



A fancier version of the Nativity scene is a *szopka*. This custom began in 1240 when Queen Kinga asked the children of Kraków and members of the choir to present the Christmas story as a play. The *szopka* is actually an elaborate homemade puppet theatre.

Each year a *szopki* competition is held in Kraków. Some creations are five to six feet tall.

Source: "Christmas in Poland" – An Activity Book by Catherine A. Macaro and Mary Jo Macaro, Ladybug Publications, Temperance, MI