



Christmas: Exploring the Symbolism of Light

RE
Year 4

Autumn Term

Overview

During this unit, pupils will explore light as a symbol in religious celebrations and practices. Christingle is a traditional festival held during Advent to remember that Jesus is regarded as the Light of the World. The Children's Society has relaunched this practice to encourage families to understand how Jesus can bring light into people's lives, especially children living in dark situations. Pupils will also learn the story behind the Jewish festival of Hanukkah which commemorates a time when the Jews fought against the Syrians and managed to restore the worship of God and the Menorah light in the Temple in Jerusalem.



Topic Vocabulary

Christingle: *a lighted candle, often placed in an orange, symbolising Christ as the light of the world, held by children at a special Advent service*

Christmas: *the annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25th December in the Western Church*

Hanukkah: *the Jewish festival of light*

Messiah: *the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures*

temple: *the Jewish centre of worship in Jerusalem, originally built by King Solomon*

Questions I wonder about Christmas Light:

Enquiry skills and concepts:

In this unit, the pupils will:

- **Investigate** - ask relevant questions; know how to use different types of sources as a way of gathering information; know what may constitute evidence for understanding religions.
- **Reflect** - on feelings, relationships, experience, ultimate questions, beliefs and practices
- **Empathise** - consider the thoughts, feelings, experiences, attitudes, beliefs and values of others; develop the power of imagination to identify feelings such as love, wonder, forgiveness and sorrow; see the world through the eyes of others
- **Apply** - make the association between religions and individual community, national and international life; identify key religious values and their interplay with secular ones

Religious Vocabulary

celebration: *the action of celebrating an important day or event*

Jesus: *the Son of God*

Light of the World: *Jesus, the only one who can light up our lives and lead us out of darkness*

Saviour: *Jesus Christ as the redeemer of sin and saviour of souls*