

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time. The custom of giving out lighted candles in these services originates from the Moravian Church in Germany in 1747.

Christingles are made up of different parts, each one being there to remind us of something.

- The orange represents the world whilst the candle is to remind us of Jesus because Christians believe Jesus to be the light of the world.
- The red ribbon goes all round the 'world' and reminds Christians that Jesus died because it represents the blood of Jesus.
- The four cocktail sticks could have either of two meanings: the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
- The sweets (or sometimes dried fruit) are to remind us of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.



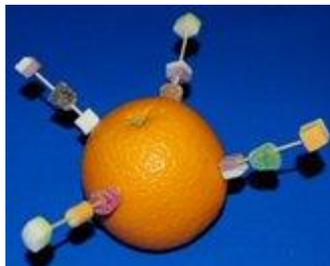
Why not try making one!

You will need:

- 1 orange
- 1 small candle (a birthday cake candle will be fine)
- enough red ribbon to go round an orange with a small overlap (or a bit more for a bow like ours)
- 4 cocktail sticks
- a few sweets or some dried fruit such as raisins or sultanas
- small piece of foil measuring about 4cm by 4cm
- pencil to make a hole in the orange

What you do:

1. Carefully push the pencil into the top of the orange to make a small hole.
2. Put about 3 sweets or dried fruit onto the cocktail sticks.
3. Push the cocktail sticks into the orange in four different directions slightly above the fattest part of the orange and pointing slightly upwards.



4. Take the foil and gently wrap it around the candle at the bottom before firmly wedging the candle into the hole that you had made in the orange. Once in position mould the foil into a shallow cup shape to catch any drips of candle wax.



5. Tie the ribbon round the orange and fasten with a bow, or just overlap the two ends, and secure with a pin to keep it in place.