

Year Group Reception	Worldview:
Strand:	Religious & non-religious Worldviews
Key Question:	What do people celebrate and why?
Focus of study:	Community and Identity
<p>Background information for teachers:</p> <p><b>*Please note, the following plans should be adapted to suit the dates of events that year in chronological order. For example, in 2023 the order was as follows: Halloween/All Saints, Bonfire Night and Remembrance, Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas.</b></p> <p>Halloween (31<sup>st</sup> October) should be approached carefully, especially in a C of E school. The aim is not to focus on the dressing up/trick or treating but more on thinking about darkness and light.</p> <p>All Saints (1<sup>st</sup> November) is a Christian celebration of special people who are in heaven, All Souls the following day is an opportunity to remember all those who have died.</p> <p>Day of the Dead (2<sup>nd</sup> November) is a Mexican celebration of special people who have died.</p> <p><b>*Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day are World View or secular celebrations most schools mark in some way each year. There are some lesson and activity ideas to follow if necessary.</b></p> <p>Diwali (date changes but usually in November) is a Hindu festival of light, based on the story of Rama and Sita. The message is of the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.</p> <p>Hanukkah (date changes but usually in December) is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem. The focus is on the story of the small amount of sacred oil, sufficient for one day only, lasting for the full eight days it took to create more. This rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem is remembered by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival, one on the first day, two on the second and so on until the eighth day of the festival.</p> <p>Advent (1<sup>st</sup> December) is a Christian time of anticipation and waiting in preparation of the birth of Jesus. Christians believe Jesus was the son of God and his birth is celebrated on Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup> December) in the Western Church, and 6<sup>th</sup> January in the Eastern or Orthodox Church. Christians celebrate Christmas as a time of light and happiness with Jesus' birth – who Christians believe was born to save people of the world.</p>	
Prior learning:	<p>Who I am</p> <p>Family celebrations</p> <p>Birthday celebrations</p> <p>Some understanding of festivals at home</p> <p>Belonging to a community – school and home</p>
Building Blocks:	<p>People like celebrating the important events in life.</p> <p>Celebrations help people to feel part of a community.</p> <p>Lots of celebrations involve special foods.</p> <p>There are lots of ways to celebrate.</p> <p>There are things that Christians do that show that they belong – Baptism for example, this can include going to church.</p> <p>Christians are people who believe in a God.</p> <p>God came to earth as Jesus.</p>

<p>Outcomes:</p>	<p>Pupils show a simple understanding of Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews.                  Pupils can recognise that some celebrations are religious and others are non-religious.                  Pupils can talk about religions around the world and their festivals.                  Pupils can describe some things that happen in secular celebrations e.g., Halloween, Mexican Day of the Dead, Bonfire night</p>
<p>Suggested Resources:</p>	<p>Discovery RE, Understanding Christianity                  Picturing Christianity – RE Today Publications                  Real People Real Faith: <a href="https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/">https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/</a>                  BBC Bitesize                  CBeebies My First Festivals:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/my-first-festivals">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/my-first-festivals</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpNNF4fB4g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpNNF4fB4g</a> -BBC Teach                  CBeebies Let’s Celebrate:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lets-celebrate">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lets-celebrate</a>  <a href="https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/rama-and-sita">https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/news/article/rama-and-sita</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuMN-60CFoE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuMN-60CFoE</a> – Read aloud story and video</p>
<p>Suggested Book list:</p>	<p>Little Glow                  Best Diwali Ever                  The Story of Hanukkah                  Sammy Spider’s First Hannukah                  Eight Candles for Counting                  Busy Nativity                  Hats of Faith</p>
<p>Lesson 1:</p>	<p>“Light Party!”</p>
<p>Introduce discussion of Halloween – pupils may talk about what they are wearing/doing for Halloween. Explain that many people celebrate Halloween in a different way, using “light” over “dark”. For example, candles inside pumpkins to bring light to the darkness outside – to scare away evil. <i>Did you also know that people who follow Jesus believe that he is the ultimate light and he is stronger than any, and all, darkness. Christians believe that Jesus came from God and said to his friends that he was the Light of the World. Christians see Jesus as a light: guiding them along the way, just like a lighthouse; taking away fear, like a night light; and showing them things that would have been hidden in the darkness, like a floodlight or a torch. Remember that if you are scared of anything, Christians believe that Jesus is the light which is stronger than the scariest thing you can think of, stronger than all the scary things we remember at Halloween.</i></p> <p>Christians celebrate All Saints/All Souls which is a time to think about people who have gone to heaven.</p> <p>In Mexico and some other countries, people celebrate their loved ones passing away and call the day ‘Day of the Dead’. On this day, people take flowers and sugar decorated skulls to the graves of loved ones.</p>	

<b>Activity ideas:</b> Make a light/candle/lantern, sing the song “This Little Light of Mine”, have a light party. Decorate a Day of the Dead skull with flowers and patterns. *See Pinterest for ideas	
Lesson 2:	Diwali
<p>Introduce Hindu Dharma and Diwali - <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/my-first-festivals-diwali">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/my-first-festivals-diwali</a></p> <p>Discuss Diwali as the ‘festival of light’ – offer opportunities for pupils to share their experiences of Diwali at home (if suitable). Read the story of Rama and Sita in a suitable version. Look at pictures of Diwali preparations and celebrations – see resources available on Twinkl and elsewhere.</p>	
<b>Activity ideas:</b> Mendi patterns on hand templates – made from brown paint. The dressing up area could have costumes suitable for pupils to act out the story. Rangoli patterns – offer templates or shapes to make their own, make own using natural materials, with powder paint etc. Use clay to make own Diya (or diva) lamps – decorate by rolling the clay in glitter/sequins. *See Pinterest for ideas	
Lesson 3:	Hanukkah
<p>Introduce Hanukkah as the Jewish festival of lights - <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/my-first-festival-hanukkah">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/my-first-festival-hanukkah</a></p> <p>Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival – light overcoming darkness. Look at pictures of celebration preparation and decorations on Twinkl and elsewhere. Read Sammy spider’s first Hannukah.</p>	
<b>Activity ideas:</b> Make own hanukkiah using handprints, paint, craft materials etc. Make own Star of David collage. *See Pinterest for ideas	
Lesson 4:	Advent
<p>Introduce ‘Advent’ as the Christian time of waiting and preparing for a special time. Talk about what it feels like to wait for something exiting. Christians use advent calendars to countdown ready for Christmas Day. Discuss the advent calendars that pupils may have or seen at home. These can be chocolate, sweets, pictures or toys. Do they have advent items at home? Think about why people count down to Christmas.</p> <p>Introduce advent wreath with candles – see pictures on Twinkl, Google etc. Link to the colour purple being for advent – the colour purple is the sign for preparation in the Christian faith as many Christians are preparing for Jesus’ birth.</p>	

<p><b>Activity ideas:</b>                  Make an advent wreath, calendar, hats etc.                  Use an interactive calendar for your own class advent.                  *See Pinterest for ideas.</p>	
Lesson 5:	Christmas
<p><b>*If you have access to Understanding Christianity, please use 'Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?' resource book and unit plan for reference to this lesson.</b></p> <p>Ask the pupils how they know that Christmas is coming. What have they seen around the town or their homes? What do they think Christmas is?                  Introduce Christmas as – what does Christmas mean to you? Do you celebrate Christmas at home? If so, how do you celebrate? Talk about what Christmas means to Christians, linking to Nativity plays.                  Look at the characters in the Nativity story, read the story and act out the story.  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-christmas-story">https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-christmas-story</a></p> <p>Many Christians celebrate Christmas by putting up decorations. What decorations do you have at home? Link this back to the decorations used at Hallowe'en and/or Diwali. Discuss why people decorate their homes and other places. Talk about use of Christmas lights show light overcoming dark.</p>	
<p><b>Activity ideas:</b>                  Role-play nativity story – costumes in the dressing up corner                  Sequencing the nativity story.                  Singing Christmas songs.                  Make religious Christmas cards.                  Make your own Christmas decorations – paper chains, light chains, baubles etc.                  *See Pinterest for ideas.</p>	
Assessment opportunities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I can talk about world festivals of light including Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.</li> <li>- I can talk about the importance of Christmas time for Christians.</li> <li>- I can talk about ways in which light overcomes dark.</li> </ul> <p>Early Learning Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.</li> <li>● Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.</li> <li>● Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</li> <li>● Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.</li> </ul>
Notes	<p><b>Other festivals/ events you may wish to cover:</b>                  Bonfire Night (5<sup>th</sup> November) – World View celebration based on Guy Fawkes.</p>

	<p>Remembrance Day (11<sup>th</sup> November) –Secular day with some religious overtones, at least in the UK, to remember soldiers who died in wars.</p> <p>Eid (April – dates change) – Islamic celebration ending the end of Ramadan.</p> <p>Chinese New Year – World View celebration of the end of the Chinese year.</p> <p>Easter (changes each year depending on the moon) - Christian celebration of Jesus’ death.</p> <p>Holi (date changes, usually March) – Hindu festival of colour, love and spring.</p> <p>Rosh Hashanah – (September/October, dates change) – Jewish new year celebration.</p>
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