

Year Group 3	Worldview: Christianity
Strand:	Community & Identity
Key Question:	How does the worldwide Christian family celebrate, worship and mark key events?
Focus of study:	Christmas and Easter around the world Baptism and confirmation Weddings Eucharist

Background information for teachers:

What are the different denominations in the Christian family?

The Christian faith is split into many different denominations (sections / parts), that have formed over hundreds of years. Below is a breakdown of the major denominations:

Percentage of Christian Population Worldwide

- Catholicism: 50.1% - 1.345 billion people
- Protestant: 36.7% - 800-1 billion people
- Eastern Orthodox: 9.4% - 220 million people
- Oriental Orthodox: 2.5% - 62 million people
- Other Christian: 1.3%

Within each of the above denominations is further denominations, For example:

- *Catholicism can include denominations such as Latin Churches, Eastern Catholic Churches and Independent Catholicism.
- *Protestant can include denominations such as Anglicanism, Baptist Churches, Lutheranism, Calvinism, Methodism, Adventism and Quakers.

Christian Worship around the World

How is Christmas celebrated?

The date of Christmas is different around the world:

- *Western Christianity and part of the Eastern churches (such as Ukraine, Greece, Bulgaria and Romania) use the Gregorian calendar and celebrate Christmas day on December 25th. Ukraine recently changed to December 25th due to the conflict with Russia.
- *Most Oriental Orthodox, African Orthodox and part of the Eastern Orthodox Churches use the Julian calendar and so celebrate Christmas day on January 7th.
- *The Armenian Apostolic Church and Armenian Evangelical Church celebrate Christmas Day on January 6th.
- *The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem celebrate Christmas day on January 19th.

Some similarities and differences:

	Western Christianity - Protestant	Western Christianity - Catholicism	Eastern Orthodox
Advent (Before Christmas Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day. *An advent Wreath with four candles is lit each week. *Christingle services. *Nativity scenes. *Christmas Tree. *Priests wear violet or purple. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Advent begins in mid-November. *Orthodox Churches have a period of fasting for 40 days prior to Christmas. No meat is allowed during this period. *People decorating their house and dinner table with a sheaf of wheat called a 'didukh'.
Christmas Eve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Midnight Mass is a special service that can involve: carols, short talk, sharing of bread and wine (communion), readings and prayers. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *There is a large, long church service in the morning. *After Christmas Eve Mass, families will gather for a feast. Ukrainian & Russian Orthodox faiths will have 12 traditional dishes representing the apostles such as

		cabbage soup, baked apples, vegetable stew, bread and Kutia.
Christmas Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Day of Holiday *Church service *Exchanging of gifts *Feast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Day of Holiday *Church service *Exchanging of gifts *Feast *Some will walk in procession to a body of water to bless it.
After Christmas Day	*The Christmas season ends with the feast of Epiphany – 6 th Jan.	

Regional / Cultural differences in celebrating Christmas:

- There are many regional and cultural differences in celebrating Christmas – below are a few examples:
- *In parts of Kenya, houses, churches and streets are decorated with colourful balloons, ribbons and flowers.
 - *In Iceland, some believe that a giant cat known as the Yule Cat, roams the countryside searching for prey.
 - *In Ukraine, they have decorations that resemble spiders’ webs.
 - *In Japan, a new tradition is to have KFC on Christmas Eve whereas in South Africa, fried caterpillars might be a part of the Christmas feast.
 - *In North Korea, Christianity is heavily oppressed and so Christians have to celebrate in total secrecy.
 - *In contrast, some of the biggest celebrations happen in Bethlehem, with numbers over 100,000 people gathering.

How is Easter celebrated?

- Many Christians will celebrate Easter in the following way:
- *Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter and is a time to reflect and prepare for Easter. Some will fast, give to charity or set time aside to study the bible.
 - *Ash Wednesday is the first day of lent and can involve a service with sombre readings, hymns and a focus on penitence.
 - *Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (where the service may involve handing out of palm leaves or crosses) and ends with Easter Sunday.
 - *Easter vigils can be held on the evening of Holy Saturday and involve the symbolic waiting for the resurrection of Jesus.
 - *Easter day services.

Regional / Cultural differences in celebrating Easter:

- *In Kenyan, people will often eat chicken or beef stew for their special Easter meal. In some families, the husband will wash his wife’s feet. On Easter Sunday, some services can last for three hours.
- *In Italy, people will eat eggs and a sweet bread for their special Easter meal. Before Lent, there is a period called Carnevale. There are parades, parties and food. The last day of Carnevale is called Martedì Grasso. They have passion plays that show the Easter story. In Rome, on Good Friday, the Pope leads a torchlight procession. Similar festivities are found in other European Countries and South America.
- *In Greece, from Palm Sunday onwards there are church services every day to remember the last week of Jesus’ life. On Easter Sunday, people will tap red dyed eggs and the person to have the last uncracked egg will have good luck in the following year. Many will eat roasted lamb for their special Easter meal.
- *Australia have an Easter bilby instead of a bunny.
- *In Poland, boys roam the streets sprinkling girls with water or perfume.
- *In Bermuda, people fly kites to symbolise the rising of Christ.

What does Baptism / Christening look like?

Baptism is a sacrament (religious ceremony) through which Christians believe they receive God’s grace and are brought closer to God. John the Baptist was the first Jewish person to use baptism to symbolise the forgiveness of sins. It was John who baptised Jesus. Many Christians believe that baptism cleanses people from original sin. Baptism is practiced by nearly all Christian denominations as it seen as an instruction from God and a way of following Jesus’ example. People can be baptised as an infant (infant baptism) or as an adult (believer’s baptism). The different denominations practice baptism in different ways.

“No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the spirit.” John3:5

Some similarities:

Most denominations of Christianity will include the following in their baptisms: citing the Nicene Creed; denouncement of Satan; wearing white clothes and lighting a candle.

Some differences:

*Orthodox Christians will baptise infants by totally immersing the infant in holy water and they will then cut off part of the baptized person’s hair as a sign of trusting God with the baptized person’s fate while other denominations such as Catholicism and Protestants will only make a sign of the cross on the infant’s head using oil and/or holy water.

*Baptists and Pentecostals believe baptism should only occur once somebody is an adult. The adult will be totally immersed by walking into a pool of water and then fully submerged three times.

What does confirmation look like?

Confirmation is a sacrament, ritual or rite of passage practised by several denominations. The word means strengthening or deepening one’s relationship with God. It enables a person to confirm their faith after they were baptised as an infant.

Some similarities:

*The person being confirmed would attend classes beforehand to fully understand the commitment they were making.

*The sacrament would be held in church and performed by a member of the clergy.

*The person being confirmed would make vows or promises.

Some differences:

*Confirmation is more popular in Catholicism, Anglican and Orthodox Churches, where infant baptism is also performed.

*Anglican confirmation is conferred through the laying of hands while Catholic confirmation also involves anointment with oil.

*Non-conformist Protestant expect their follows to be confirmed and so be fully initiated into the faith.

*Confirmation can be any age, but in Eastern Churches, it is conferred on infants straight after baptism. In the Western Churches, confirmation happens later – generally between 11 and 14 years of age.

*The Eastern Churches refer to confirmation as Chrismation.

What do weddings look like?

Religious definition:

A wedding is a service / ceremony that joins two people together in the presence of God.

Secular definition:

A wedding is a ceremony that joins two people together.

Common elements of a religious wedding could include: hymns, prayers, sermons, exchanging of rings, the making of promises / vows, wearing white, signing a register and flowers.

Some differences:

*Catholic weddings can be in the Mass service or separate.

*Protestant weddings are separate from the service. A Protestant can choose to have a Eucharist Service in the wedding, but this is less common.

*Ultra-Orthodox weddings will see men and women sitting separately

*Orthodox weddings will include: the crowning of the couple with wreaths or crowns; a common cup to drink wine from; a procession around the altar and the wrapping of the priest vestments around the couples hands.

*Some weddings are far simpler such as Quaker weddings.

*Weddings tend to have more variation than other services in Church as the couple can tailor the service in consultation with the church.

<p>What does Eucharist look like? The Eucharist, which is also called the Holy Communion, Mass, the Lord’s Supper or Divine Liturgy is a sacrament accepted by almost all Christians. It is a service celebrating the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, using elements of bread and wine. The Eucharist will involve prayers, readings and the drinking of wine and the eating of bread, which has been consecrated.</p> <p>Different denominations have varying beliefs about the Eucharist: *Catholics believe that the bread and wine become the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. This belief is known as transubstantiation. *Some Christians believe that the Holy Communion is a re-enactment or commemoration of the Last Supper, the Bread and wine are seen as symbolic of Jesus’ death. *Baptists believe the bread and wine are symbols that can be used to bring people together as a community. They use non-alcoholic wine and the bread is offered from person to person. *Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus is mystically present in the bread and wine. *Church of England Christians believe that the bread and wine hold the spiritual presence of the body and blood of Jesus, but do not become it. *Catholics and Orthodox Christians, who place more importance on the bread and wine than other denominations, hold Eucharist’s more often than other denominations, such as Methodists. Catholics would receive communion at least once a week, with some receiving it daily.</p>	
<p>Prior learning:</p>	<p>FSU –What is the church and who goes there? (Christian festivals) FSU - What do people celebrate and why? (Multi-faith festivals)</p> <p>Year 1 - Community & identity – What do most Christians celebrate together? (Christmas, Easter, communion)</p> <p>Year 2 - Community & identity – Why do many Christians meet together regularly and what do they do? (weekly worship, Christmas, Easter)</p>
<p>Building Blocks:</p>	<p>Christians mark key life events in different ways around the world. Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and weddings are all markers of belonging. Certain beliefs inform the way these events are marked by different communities in different places.</p>
<p>Outcomes:</p>	<p>Pupils should be able to name key events in the life of different Christians. Pupils should identify the key festivals that are important to a some Christians. Pupils should be able to name the main Christian denominations. Pupils should be able to name similarities and differences between the way key events are celebrated by different denominations. Pupils should be able to name similarities and differences between the way key festivals are celebrated by different denominations and the effect of cultural influence on this. Pupils can describe what Christmas means and looks like for people from different faiths and worldviews.</p>
<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Individuals from different worldviews and faiths views on how they celebrate Christmas in Britain: https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/christmas/nonchristian.shtml</p> <p>Information about what the Church of England believes: https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe</p> <p>General information about Christianity from the BBC Religion: https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/</p> <p>Video Clips about the Christian faith from BBC Teach: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zimmvk7</p>
<p>Engagement:</p>	

<p>*Show photos or videos of a key event or festival from around the world or a different culture. What questions does it raise? What can you see? What is happening? *Pupils discuss, share and explore key events and festivals in their lives. *Pupils bring in photos and create a timeline, collage or piece of art to show their key events and festival. *Discuss why key events and festivals are important? To them? To their family? To their friends?</p>	
Enquire and Explore:	
<p>*What are some of the important events and festivals in a Christian's life? -Pupils could order them using a diamond 9 activity and explain which event or festival is most important / least important to a Christian and why. They might be able to do this for different Christians. -Pupils could explore various Christian life events and festivals and try to summarise them in one word, one image or one symbol.</p> <p>*What are the different denominations of Christianity? -Pupils could use maps, graphs, data and statistics to name some of the different denominations and to plot where they are most/ least common in the world. They could create fact files about the different denominations.</p> <p>*What life events and types of worship give Christians a sense of belonging? -Pupils could explore how baptism, confirmation, communion and weddings give Christians a sense of belonging. They could research and learn about what is involved in these life events and what is similar / different between the ways different denominations practice these life events.</p> <p>*How do Christians celebrate Christmas &/or Easter around the world? -Pupils could compare similarities and differences between different denominations and places around the world by: Comparing photos, creating Venn / Carroll diagrams, holding silent debates/discussions or creating fact files.</p> <p>*What does Christmas look like for other faiths? -Pupils / visitors could share their own experiences of Christmas. Do they celebrate? Why? Why not? How do they celebrate? -Use https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/christmas/nonchristian.shtml to share people's view on Christmas who have different faiths and worldviews. -Explore what festivals Christians celebrate that are not Christian (Chinese New Year for example). Why? Discuss the cultural element (belonging to a people rather than a faith).</p>	
Evaluate:	
<p>*What do the events /festivals mean to a Christian? Why are they important? Why do non-Christians join in them? *Explore the themes of belonging, incarnation and resurrection. *Why is their variation around the world? *Does it matter if Christians do it differently?</p>	
Reflect and communicate:	
<p>*Which life events do you think are the most important? *Which would a Christian say is the most important? Interview a Christian if possible. *Discuss the question 'Are you still a Christian, if you are not baptised or do not take part in the key events/ festivals?' What makes someone a Christian?</p>	
Assessment opportunities:	<p>Create a mind map or knowledge organiser to see what the pupils have learnt. Make a poster teaching a younger class about Christian life events / festivals. Get pupils to make a presentation to the class on what they know. Create a map show the variations in Christian practices around the world. Pupils write all, most, some Christians believe... statements.</p>
Notes	

