



Religious Focus:

Christianity: Palm Sunday

Year 1

Summer Term



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Christianity. Here they will explore Palm Sunday. The children will recall what happened on Palm Sunday and say what some of the symbols in the Easter story mean. They will recognise that Jesus must be special to Christians.

What? (Knowledge)

Palm Sunday

Christians observe **Palm Sunday** before Easter, celebrating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem. The reason they call it **Palm Sunday** stems from the fact that when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, a large crowd of people in the city spread out palm branches on the ground before him as a sign of his kingship.

Entering Jerusalem	Jesus entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey as his followers had told the people.
Palm Trees	The people cut down palm branches and laid them on the ground for Jesus to travel on.
Leaders of Jerusalem	The leaders of Jerusalem did not like how popular Jesus was; and became angry and jealous.
God's Plan	Jesus understood that this was part of God's plan and that this would be his last visit to Jerusalem

Why is Palm Sunday important?

Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy week for Christians. This is the week leading up to Easter and Jesus's last week on Earth.

Christians feel happy because they are praising Jesus and they're reflecting on his passing from this world a week later.

Traditionally, in churches on Palm Sunday, people are given a cross made from a single palm leaf.

Why was he welcomed like a king?

He is special	Jesus brought a very special message for people
He had done good things	Jesus had helped lots of people and performed many miracles
They wanted his	They wanted freedom from the Roman rulers

Key Question

What happened before Palm Sunday?

What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Jerusalem	Holy city to Christians
Matthew	Book of the New Testaments where Palm Sunday story can be found
Palm trees	Evergreen tree with long feather shaped leaves
Miracles	Extraordinary events that are not explainable
Special	Something better or different from what it usually
Jealous	Resentment for someone else's success or
Praise	Expression of approval or admiration
Symbols	An object or a sign that that represents something

Diagrams, Images and Symbols



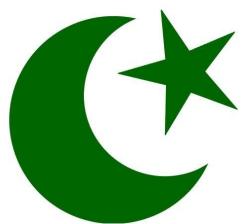


Religious Focus:

Islam: Hajj

Year 2

Summer Term



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Islam. Here they will explore Hajj. The children will remember some of the events that happen during Hajj and start to explain why these are important to Muslims. They will begin to look at the significance of Hajj to a Muslim.

What? (Knowledge)

What is Hajj

Hajj is a pilgrimage performed by Muslims at least once in their adult life. Pilgrims arrive in Mecca to perform a series of rituals

Hajj Rituals

- Visit Kaaba and walk around it seven times
- Run or brisk walk between two mountains called Safa and Marwa
- Go to Arafat and stand vigil for a night on the plain of Muzdalifah
- Camp in Mina and throw seven stones at three pillars, symbolising the devil
- Men shave their hair and sacrifice an animal
- Return to Kaaba and circle it seven times

What do they wear?

Pilgrims wear a cloth called ihram. White cloth is worn by all people to show equality, whether rich or poor.

What does Hajj represent for a Muslim?

Completing Hajj shows commitment to God because of the effort you have put in. Praying in the place of your ancestors helps to build closeness to God. Suffering in the heat, helps show the effort they are willing to put in for God. Hajj helps Muslims to complete one of the 5 pillars of their faith and is a way of following God's will.

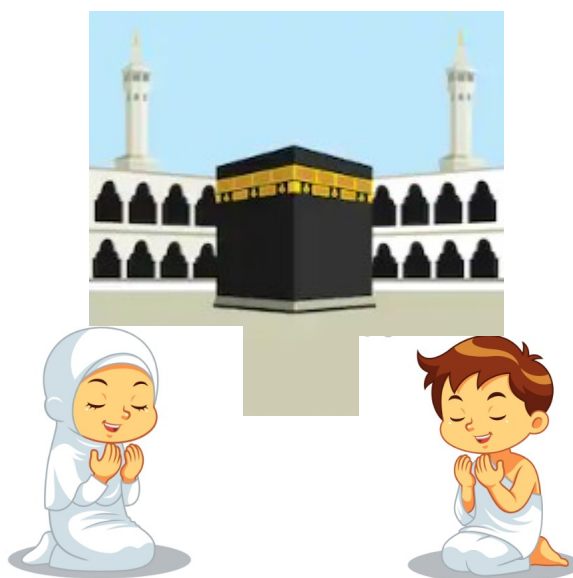
Key Question

In what ways does completing the Hajj make a person a better Muslim?

What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Pilgrimage	A religious journey
5 Pillars	Basic acts in Islam considered mandatory
Mecca	City in Saudi Arabia, Holiest city of Islam
Prophet	Inspired teacher or proclaimer of God
Kaaba	Square stone building in Great Mosque at Mecca
Islam	The religion of Muslims
Muslim	Follower of the religion of Islam
Hajji	Pilgrim who has completed Hajj

Diagrams, Images and Symbols





Religious Focus:

Sikhism: Commitment to God

Year 3

Summer Term



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Sikhism. Here they will explore their beliefs and practices. The children will explain how Sikhs have a range of ways to show commitment to God and understand that some are more significant than others to some Sikhs. They will express their own opinion about which ways may express more commitment than others to Sikhs.

What? (Knowledge)

The Five Ks

Kanga	Symbolises a clean mind and body, since it keeps the uncut hair neat and tidy.
Kara	A symbol of permanent bonding to the faith and restraint and gentility.
Kirpan	A ceremonial sword symbolises spirituality, defence of the weak and good.
Kesh	Uncut hair symbolises adoption of a simple life, and denial of pride in one's appearance
Kachera	, Cotton underpants/short trousers and a symbol of chastity and modesty.

The Amrit Ceremony

The Amrit Ceremony of initiation, or Amrit Sanskar is where Sikhs become baptised, take new names and wear the 5Ks. The Amrit Ceremony is the initiation rite introduced by Guru Gobind Singh when he found the Khalsa in 1699.

Other ways that Sikhs show commitment

- Working hard
- Giving charity
- Praying every day at home and visiting Gurdwara
- Reading the Guru Granth Sahib— the holy book
- Being vegetarian
- Sharing the Langar with the community
- Worship at the Gurdwara

Key Question

What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?

What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Amrit	Baptism ceremony in Sikhism
Khalsa	The collective body of baptised Sikhs
Baptised	Becoming a confirmed member of a religion
Symbols	Objects that represent other things of meaning/
Worship	Expression of reverence or adoration to a God
Langar	A communal free kitchen serving the community
Charity	Helping those less fortunate without payment

Diagrams, Images and Symbols



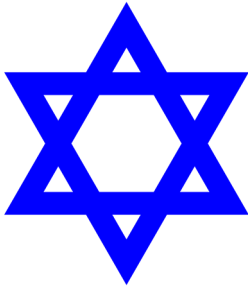


Religious Focus:

Judaism: Beliefs

Year 4

Summer Term



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Judaism. Here they will explore the Passover. The children will identify and describe some of the ways Jews try to do as God asks and explain why they feel it is important to do so. They will explain their opinion as to which may be less or more important for Jews to show their respect.

What? (Knowledge)

Kashrut: Jewish Dietary Laws

Although the details of kashrut are extensive, the laws all derive from a few fairly simple, straightforward rules:

- Certain animals may not be eaten at all. This restriction includes the flesh, organs, eggs and milk of the forbidden animals.
- The birds and mammals must be killed in accordance with Jewish law.
- All blood must be drained from meat and poultry or broiled out before its eaten.
- Certain parts of permitted animals may not be eaten.
- Fruits and vegetables are permitted, but must be inspected for bugs (which can't be eaten)
- Meat (the flesh of birds and mammals) cannot be eaten with dairy.
- Any meat (the flesh of birds and mammals) cannot be eaten with dairy. Utensils that have come into contact with meat (while hot) may not be used with dairy and vice versa. In addition, utensils that have come into contact with non-kosher food (while hot) may not be used with kosher food.

Why do Jewish People follow Kashrut Laws?

Jewish people follow these laws because they are in the Torah. There is no explanation as to why they exist, but they follow them to show commitment to God and

Seder Plate

Beitzah	Roasted, hard boiled egg, represents sacrifice and new life
Karpas	Fresh, green vegetable, symbolises freshness of spring
Salt Water	Symbolises tears and sweat of enslavement
Charoset	Mixture of ground fruit and nuts, symbolises forced labour
Zeroa	Roasted chicken bone, symbolises offerings to God
Maror and Chazeret	Two types of bitter herbs, reminding people of the bitterness of slavery









Key Question

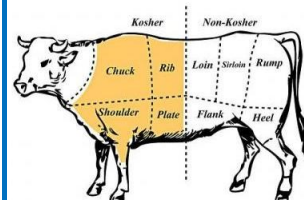
How important is it for Jewish people to do what god asks them to do?

What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Kashrut	Jewish law focussed on suitability of food
Kosher	Food or premises meeting Jewish food laws
Exodus	Mass departure of people
Moses	Jewish prophet who freed the Israelites
Torah	Holy book of the Jewish religion
Seder	Jewish ceremonial dinner for Passover
Israelites	People of Israel
Passover	Jewish festival for the freedom of the
Commandment	Laws sent down from God

Diagrams, Images and Symbols

Kosher	Not Kosher
turkey 	eagle 
goose 	eel 
haddock 	prawn 
salmon 	lobster 



Did You Know?
If packaged food is kosher, it is shown by a symbol on the label such as this one:





Religious Focus:

Christianity: Crucifixion

Year 5

Summer Term



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Christianity. Here they will explore the Crucifixion. The children will consider whether God intended Jesus to be crucified or whether Jesus's crucifixion was the consequence of events during Holy Week, finding supporting evidence. They will share their opinion about the importance for

What? (Knowledge)

Christians' meaning of Jesus's life

Christians believe that Jesus was the incarnation of God sent to the Earth to show people how to lead good lives, to die as a sacrifice to save the Earth (so they could be forgiven) and come back to life again to prove to Christians that they could also have life after death.

Events of Holy Week to explore

- Palm Sunday,
- The Last Supper, bread and wine,
- Judas' betrayal,
- Peter's denial,
- Praying on the Mount of Olives,
- Arrest,
- Four trials (Jewish council, Pilate, Herod, Pilate again),
- Crucifixion,
- Burial in tomb.

Evidence in Scripture

Using Luke's Gospel Chs. 20-23.

Do they think the evidence suggests this was either part of God's plan or a consequence of events that happened during the week:

Did Judas betray Jesus as part of God's plan or because he was jealous and wanted the bribe?

Did Jesus spend time in the temple teaching because it was part of God's plan or because the people asked him to?

Did Jesus get angry in the temple because he was afraid of what was about to happen or because he was angry with the traders for conning people?

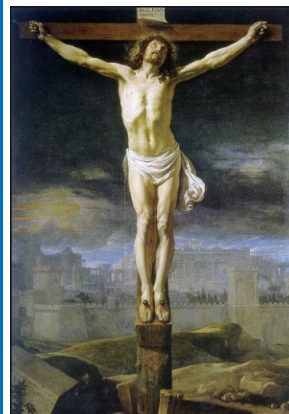
What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Jesus	Son of God, Key figure in Christianity
Judas	One of Jesus's followers, who betrayed him for silver
Crucifixion	Death by being nailed to a cross
Consequence	Action that is the result of something that has happened
Evidence	Supporting material that adds merit to an opinion
Plan	Design for how something will happen
Gospel	The teaching of Jesus Christ
Luke	One of Jesus's disciples

Did Jesus know he was destined to die?

Christians believe God intended Jesus to be crucified and everything that happened was all part of his destiny. Jesus knew He was going to be crucified because at the Last Supper he said that the bread represented His body and the wine represented his blood, and they should remember him because he would not always be with them. He also knew that Peter would deny knowing Him three times and that Judas would betray him. Christians believe this was God's plan because somebody needed to take the punishment for everybody's sins or bad deeds.

Diagrams, Images and Symbols



Key Question

Did God intend Jesus to be crucified and if so, was Jesus aware of this?



Religious Focus:

Islam: Life after Death

Year 6

Summer Term



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Islam. Here they will explore Akhirah. The children will explain how the belief in Akhirah influences Muslim decisions and choices as to how to behave towards God and other people. They will ask questions about life after death and explore how what they believe might influence their life.

What? (Knowledge)

Islamic views on Life after Death

Belief in life after death is one of Islam's Six Articles of Faith. This means it is an essential belief for all Muslims. Muslims refer to the afterlife as 'akhirah'. They believe that, when we die, we remain in our graves until the end of the world. The date on which the world will end is known only by Allah. On this day, everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected and brought before God for judgement. Allah will judge each person based on the way they lived their life. If they have lived a bad life and sinned, they will end up in Jahannam (hell). If they have lived a good life, they will enter Jannah (heaven). Jannah is described in the Qur'an as a garden of paradise, whilst hell is believed to be place of fire. God is merciful and forever forgiving, our good deeds are thought to outweigh our bad ones, meaning sinners have the chance to enter heaven if they reform and repent for their sins.

How does this affect the lives of Muslims?

Muslims believe that Islam is a way of life. They believe there is no God besides Allah and Prophet Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.. The word 'Islam' is an Arabic word which means submission to the will of God.

There are 6 articles of faith: Beliefs in the existence and the ones of God (Allah),

Beliefs in the existence of angels, belief in the existence of the books of which God is the author.

Belief the Quran - Revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, Gospel / Bible - Revealed to Jesus, Torah - Revealed to Moses and Psalms - Revealed to David

Belief in the existence of all Prophets: Muhammed being the last of them, Jesus the penultimate, and the others sent before them.

Belief in the existence of the Day of Judgement

Belief in the existence of God's predestination, whether it involves good or bad.

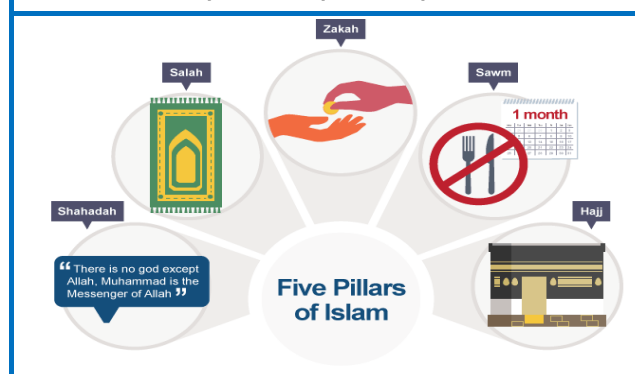
What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Afterlife	Life after death
Choices	Choosing between different possibilities
Sin	Immoral act against divine law
Heaven	Place regarded as the holy kingdom of God
Hell	Spiritual realm of evil and suffering
Qur'an	Holy book for Muslims
Mosque	Place of worship for Muslims
Prayer	Solemn request for help or thanks to God
Fasting	Abstaining from food as a religious observance
Hajj	Pilgrimage to Mecca
Predestination	Fate

The Five Pillars of Islam

Shahadah (Faith)	The Muslim statement of faith
Salat (Pray)	Prayer - Muslims must pray five times a day
Zakat (Charity)	Giving charity to those in need
Sawm (Fasting)	Fasting during day light hours
Hajj (Pilgrimage)	Pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah (Mecca)

Diagrams, Images and Symbols



Key Question

Does belief in Akhirah help Muslims lead a good life?