



## Where does the 'posada' tradition come from?



The posada tradition comes from Mexico.

Communities act out Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, searching for places to stay along the way. The word 'posada' means 'lodging or inn' in Spanish.

Traditionally, a party is held each night in a neighbourhood home. At dusk, guests gather outside the house. Children dress up as shepherds, angels and even Mary and Joseph. One angel leads the other children in a big procession, and the adults follow, carrying lighted candles.

Everyone stops outside a house and they sing a song asking for shelter. The people who live there open the door and welcome everyone in, offering food and drink. The next night, the procession begins again and goes to a new house in the neighbourhood!



## Our school posada



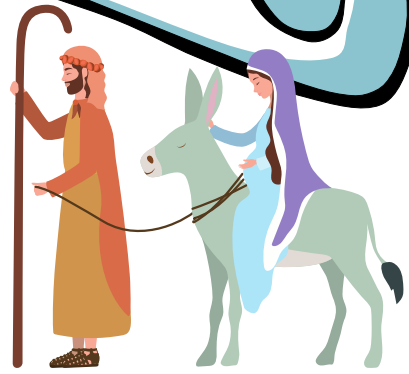
Unfortunately at school we can't have a big party every night like people in Mexico, but we can celebrate the posada tradition in our own way, and think about the journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Their journey would have been long and dangerous, and they would have needed to stop along the journey for shelter, food, drink and rest – especially Mary, who was getting ready to give birth to baby Jesus!

Between now and the end of term, figures of Mary and Joseph will travel around school, stopping off in each classroom. You're invited to welcome them, and create a posada (a shelter) for them to rest in.

You might spend some time discussing Mary and Joseph's journey, thinking about what they might be experiencing, thinking and feeling, and reflecting or praying about this important time before Jesus's birth-day.

## **What would the journey have been like?**



The journey Mary and Joseph are taking is very long and difficult. It's about 90 miles, and will take about nine days.

Joseph will walk, and Mary will ride a donkey. They'll travel for about eight hours a day.

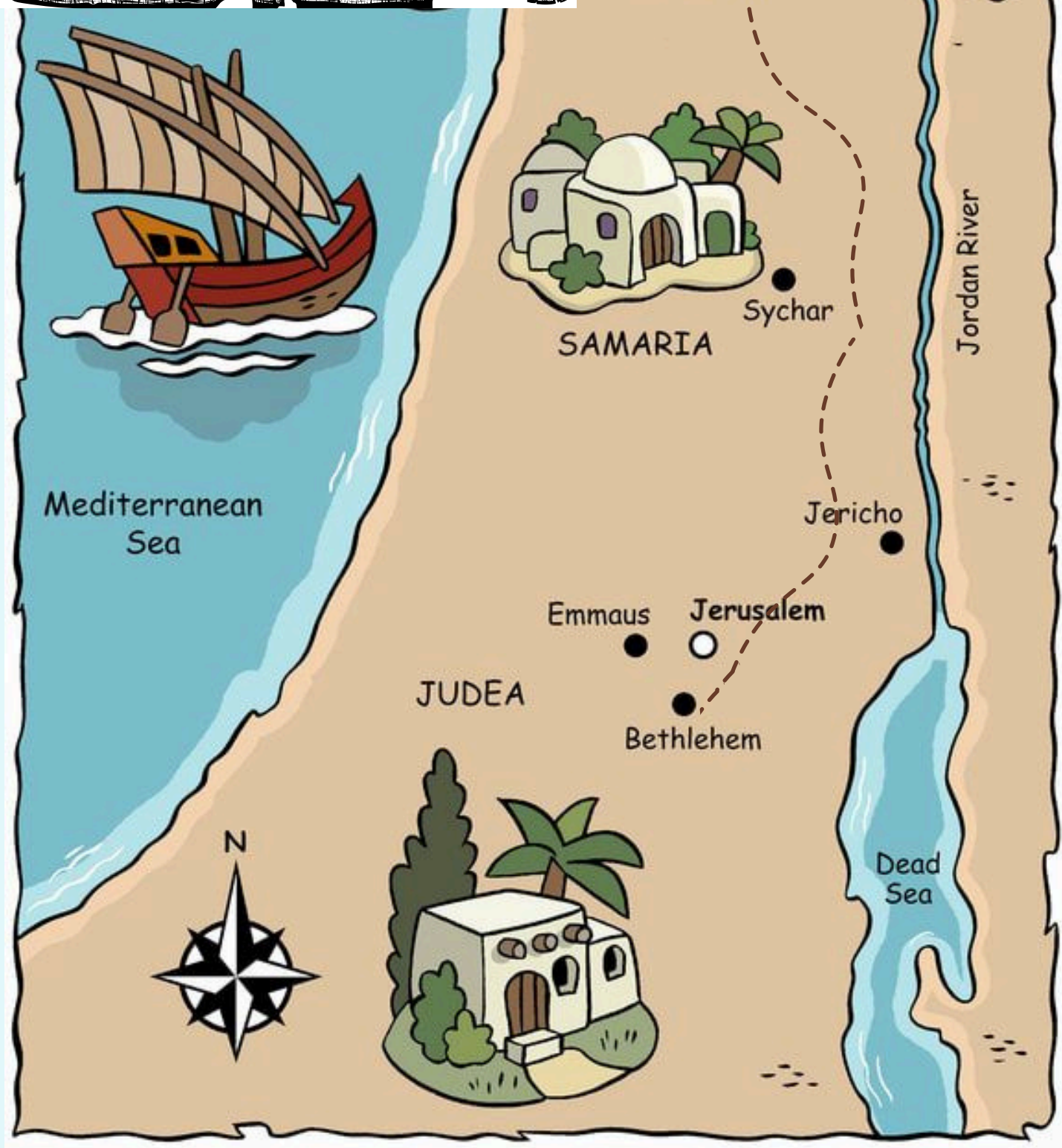
There are hillsides to climb, forests to trek through, and wet, muddy tracks to follow. It's dangerous – there are wild animals like bears roaming about, and bandits along the way who could try to rob them.

It's winter, and the weather is cold and rainy during the day. Mary and Joseph wear lots of layers of clothes to keep warm, and woollen coats that get wet and heavy in the rain. The donkey carries big skins of water for them to drink, and food for along the way.

Lots of people are travelling to Bethlehem, so they are not alone. Their group might sing or pray together as they travel along.



# Map of the journey



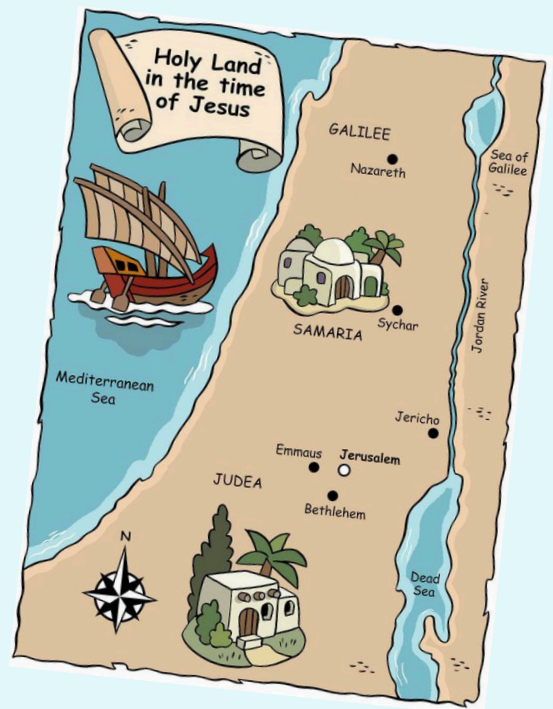
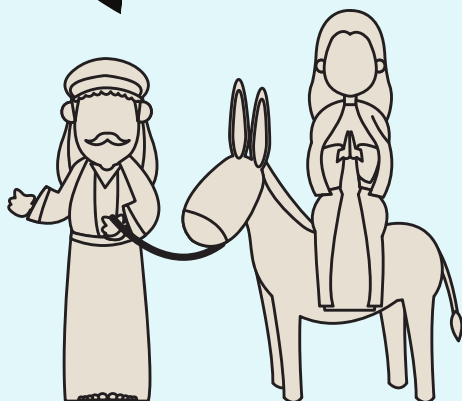
Things you  
might like  
to think  
about

What sort of  
posada (place  
to stay) will  
you make?  
Inn, hostel, tent?

What sort of  
food and  
drink will  
they need?

How would  
you feel if  
you were on  
this journey?

How do you  
think Mary  
and Joseph  
will be  
feeling?



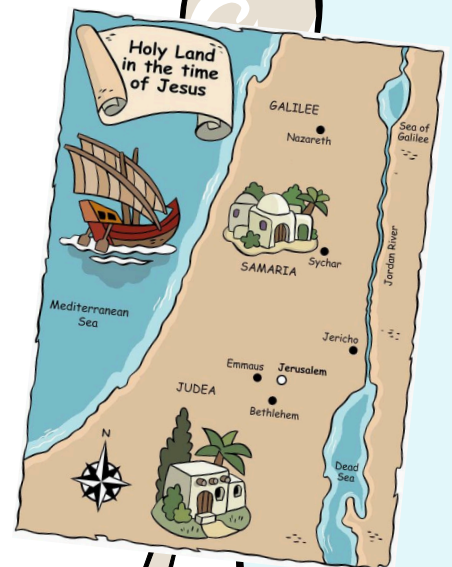
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I wonder what sort of Posada would you like to stay in if you were Mary and Joseph (or the donkey!)



4

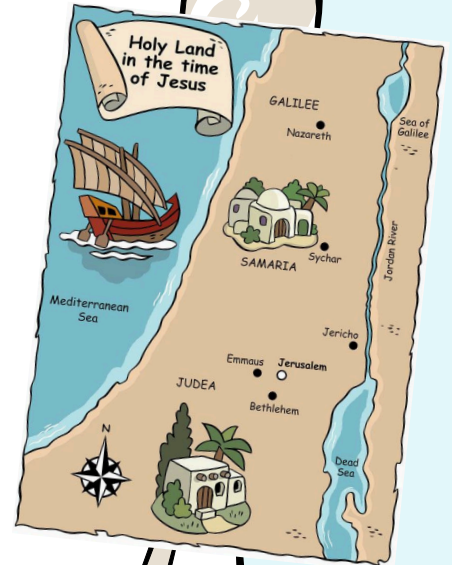
I wonder what Mary was thinking and feeling during the journey?





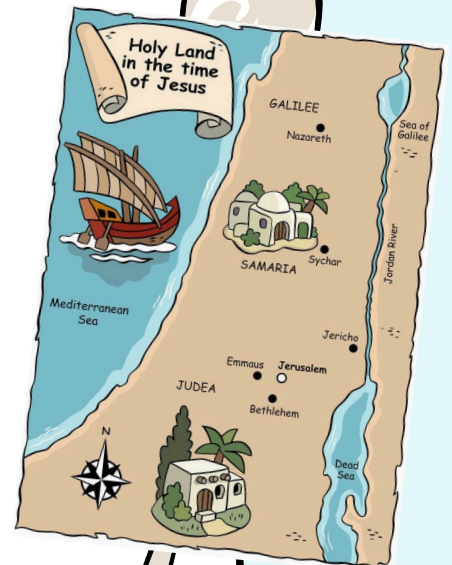
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I wonder why Jesus's birth happened this way?



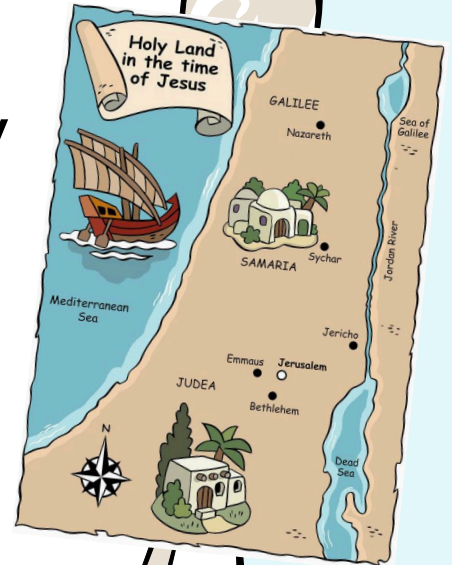
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I wonder what Joseph was thinking and feeling during the journey?



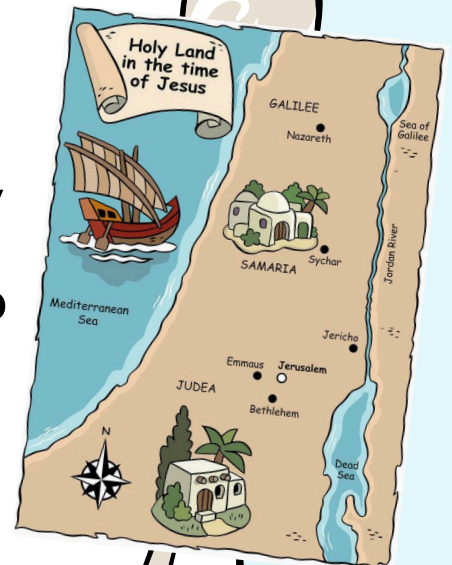
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I wonder what advice  
you would give to Mary  
and Joseph for their  
journey?



6

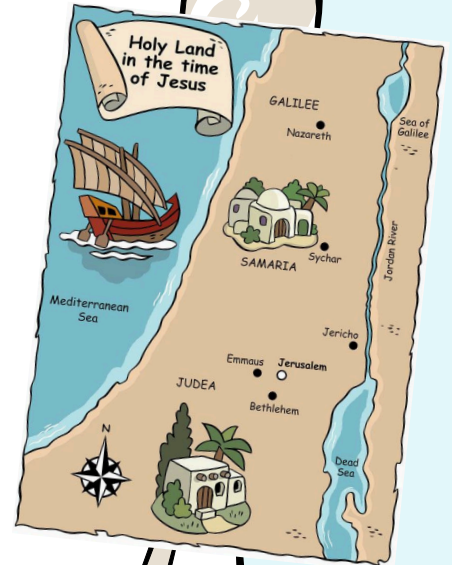
I wonder what Mary  
and Joseph saw, heard,  
touched, tasted and  
smelled on the journey?





7

I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when they finally arrived in Bethlehem?



1

I wonder what Mary felt when she found out that she and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem?

