

Stars Were Gleaming Picture the Manger

Use this sights & sounds activity to visualize the beautiful nativity scene as you review this Christmas song!

Find the full lesson plan, extension ideas, and song suggestions in the blog post here:

<https://www.primarysinging.com/stars-were-gleaming-picture-manger/>

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Activity Instructions:

1. Before beginning this activity, read through the song lyrics. Underline or highlight all the descriptive words for each verse. For the first verse, focus on the words that pertain to the sense of sound. Look for words in the first verse that pertain to sight.
2. Before primary, set the scene by turning your primary room into a manger scene. You might consider dimming the lights and bringing a bright lamp or hanging Christmas lights around the room. You could also set up a wooden manger or bring in some fake hay.
3. Review both verses of Stars Were Gleaming (flip chart here) at the beginning of singing time.
4. Then, sing through the first verse again. This time, listen for words that describe things you can hear. After singing the first verse, have children raise their hand to come write a descriptive word on the board. Then, post the Picture the Manger “sounds” word cloud to compare your list.
5. Repeat this process with the second verse.
6. Share your testimony of Christ and His humble birth. Even though we couldn't be there when Christ was born, we can still enjoy sharing the story of His birth and learn about His life.

Extension Activities:

- Draw the scene! Tape a large sheet of poster paper and bring in some crayons or markers. While you sing, have children come up and draw a nativity scene.
- Create a word cloud for all the actions in the song! What do these words tell us about how people prepared for Christ's birth?
- Bring in a small nativity. Cut out strips of paper and write an action on each piece of paper. Tape each action to individuals in the nativity scene. While you review, choose a child to come pick a character from the nativity. Sing the verse using the action, then choose another movement!

Dreaming



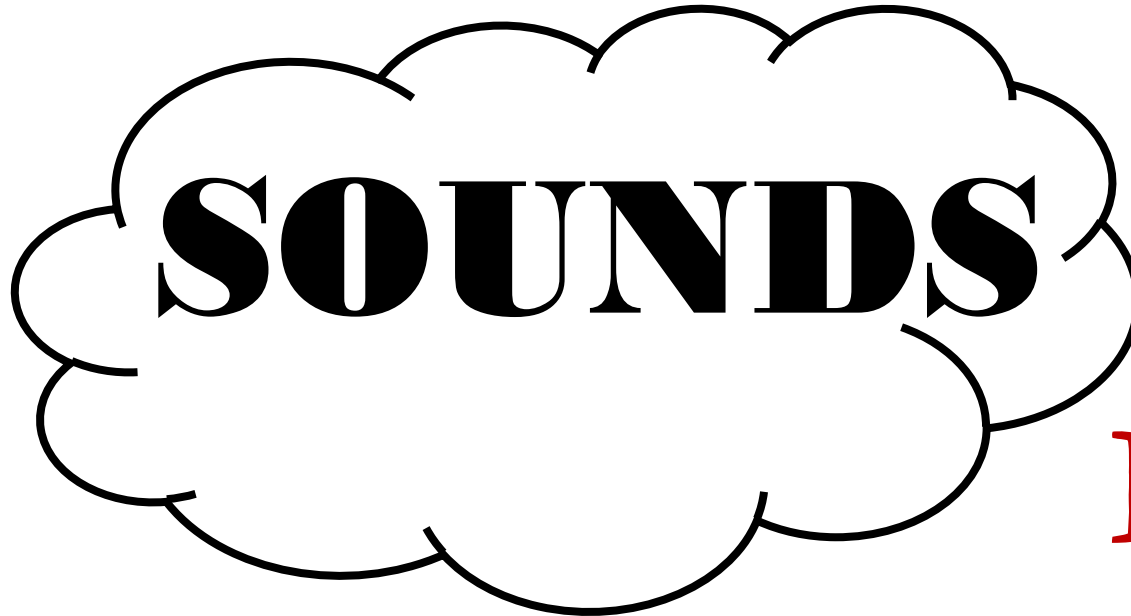
SINGING



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