

The Great Adventre Week 4



The Countdown is On!

I auditioned for the role of an angel in the Nativity play at school. I didn't get it. I auditioned for Mary; didn't get it. So I made up the character of the sheep who sat next to Baby Jesus. (Nicole Kidman)

Almost 800 years ago, on Christmas Eve 1223, St. Francis of Assisi gave the world the very first nativity (well aside from the real one that happened in Bethlehem) in Greccio. [Greccio](#) is a small Italian village about an hour south of Assisi. A few years earlier, Francis had made a trip to Bethlehem. The experience so moved him that he wanted to share it with others.

With the help of a local nobleman, Francis celebrated the birth of Jesus in a cave outside the village. There was a hay-filled manger, an ox and a donkey as well. The practice of live nativity scenes began to spread.

Next, people began creating Nativity scenes with figures made of wood, clay or other material. This allowed them to leave the Nativity scenes up for much longer periods.

Today, Nativity scenes, often featuring a local look can be found in Christian homes throughout the world.

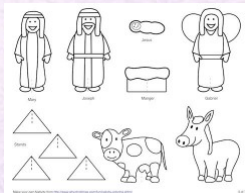
Each year, one of the most anticipated Nativity scenes is the one in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. This year's rendition is quite different. [Click here to visit it virtually.](#)

The two links below will take you to sites featuring many different looks. Which Nativity scene is your favourite?

- * [42 Nativity Sets to Display](#)
- * [Nativity Scenes on Pinterest](#)



[Click here to colour and create your very own Nativity Scene.](#)



The Nativity Scene in Video

[History of Nativity Scenes: History in a Minute](#)

[Greccio: Where the nativity scene originated](#)

The first nativity play, or re-enactment of Jesus' birth, was staged in Greccio, Italy, in 1223. The nativity play is still one of the year's highlights in Greccio.

[The First Nativity Scene](#)

Visit the place of the original Nativity scene in Bethlehem located beneath the [Church of the Nativity](#).

[Worldwide Virtual Nativity](#)

[The Christmas Story](#)

As told by the children of St Paul's Church, Auckland, New Zealand.

[Hush! There's a baby...](#)

Children's Christmas Carol

[Pet Interviews about Christmas](#)

(This one is just funny!)