Star of hope

An Advent craft activity

Advent is a time of great hope as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus. For thousands of years many poor, sick, and lonely people shared this hope as they waited for God to send a saviour who would bring healing, fairness, and friendship into the world.

When Jesus was born that first Christmas, a bright sign in the sky became a sign of hope that this saviour would soon be here. This sign was so full of light that it shone a path through the darkness. It was this star that led the wise men all the way to Bethlehem.

The Bible tells us that we too 'will shine in the world like bright stars' when we offer hope to others by sharing God's love with them. Jesus wants us to offer love and hope to all God's children, especially those who struggle.

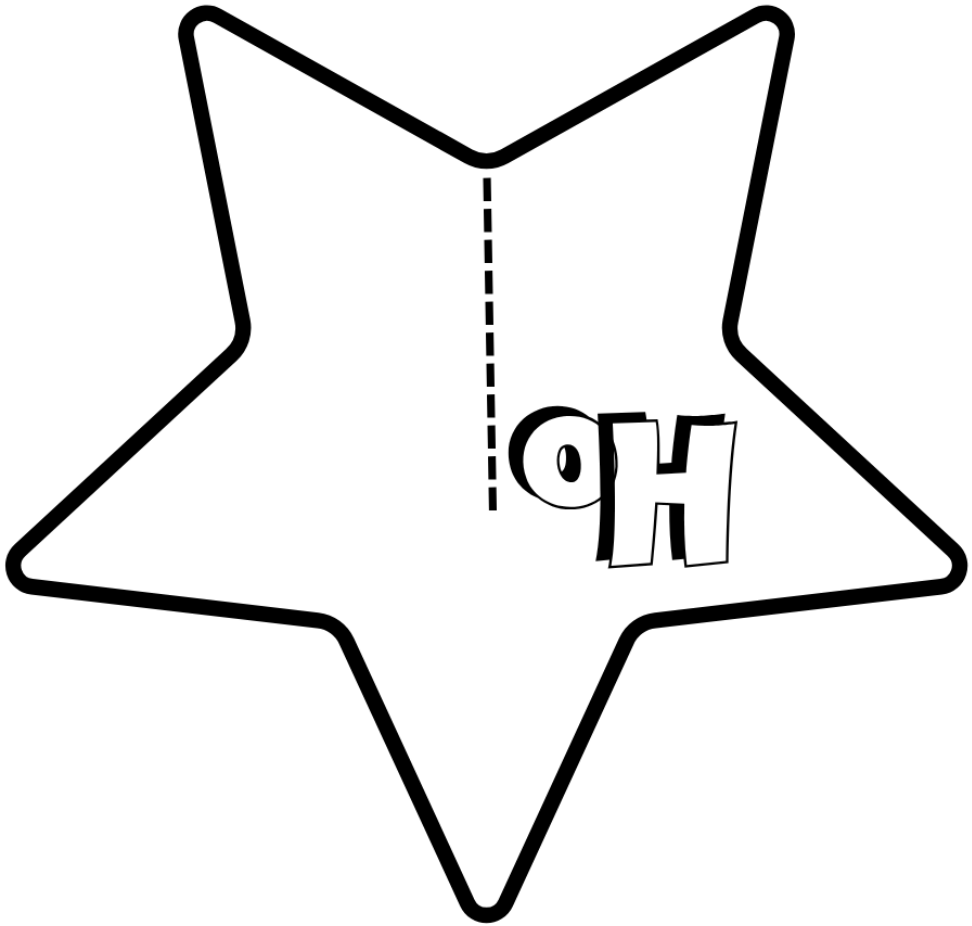
For this activity you will need:

- Copies of star template (on thick paper or card)
- Pencils/pens/crayons
- Scissors
- Sticky tape

Today we are going to make 'Stars of Hope' to remind us of the light and hope we can bring to the world through our prayers, actions, and by sharing what we have. In this way, like the star that led the wise men, we can lead people to Jesus.

Activity instructions

1. Provide each child with a copy of the Star of Hope template. Ask them to cut around the thick black outline. They should be left with two star shapes.
2. On the blank side of star 'HO', ask the children to write down one special hope they would like to pray for (preferably not a hope for toys etc). This could be the hope that Christmas will be happy for their family, the hope that they might spend time with grandparents in the holidays, the hope that every child has a meal to eat each day.
3. On the blank side of star 'PE' ask the children to write down one or more ways they can bring hope to someone this Advent/Christmas e.g. by encouraging a classmate.
4. After they have written their 'prayer' and 'action', children can decorate their stars.
5. When stars are decorated (and dry, if felt tip pens were used), ask children to cut along the dotted line in the centre of their stars. Invite them to then carefully slot the stars together, this will spell out 'hope'. They'll need a little sticky tape to secure the star.
6. Once complete, children could present their 'Stars of Hope' at your school crib, as a sign of their intention to lead others to Jesus by sharing God's love and bringing hope to the world. *Tip: bending the feet of the stars slightly will help them to stand.*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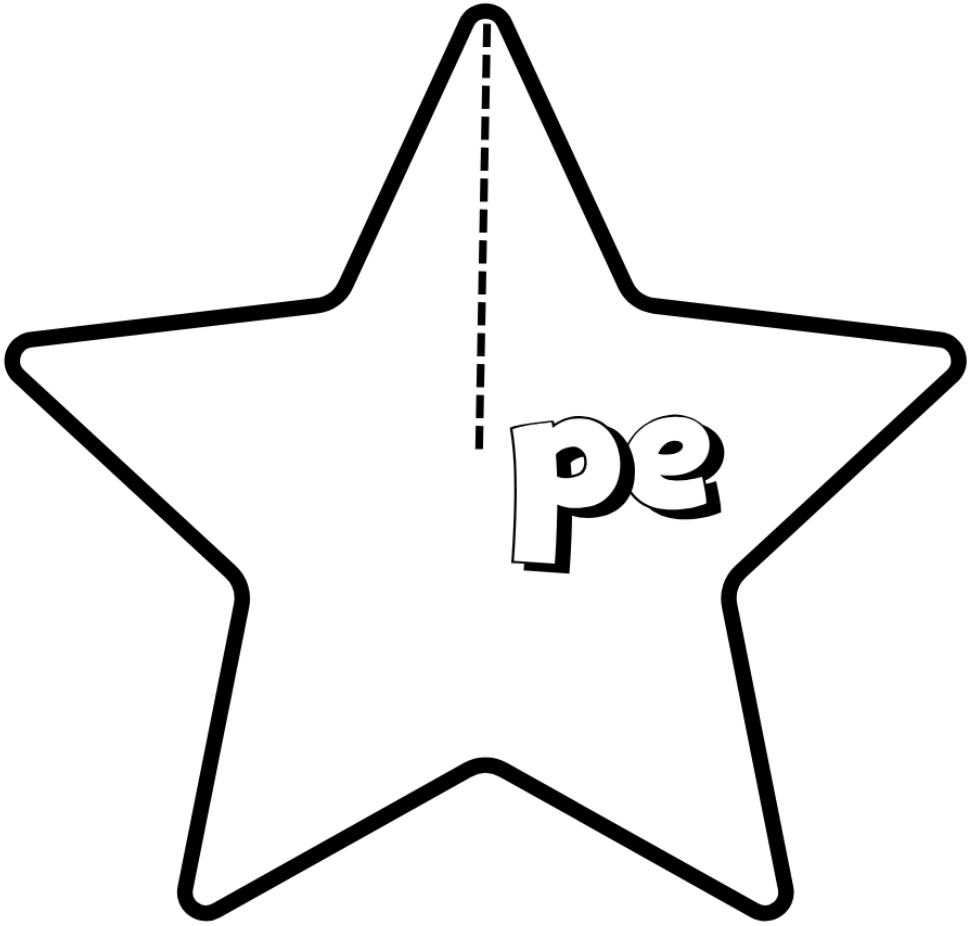
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