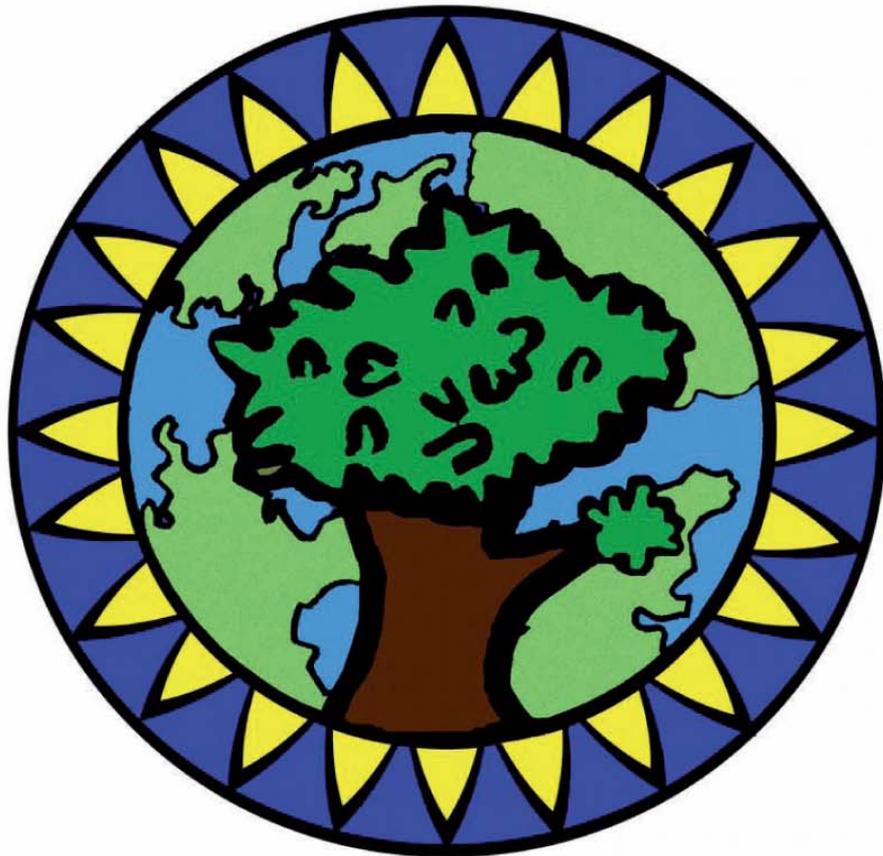


Branch Out World



Linked Lapbook

**Christmas
in Europe**

The **Linked Lapbook** series is written primarily for use by Home Educating families but it will be useful for any parent who wishes to support their child's learning whether they attend school or not.

The intended age range is approximately 5 to 10 years but the lapbooks can easily be adapted to include older or younger siblings accordingly. This helps to keep Home Education a truly family experience.

This PDF file refers to a single male child throughout. I use this convention because it is just a shorter and easier way to write this material. It by no means is meant to imply that this material is aimed at boys only, or at one child families. It's not. It's equally as relevant to girls as to boys and can be used in family groups of siblings of mixed ages and abilities with differing interests.

***Disclaimer: Branch Out World** is not responsible for any of the content on any of the websites linked in this lapbook. Please check suitability for your child beforehand.

Thank you.

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What is a lapbook?

A lapbook is more than just a cardboard folder with a selection of small booklets stuck inside.

It's an effective means of displaying and recording a child's learning.

It's a way of helping children learn by breaking big projects up into smaller, more achievable chunks.

It's more versatile than a workbook, being more hands-on and more creative.

It's a means of providing a personalised education; lapbooks can be adapted for each individual child by selecting the minibooks that best suit them and minibooks can be completed in a way that builds on each child's strengths.

Some of the different ways that children can complete the minibooks include -

- some minibooks come with pre-written answers that simply need glueing in;
- children can write answers of varying lengths, from a single word to a full paragraph;
- children can draw pictures, instead of writing, to show what they have learnt;
- parents can scribe for less confident writers so that the child's knowledge is recorded without them becoming discouraged;
- children can add stickers or clip art to the lapbook base for decoration and to add further information;
- children who don't complete all the minibooks can still get a sense of achievement by putting a lapbook together, even with only one or two minibooks;
- projects can be continued at a later date by the addition of extension flaps, or even by adding a second lapbook base. Bases can be glued back to back, or outer panels can be glued together.

Making This Lapbook

Necessary Materials:

You will need:

lapbook base (see below)

A4 card for extension flap

a good quality gluestick

double-sided sticky tape

extra wide sellotape or similar (for fixing extension flap)

Completing the minibooks:

Unless your children particularly enjoy cutting and folding, I strongly recommend cutting out all the minibook pieces before starting this project with them.

If a minibook is made of more than one component, paper-clip the pieces together or store them in individual self-sealing bags or envelopes.

Store the whole lot, including completed minibooks, in a ziplock bag or document wallet until the project is finished.

Each minibook is marked throughout the instructions as being either Level A, level B or level A & B. Choose the one most suited to your children's abilities and interests.

Use a good quality glue stick to stick the minibook components together.

When sticking the minibooks onto the lapbook base, it is better to use double-sided sticky tape for some of the heavier ones.

Lapbook base:

It is advisable to make the lapbook base after the minibooks have been completed so that you know whether to add extension flaps or not.

There are different ways to make a lapbook base: some people stick pieces of A4 card

together; some people use A3 card folded into 3 & some people use square-cut A4 folders and refold them to create 3 panels. Personally, I prefer to use A4 document wallets. These come already pre-folded, all you have to do is cut off the sides of the pockets as shown below.



Adding the extension flap:

This can be a little tricky so will need to be done by an adult.

Wide tape is used to make for a stronger 'hinge'. I have used brown parcel tape for illustration purposes. Clear sellotape works just as well.

Carefully line up one of the short edges of the A4 card against the edge of the middle panel of the lapbook base. Do not overlap the two edges.



Tape the card and lapbook base together.

Fold the card extension into the lapbook.

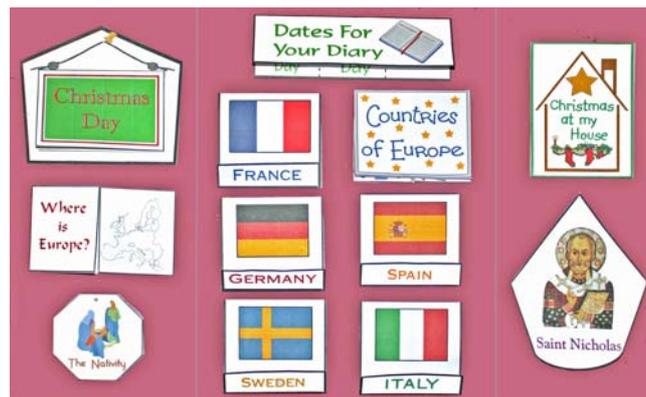
With the extension flap still folded in, stick tape along the card to half the width. Then fold the tape over on to the back of the lapbook to complete the 'hinge'.



Adding the minibooks:

This are two suggested layouts for this lapbook. The first includes all the minibooks provided including the three bank templates to add countries of your child's choice. The second omits the blank templates.

Your finished lapbook may well look different because children often prefer to design their own layout. Also, children don't always want to complete all the minibooks and their layout will reflect this. Feel free to adapt this lapbook to suit your own children's needs. Drawings and worksheets can be glued to the back of the extension flap.



Activity 3: The Nativity
Level A & B

The name of the festival Christmas comes from the the Middle English word Cristemasse which in turn comes from the Old English Crīstemæsse. Both words mean Christ's Mass and refer to the Roman Catholic mass that is celebrated on 25th December to commemorate the birth of Jesus.

Read aloud the story of the birth of Jesus [here](#) or in the Bible [Luke 2:1-20](#).

Instructions for minibook construction

Cut out in one piece.

Fold the side flaps in and the cover flap down.

Stick "Glue here" section to lapbook base.

Filling in the minibook

Level A

Ask your child to narrate the story back, act as scribe for them as they retell it to you.

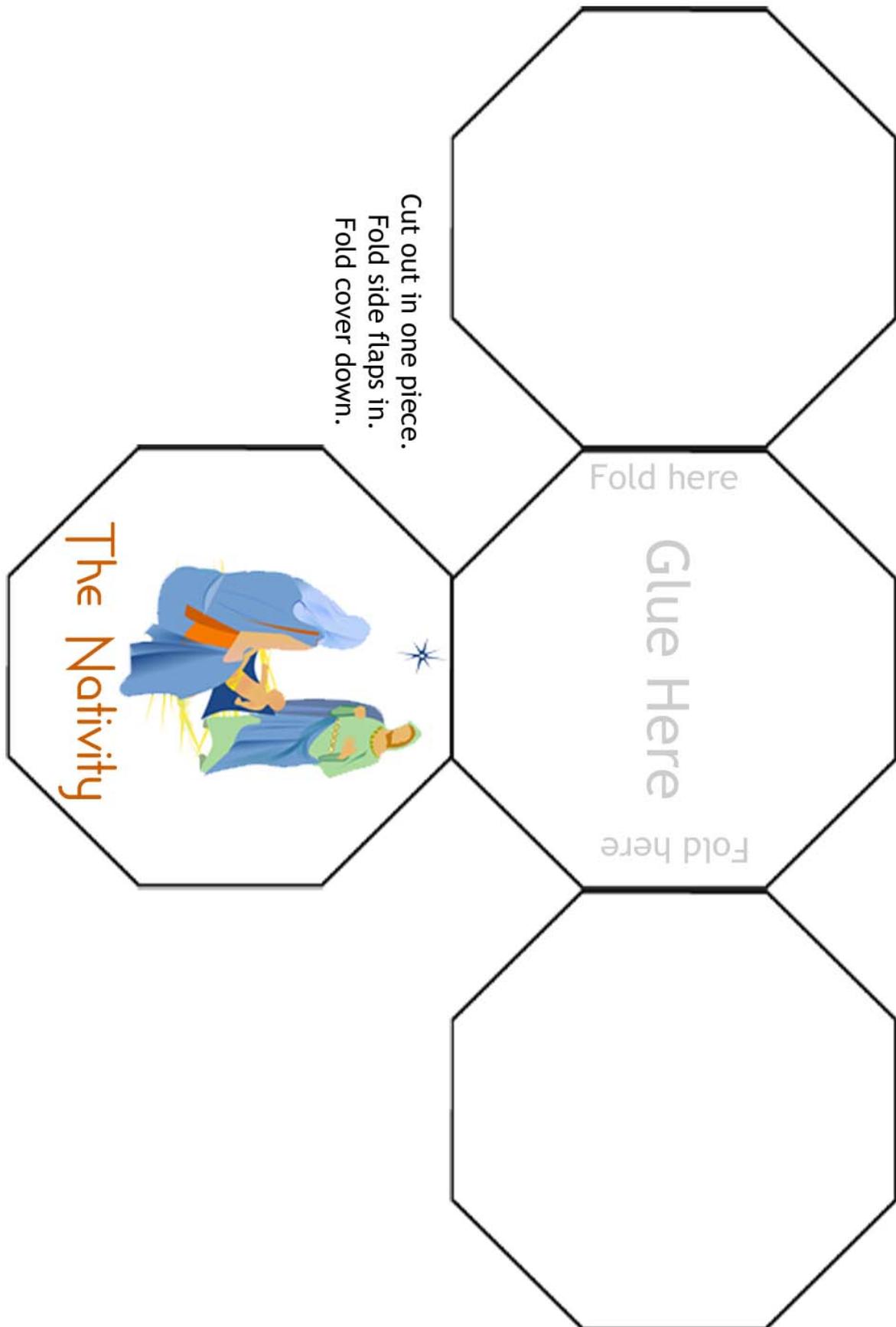
Level B

Children can write a summary of the nativity story themselves.

Alternative suggestions:

Draw a picture of each of the major characters on the flaps i.e. Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the angel, the shepherds.

Retell the story in five pictures.



Thank you for purchasing this **Linked Lapbook**

I hope you and your child have enjoyed your time learning with this lapbook and the included activities.

I am always looking to improve my products to give my customers exactly what they want. Your feedback is most welcome. My aim is to help you to facilitate your child's learning journey in a fun and positive way whilst creating happy memories together.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future units please don't hesitate to contact me by email at helen@picturebookexplorers.co.uk

Visit the website for more ideas, activities and updates at www.picturebookexplorers.co.uk

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