

## THE STORY OF ST FRANCIS AND THE CRIB

More than seven hundred years ago, St Francis of Assisi decided that he would tell the Christmas story in a way that it had never been told before. Most people could not read and so he set up a stable scene in a cave not far from his home in Assisi. He used real people and animals to help him tell the story and people came from far and near to see what he was doing. As they gathered around him, he told them how Jesus had been born in a stable because there was no room anywhere else in the town. He also told them how angels appeared to the shepherds with the Good News of Jesus' birth. St Francis' idea was such a good one that it quickly became an important part of Christmas celebrations all over the world. There is one slight difference: nowadays, we don't usually use real people and animals.



### PRAYER TO BLESS THE CRIB

We praise and thank you, O God,  
for the coming of Jesus.  
Bless this crib and bless each one of us.  
Help us to remember that we must  
share Jesus' light and love with all the world.  
May we always be thankful  
for all the gifts you have given us.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

### VISITORS TO THE CRIB

Mary and Joseph had lots of visitors to see the baby Jesus.  
See if you can unjumble these words to find out who came to visit!

hesrdsphe

ngleas

swie

enm

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mblas

mlceas

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Write a story about all the visitors who came to see the baby Jesus. Use all the words that you have found!