The Queen of Sheba Gifts King Solomon with Spices

1 Kings 10:10

The Queen of Sheba brought Solomon a gift of spices. Most of the spices were probably mostly used to prepare food. They may have included spices such as cinnamon, dill, mint, mustard and salt. These spices are common today, but at that time they were valuable and rare. The most valuable spices she brought may have included myrrh, frankincense, stacte and onycha. These spices were usually used with sacrifices and for making ointments and perfumes. You might remember that the wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Lord.

The children of Israel believed that the Lord would be pleased with the scents of incense, perfumes and spices. Why might they have thought this?

The following activity might help you to understand. Gather the spices listed below. Then place a drop of glue in the circle next to 'cinnamon' and sprinkle a little cinnamon onto the glue. Continue to do this for spice you can find. As you do it, take time to smell each one. Ask yourself if the scents are pleasing. We tend to believe that what pleases us will please others—the Israelites believed that what was pleasing to them would please the Lord.



To get an idea of what some of the other gifts that the Queen of Sheba brought, research the following items. What you discover might surprise you!

- 1. Frankincense
- 2. Myrrh
- 3. Stacte
- 4. Onycha