

The Christmas Story



The Journey



Nazareth to Bethlehem 95km short route

The direct distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem is about 95 km. However, most Jews travelling from the Galilee in the north to Jerusalem and Bethlehem to the south took the Jordan River Valley route. Avoiding Samaria, this would have made the trip longer by about 15 kms.

Read the information above and answer the questions:

1. If the short route was 95km what was the distance of the long route ? _____
2. If 1 mile = 1.5 Km how many miles was the short route to Bethlehem? _____
3. If 1 mile = 1.5 km how many miles was the long route to Bethlehem? _____
4. If Mary and Joseph walked at the rate of **2km per hour** how many hours and days would it have taken them to walk the long route ? _____ hours _____ days
5. If Mary and Joseph travelled by donkey at a rate of **5 km per hour** how many hours and days would it have taken them ?
_____ hours _____ days

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Ask pupils to take an imaginary journey to the town of Bethlehem. Were they excited about the journey or afraid? What did they pack to take with them? What did they eat? What did they talk about? How did they feel when they arrived and there was nowhere to stay?

Research: What is Bethlehem like today? How is Christmas celebrated there?