

C is for Christmas

By Michelle Medlock Adams

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Extension activities for use by parents and teachers.

Discussion questions and ideas to discuss with your child after you have read *C is for Christmas*.

What's the real reason for Christmas? Does that mean we can't enjoy the presents and the lights and the other fun things that are part of our Christmas celebrations?

Why did Jesus come? Why is that important?

What is the letter _____ stand for in our book?

What's your favorite thing about Christmas?

Jesus came to earth to help others. Can you think of a way we could help others?

Word Find (word recognition)

Using blank index card, make a set of words to go with *C is for Christmas*. Spread the words out on a table, in a sentence chart, or on the floor near where you are reading. As each page is read ask a child to find and identify the corresponding index card.

Trace the Letter (letter recognition)

Fill a shallow tray with a one inch layer of sand. (Colored sand is more festive.) Allow children to trace the letters of the alphabet in the sand as they are read from the book.

Alphabet Ornament Tree (letter recognition)

Decorate a small tree using purchased plastic ornament balls and a package of alphabet stickers. Label each ornament with an alphabet sticker. Place the ornaments in a basket. As you read the book, encourage kids to choose the correct letter from the basket to hang on the tree. For a challenge make a set of lower case ornaments, too. Kids can look for both the upper and lower case letters to hang together. (Smaller ornament balls should be used for the lower case letters to make them easier to identify. You might also need a larger tree to do both.)

Alphabet Dig (letter recognition)

Jesus was born in Bethlehem near the desert. Your kids can go on a desert dig to find the letters of the alphabet. Buy a set of plastic letters (or two) at the dollar store. Cover the bottom of a bin or small swimming pool with playground sand. Then bury plastic letters in the sand. Give your child a clean, dry paint brush to “excavate” the letters of the alphabet. As a letter is “discovered” allow your child to identify the letter and find its match in the book.

Variation: For a white Christmas theme you can cover the bottom of the bin or swimming pool with a fake snow such as The Original Insta-Snow Powder. Your child can use a sand shovel to dig for the letters.

Alphabet Match (identifying upper and lower case letters)

Create a poster with a Christmas scene. It could be a Christmas tree with ornaments or snow scene with snowballs or a scene with Christmas lights. Label the ornaments on the tree, the snowballs in a snow picture, or Christmas lights with lower case letters. Laminate the poster so that it can be used again and again. Adhere a small piece of hook and loop fabric to the laminated surface just above each letter. Make a set of ornaments or snowballs or Christmas lights with upper case alphabet letters. Laminate the pieces and cut them out. Attach a piece of hook and loop fabric to the back of the cut outs. Put the poster in a place where kids can easily reach it. As you read *C is for Christmas* give a child a letter or ask them to find it in a container. Allow them to attach the upper case letter to the correct lower case letter.

Bedtime Christmas Alphabet Activity (letter recognition)

For a less active Christmas alphabet game put a set of plastic letters in a bucket or container of some kind. After reading *C is for Christmas* at least once, draw letters at random from the container. Ask your child to identify what the letter stands for in the book. Go back and read that stanza again together. This can be done with minimal moving around and makes a good nighttime activity.

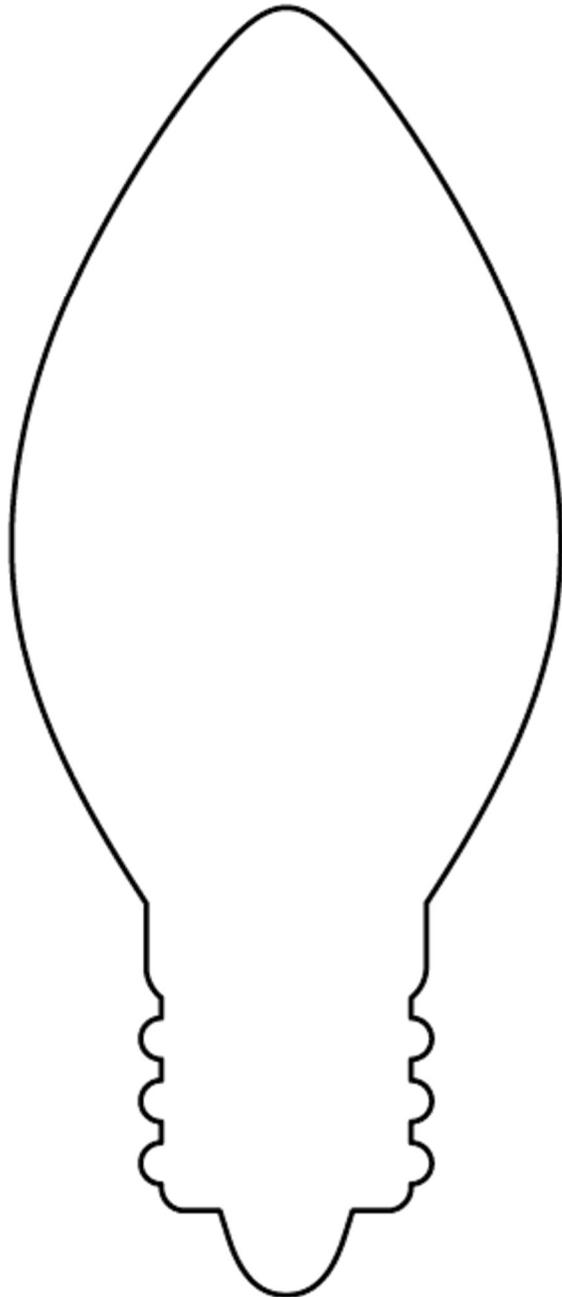
Alphabet Lights (identifying letters and sounds)

Use the pattern provided to create Christmas light cut outs. Cut out the shapes and assemble 52 Christmas lights. Label the lights with stick on alphabet letters (upper and lower case). Attach a clothesline type rope to the wall. Use clothes pins to attach letters to the clothesline. The clothesline of alphabet light bulbs can be used for a variety of activities including:

Matching lower case letters to upper case letters

Matching Christmas pictures to the letters (pictures can be collected from magazines or Christmas cards, cut out, and attached to blank flash cards)

Matching sight word cards to letters (using bought or handmade flash cards) (Note: making your own assures you have one card for each of the things mentioned in the book. For a more challenging activity add words that are not mentioned in the book, too.)



***C is for Christmas* Fill in the Blank Activity** (word recognition and comprehension)

Print the Fill in the Blank worksheet provided. Use the word bank or your copy of *C is for Christmas* to identify the person or object that goes with each letter of the alphabet.

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Read *C is for Christmas* to find the words that complete the sentences.

1. On Christmas night they sang “Glory to God in the highest.” **A** is for _____.
2. **B** is for _____. It’s the day we celebrate the Lord’s birth.
3. Jesus is the real reason for the season. **C** is for _____.
4. **D** is for _____. It’s the best month of the year.
5. God sent His Son down here to share His love. **E** is for _____.
6. **F** is for _____. At Christmas we make memories with those we love.
7. We should be nice to others all year long. **G** is for _____ toward men.
8. **H** is for _____. It was a bed for baby Jesus to sleep on.
9. There was no room when Mary and Joseph came to town. **I** is for _____.
10. **J** is for _____. He knew Jesus was a special boy.

11. Three men from the Orient came to worship Jesus. **K** is for _____.
12. **L** is for _____. We like to decorate our house and tree at Christmas.
13. The animals shared their barn that first Christmas night. **M** is for _____.
14. **N** is for _____. The shepherds told everyone what they had seen.
15. We make decorations for our tree. **O** is for _____.
16. **P** is for _____. But Jesus is the greatest gift of all.
17. Everyone goes to sleep on Christmas Eve. **Q** is for _____.
18. **R** is for _____. We use them to decorate everywhere!
19. White Christmases are grand. **S** is for _____.
20. **T** is for _____. At Christmas we bake yummy things to eat.
21. Gifts are placed beneath the tree. **U** is for _____.
22. **V** is for _____. We drive from house to house to see our family.
23. Jesus was a special gift in swaddling clothes. **W** is for _____.
24. **X** is for _____. When we put Christ in Christmas, we magnify His name.

25. A Christmas Festival is fun for all. **Y** is for _____.

26. **Z** is for _____. When Christmas Day is over, it's time to go to sleep.