Stocking up on good deeds

A reflective craft activity

We often hear about St Nicholas around Christmas time. But did you know that many years ago St Nicholas was a bishop in Germany. As a bishop, Nicholas was well-known for his humility and good deeds. There are many stories of him secretly throwing bags of coins through the windows of the poor and needy. Often these bags of coins would land in shoes or stockings left out to dry, and this is why we now hang stockings out at Christmas.

For this activity you will need:

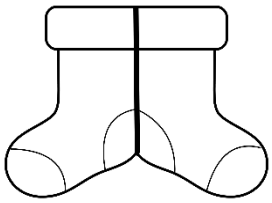
- Printed stocking template for each child on thin card
- Pencils/pens/ crayons
- Scissors
- Sticky tape, glue or stapler
- 'Gold coins' cut from yellow card/paper

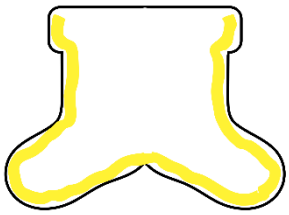
Ask the children to think of some good deeds they might do to help others. Maybe they could make help their parents clean the house, or help a classmate who is struggling with a task.

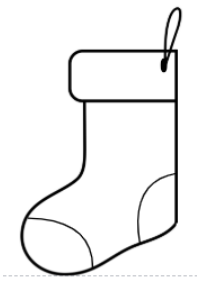
Explain to pupils that they are going to make Christmas stocking decorations. But these are no ordinary stockings! Over the course of the week (or Advent) these stockings will be filled with 'good deeds' that individual pupils have done during the day. These good deeds must be proposed by classmates and teachers, then written on gold coins made of card and placed inside the individual's stocking.

By the end of the week (or Advent) each child will have a stocking full of the good deeds. You may even like to place a chocolate gold coin in the stockings on St Nicholas' Day (6 Dec) as a special surprise!

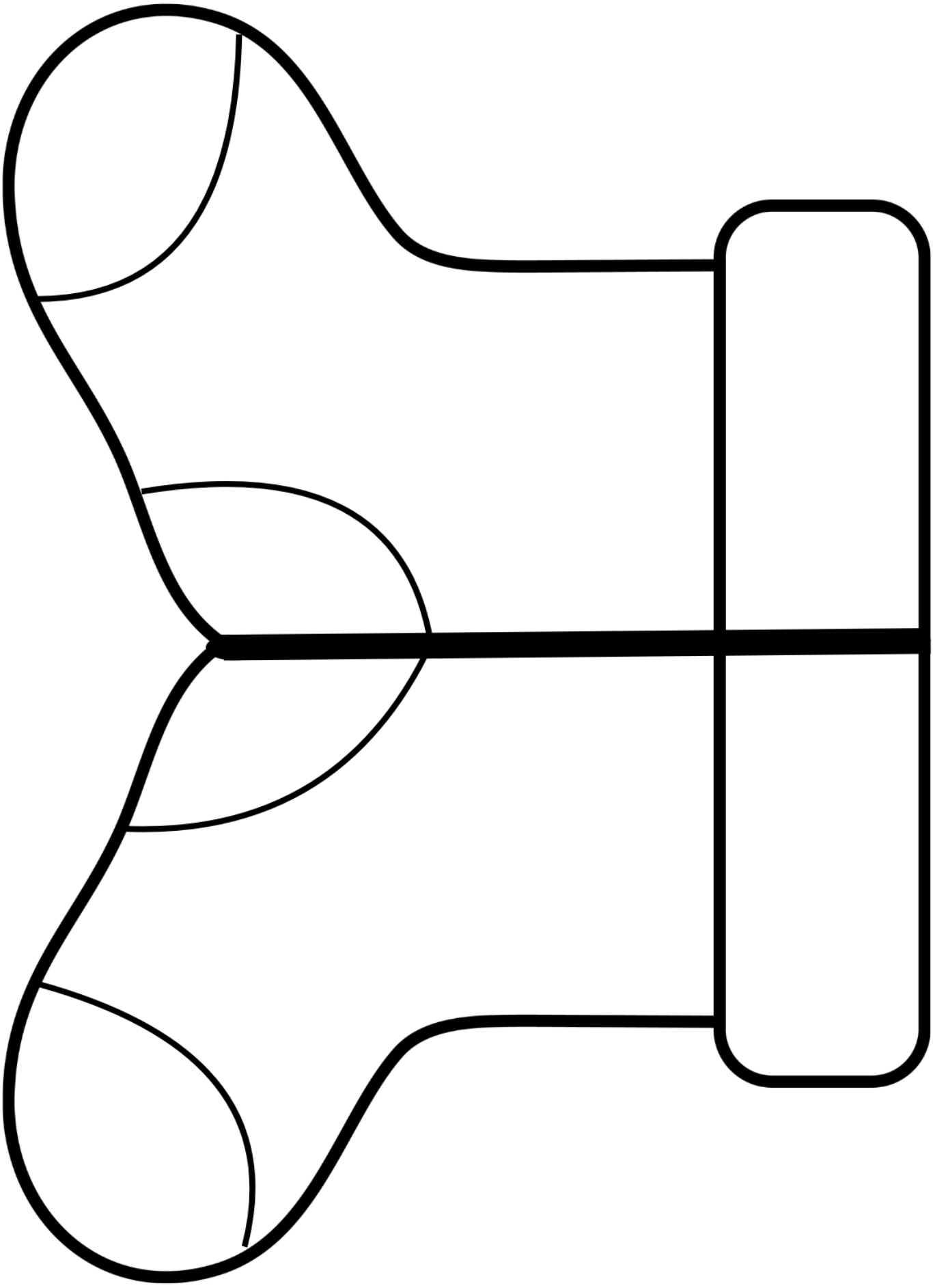
Instructions







1. Print A4 copies of the stocking template for each child, or an A3 version for the whole class.
2. Ask pupils to cut around the outside of the Christmas stocking shape. Remind them not to cut between the two stockings! They should be left with a shape like this.
3. Invite pupils to decorate their stocking using crayons, tissue paper, etc.
4. When they have finished, ask pupils to turn their stocking shape over, and on the blank side, to glue along the outside edge, as shown.
5. Inform pupils **not to glue down the middle of the stocking or at the top**.
6. Invite children to fold their stocking shape in half, along the centre line, to create their Christmas stocking. They should be able to put coins in through the top, **but** allow to dry before putting anything inside.
7. When the stocking is dry, use a hole punch to make a hole. Use this hole to thread string or ribbon through to hang the stocking on a display board.
8. Gold coins can be created by cutting circle shapes from yellow card. These should be small enough to fit inside the stockings but big enough to write a word (and/or name if you are creating a whole class stocking) that describes their good deed e.g. kind, caring.



Fundraising Ideas

Mission Together is the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. With your help we provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be funding a school feeding programme, a generator for a children's home, or medical aid for remote villages. Mission Together projects support all children, regardless of background or beliefs. Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve school, home, and parish. Below are a few seasonal ideas.
Please ***share your*** fundraising events with us @MissioUK, adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Winter disco: why not donate the proceeds from your school disco to Mission Together this year? Or if that's not possible, hold a sweetie stall or prize stall at the event to raise money for children around the world.

Carol Singing: either organise a group to visit houses in the neighbourhood (with teacher / parental supervision) and sing carols for donations or organise a carol concert at your church or school. Collect donations or ticket money for Mission Together. You could use our sing-along carols for rehearsals. Find here missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together/

Christmas crafts: get the whole school involved in making and selling ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together

Helping angels: encourage children to take on extra chores at home, for a donation to Mission Together.

Carol concert or Nativity play: These are much loved Christmas events often with many people keen to attend, ask visitors to make a donation towards Mission Together to share the love of Christ at Christmas with children overseas..

Family fun evenings: in colder weather and darker evenings, indoor events rule! Why not host a pupil disco, beetle drive, bingo night or race night at your school? You can use old horse race videos for people to place bets on, or even use wind-up toys or counters and dice to create races. Sell snacks and drinks to boost your fundraising.