others who are hungry.
- † Bake your own edible biscuit Nativity scene.
- † Decorate (and bake if you like) a Nativity cake showing the Nativity scene.
- † Christmas is one of the major Christian feast days, celebrate with a feast.
- † In the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches there is a period of fasting known as the Nativity Fast. Find out more and have a go at fasting yourself.

How?

Whilst we often think of fasting as not eating at all, in the Orthodox Church fasting refers to not consuming a meal until the evening. In the Byzantine Rite the fast traditionally entails fasting from certain foods except for certain days of the week. Find out more and have a go at making your own fasting meal planner.

- † It is tradition in Poland to eat 12 dishes on Christmas Eve to represent the 12 Apostles. In Sicily 12 kinds of fish are served. Have a go at designing (and making if you like) a 12 course menu for Christmas.
- † Jesus is known as the Lamb of God - make a dish using lamb or cook roast lamb to represent Jesus' suffering and triumph. The shepherds also came to the birth of Jesus in the Christmas story.
- † Create your own "comfort [food] and joy" as in the traditional English Christmas hymn *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*.



Games

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- † Have a game of who or what is missing from the Nativity scene. Just like Kim's Game only can you spot which character has been removed from the scene?
- † The Maji brought 3 gifts to Jesus in the Christmas story. If you could only have 3 things what would you have and why?
- † Play the name game using characters from the Nativity story.

How?

Using a sticky note write down the name of a character from the Christmas story. Place the sticky note on another person's forehead. That person should then ask the rest of the group questions with "yes" or "no" answers to try and guess who they are.

- † Hold your own gift wrap race. Can you wrap a present without using your hands? Discussion: what is in your gift? If you could give one thing to the world what would it be?
- † Play the Bethlehem or Bust! relay game. Credit: childrensministry.com

How?

Each team will need a jingle bell, a broom/brush and a washing basket. Use masking tape to make a large square on the floor at one end of the room with the props inside the square. The first person in each group runs to the square shaking their bell and then completes the following: the donkey ride (riding the broom like a horse around the edge of the square saying, "Giddyup!"), the inn sweep (moving all items out of the square then using the brush to sweep the area saying no broom in the inn"), manger (move the washing basket in to the square, sit down in it saying, "they laid him in a manger") and the angel (standing, flapping arms like wings, saying, "Glory in the highest"). Once complete, they run back shaking their bell, pass the bell to the next person and the race starts again. The first team to all complete the actions wins.

- † Have a game of Christmas Nativity pictionary with each person taking it in turns to run, draw a character and then run back, passing the pen on.
- † Play a game of *Do You Hear What I Hear?* as in the song based on the Nativity according to the Gospel of Matthew. Can you guess how many jingle bells are in a sealed box just by shaking it?
- † J is for Jesus. Using one candy cane as a hook held in your mouth, hook as many candy canes as you can in 1 minute. Lie your candy canes (that are not your hook) off the edge of a table for younger adventurers. For older adventurers have the canes flat on the table.



Other

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- † Discover the *Legend of the Candy Cane* in Lori Walburg's book of the same name. Read the story together with family/friends.
- † Put on or take part in a Nativity play as made popular by St. Francis of Assisi.
- † Sing some traditional Christmas hymns/carols based on the Nativity.
- † Attend a Church service over Christmastide.
- † Jesus was born in Bethlehem according to the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Find Bethlehem on a map and see what life is like there.
- † According to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus was born and laid in a manger. Find out what a manger is and visit a farm to see if you can find one for real.
- † In the Gospel of Matthew the Maji followed a star. Have a go at stargazing and look at some of the theories about what the Wise Men actually saw.
- † The Poinsettia from Mexico carries the symbolism of the star of Bethlehem. Have a go at growing one, or in our case keeping one alive (Charlotte doesn't have a good track record!)
- † Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were given by the Maji. Find out what they are, where they're found and some of the uses for them. We've already given a few away!
- † The 3 wise men visited Jesus in the days following his birth. Visit a new baby. Can you imagine what it might have felt like to be visiting baby Jesus?
- † Celebrate on 7th January. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on or near to 7th January as this date works to the Julian calendar that pre-dates the Gregorian calendar.
- † Write your own modern day version of the Nativity story. You could create a cartoon strip or put on your own play.
- † This Christmas put an extra gift under the tree and start a new tradition. Write a letter with promises and predictions for the year ahead; what will you do to help others? Wrap up your letters as a family and read them together on Christmas day. Next year wrap them up again with a new letter for the following year and then reflect together on Christmas day.
- † Find out about the colours of Christmas and their meanings to Christians. Use the colours during your challenges.

Adventure Complete?

Reward your young adventurers with their Christmas Challenge badge to mark their achievements! Head to the website to bag yours, download certificates and discover even more adventures!



Create a Keepsake!

Experienced adventure? Made memories? Then it's time to create a keepsake! Our Pawprint Family camp blankets are the perfect place to sew your badges and look back on them for years to come.



Personalise it!

Got your camp blanket? Then it's time to make it yours! Our alphabet badges are big, bright and bold...the perfect addition to your camp blanket, hoodies, bags and more. What will you personalise first?



Even More Rewards!

We're all about added value here at Pawprint Family. In addition to the 1000s of free activity ideas and resources you'll find loyalty stickers in every order and you can claim Children's University learning hours too!



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