

Knowledge Organiser

Year: 2 Subject: RE Unit: Why is light an important symbol for Christians, Jews and Hindus?

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will study the festivals of Diwali, Hannukkah and Advent and the stories behind them.

What should I already know?

Hinduism

- The Hindu religions has a story that explains how the universe was created (made).
- Hindus believe that Brahma created the world and everything in it and Vishnu looks after the world and the people in it.
- Hindus believe that the answer to questions about the creation stories can be found in their holy books (Vedas)

Judaism

- Jews believe that God created the world and when he finished, he rested.
- Jews believe they have a special agreement with God called a covenant.
- Jews promise to obey God's laws to say thank you to him for looking after them.
- Shabbat is the name of the day of rest in Judaism. It starts on Friday evening and ends on Saturday evening.
- The Torah contains the laws of God.
- All Jewish synagogues keep a copy of the Torah.

Christianity

- The Christian religion has a story that explains how the universe was created (made).
- Christians believe that God created the universe and everything in it.
- Christians believe that the answer to questions about the creation stories can be found in their holy books (the Bible)
- Christians believe that Jesus was sent down to earth by God to save people.
- Christians believe that they can learn from the way Jesus lived his life.
- The cross is the main Christian symbol. It reminds Christians that Jesus died on the cross to save them.
- God loves people so much that Jesus was willing to die to show that love and to help people to be friends with God.

Vocabulary:

Diyas



Menorah



Advent

The period of four weeks before Christmas.

Wreath

A circular decoration used to observe Advent.

Christingle



good

Things that are not evil or bad.

evil

The opposite of good.

truth

An idea that is accepted as being correct.

wrong doing

Behaviour or action that is wrong.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

Hinduism

- Diwali is an ancient festival celebrated by Hindus all over the world. It represents the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. For Hindus, Diwali represents the start of the New Year as well as the beginning of winter.
- Light is important to Hindus because it commemorates the part of the Divali story that describes oil lamps being placed outside homes to light the way for Rama and Sita's triumphant homecoming.
- Hindus believe that the world we live in is not the first or the last universe. For Hindus the universe was created by Brahma, the creator who made the universe out of himself.

Judaism

- Hannukah is a Jewish festival. It reminds Jews of a time 2,000 years ago when the Jews won a battle against the Greeks to practice their religion freely. To celebrate the victory an oil lamp was lit which lasted for eight days.
- Light is important to Jews because it symbolises the lamp that was lit at the end of the battle which miraculously lasted eight days.
- Jews believe that there is a single God who not only created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship.

Christianity

- Advent is the time when Christians remember the time that Jesus came into the world in Palestine 2000 years ago. During Advent, Christians prepare for the celebration of the arrival of Jesus by buying gifts, decorating houses, singing carols and preparing for a feast. Advent is a time to celebrate light amidst darkness.
- Candles at Advent and Christmas symbolises the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus.