

Christmas Around the World Nativity Set

(RS49510)

This collection of unique FairTrade global nativity artefacts have been handcrafted from different materials including clay, soapstone, wood, carved gourds and felt. Use the artefacts to learn about Christmas celebrations and traditions from around the world.



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Please note contents may vary.

Some suggested questions and prompts:

Initial discussions

- Talk about each item and representation and discuss what it shows.
- What can the nativity sets tell us about the Christmas story and Christmas traditions around the world?

Be an artefact detective

- What materials are used to make the artefact? (e.g. wood, clay, stone, etc)
- What clothes are the figures wearing?
- What animals and buildings can you see?
- Which country do you think this comes from and why?
- Spot similarities and differences and discuss why local artists represent the holy family using their own cultural identity.

Detailed discussions

- Why do you think people in different countries change the clothing and animals in the nativity story? *(To make the story feel closer to home and more personal and meaningful)*
- Do the changes we can see, such as to the setting and/or clothing alter the core message of the Christmas story? *(No. The central theme of hope, family and peace remains)*
- How does looking at these artefacts help us to understand the global Christian community? *(It shows that Christianity is a diverse worldwide faith and teaches us tolerance and global awareness. By exploring the sets, children can discover how global communities can adapt the Christmas story to include their own geographical traditions.)*

All About the Nativity Sets

Here is some useful information for you on each of the artefacts. Use these and our ideas for learning with the artefacts to explore Christmas around the World through the Nativity story.

Nativity in a Gourd



Handcrafted gourd ornament, featuring a carved nativity scene nestled within. Each gourd is carefully hollowed and adorned with a traditional retablo-style depiction of the Holy Family, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Peru. The natural hues and subtle carvings bring a warm, rustic charm.

Handmade in Peru using traditional techniques, these gourds are a testament to the skill and artistry of local artisans. The carving process makes each piece unique.

The animals in the stable might include llamas and alpacas instead of oxen. This is typical in a nativity scene from Peru.

Christmas Matchbox



Inside the painted matchbox you'll discover a miniature nativity scene, capturing the essence of Christmas in a compact, charming form. This tiny treasure is perfect for talking about the story of Christmas.

Handcrafted in Peru, this nativity scene showcases the traditional artistry of Peruvian artisans. The tiny figures are meticulously sculpted and painted, capturing the essence of the Christmas story. The matchbox itself is adorned with sculpted characters adding another discussion point to talk about Christmas.

The nativity figures typically wear local traditional clothing like woollen ponchos and chullos (Andean hats).

Nativity Mini Retablo



The Nativity Mini Retablo is a hand-painted wooden box that opens to reveal a miniature nativity scene. Inside, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus are depicted in vibrant colours, capturing the essence of the Christmas story in a compact form. The retablo features a convenient hanging loop, allowing you to display it on your Christmas tree, wall, or shelf, bringing a touch of Peruvian artistry to your festive display.

Retablos are traditional Peruvian folk-art pieces that depict religious scenes within a small, hinged box. This nativity retablo is crafted from wood and painted by hand, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of the region. The vivid colours and intricate details reflect the warmth and joy of the Christmas season.

Soapstone Nativity Set



In this Soapstone Nativity Set the figures of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus are carved in a minimalist style from tactile soapstone.

Handcrafted by skilled artisans in Kenya, the figures are carved from Kisii soapstone, known for its smooth texture and ability to hold rich, vivid colours. Each piece is carefully shaped and polished to highlight the natural beauty of the stone while keeping the design elegantly minimalist.

Many families travel from cities back to their home villages to celebrate Christmas, mirroring the long journey Joseph and Mary took to Bethlehem.

Wooden Nativity Set



Embrace the spirit of Christmas with this Wooden Nativity Set, a beautifully hand-carved collection that brings the nativity story to life. Each figure, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, is crafted with rustic charm, featuring a tactile, roughly hewn style. Perfect for your nativity display.

Handcrafted from wood, this nativity set showcases the traditional artistry of skilled artisans from Indonesia. Small nativity sets are commonly displayed in homes, churches and some public areas.

Many Indonesian churches build nativity scenes. In Java the nativity story is sometimes performed using traditional shadow puppets with characters dressed in royal Javanese attire.

Felt Angel Decorations



These charming felt angel decorations have been crafted from felt and feature traditional hand-stitching techniques.

- › The Fair-Trade angels have been handmade by skilled artisans in Nepal, where felt craft is a cherished tradition passed through generations. These divine messengers bring peace and good news and can be used to explore the meaning of Christmas and inspire all to do something good and help those in need.

Taking inspiration from the Nepal wool crafters, pupils can design a colourful textured Nativity scene of their own using felt scraps, tissue paper and textured papers and card.



You could create your own nativity sets inspired by different parts of the world to add to your Christmas Around the World Nativity Set collection.