

Engage



Explore

Easter: Religious Education Support Materials

Express

These materials support the religious education enquiry process advocated in the local agreed syllabi in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on Easter as a lead into the GenR8 presentation or as follow up.

Engaging and Enquiring

Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Crosses	When do we use a cross symbol/sign? Where have you seen a cross sign recently? Why is the cross an important symbol for many Christians?	Show the children a collection of different crosses and crucifixes. If possible use artefacts, if not use some images. Ask the children to discuss what they show, what they remind them of and what they think they might mean. Link back to the GenR8 sketch that began with crosses. A good resource is: A-cross the World by Martin Payne and Betty Pedley. This tells the stories behind forty crosses from a wide diversity of cultures and Christian faith traditions and sets out to promote discussion and debate on why this single, historical event continues to exercise such influence across the world http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/9780857460745/ The Diocese of Ely have a very useful Powerpoint about the meaning of the cross: http://www.stir-up.org.uk/ChristianitySDUs.html
The Easter Story	What do Christians remember at Easter? What happens in the Easter story? What can we learn about Jesus from the Easter story? What can we learn about the Christian idea of God? What happened in 'holy week'?	Read the story! Make sure you read the Easter story with the children, ideally from a Bible. You might use a reflective storytelling approach or Godly Play to introduce the story. There are also some very good videos of the Easter story available on line, for example: http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zg34wmn This is suitable for KS2. http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-easterperformance this is a wonderful sand art version for young children.

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Concept of Salvation	What does it mean to be a saviour? Can one person save the world? Why did Jesus die? Why is Good Friday 'good'? What is resurrection?	The Diocese of Ely has a number of schemes of learning that are useful for teachers: http://www.stir-up.org.uk/documents/KS1TheBIGStory.pdf http://www.stir-up.org.uk/documents/UKS2Biblehandbook.pdf Link back to the sketch about Barabbas and the 'wanted poster' Ask the children to create a wanted poster, but this time for a saviour. This could be based on what they learn about Jesus as a saviour through both the Easter story, but also through Jesus' life and teachings.
Concepts of atonement and reconciliation	Why do people need saving? Do people need saving from something? Why did Jesus die?	Link back to the GenR8 sketch about the two friends. This is a good illustration of reconciliation and atonement. The Barnabas in Schools website has material for Lent and Easter, but also has an RE project called "WHY NARNIA?" The Narnia stories of C S Lewis, such as "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" can be used to explore Christian responses to key questions in RE about Easter.
Concept of God's love	What is love? What kind of love did God show through Jesus? Are there different types of love? How do Christians show love at Easter?	Link back to the puppet sketch about the meaning of God's love for Christians. The children might look at different examples or expressions of love and consider how close to the idea of 'God's love' it is. e.g loving chocolate, loving a pet, loving a sister... Children may look up verses about love in the Bible. e.g I Corinthians 13, 1 John and 2 John
Concept of crucifixion and resurrection	How do people express the meaning of Jesus death? Is the resurrection true?	The artwork that we recommend for the crucifixion is a painting by John Reilly. It would be helpful to use an on-line version in colour for the children to appreciate and discuss. This prism-like quality of the painting shows the resurrection as part of the crucifixion, which seems to be blurred as if through a veil of tears.
All areas of enquiry linked to Easter	How and why do Christians remember Jesus death? How do Christians celebrate at Easter? Do all Christians celebrate Easter in the same way?	www.request.org.uk has been relaunched with high quality films, interactive features and age-appropriate text. The site is written by, and features, Christians from all main denominations. It seeks to educate and enable teachers and pupils of all ages and abilities to ask and answer the big questions surrounding the beliefs and practices that are most important to Christians. Everything on the site is free.

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Evaluating and Expressing

Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs	What do Hot Cross Buns/ Chocolate Eggs have to do with Easter? What is the best way for Christians to remember Easter? Why celebrate Easter?	Evaluate with the children the meaning of the Hot Cross Bun and/or Easter Eggs based on what they have learned about Easter, and also some of the background about Hot Cross Buns and/or Easter Eggs.. Ask the children to design/create a new food item that could ‘replace’ or ‘redesign’ the Hot Cross Bun or Easter Egg to better reflect the meaning of Easter for Christians. The Real Easter Egg company may also be useful here: http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk
Retelling the Easter story	How do Christians represent Easter? Why was Easter really like?	Ask the children to retell the story imaginatively e.g. using different textures. Consider the different textures of Easter e.g. softness of bread, liquid wine, sharpness of the crown of thorns, hardness of the wood, coldness of the stone, silkiness of the curtain torn in two, the points of the nails....Create Easter texture collages or decorate a large cross with the different textures, possibly dividing the cross into different sections..." Link with literacy and D&T.
The meaning of the Easter story.	Why is Easter important? What does Easter mean to different people?	Create a feely bag with objects in to tell the story. Children choose the objects they think would be most appropriate. Perhaps give them a limit of 5 objects. The children can tell the Easter story using the objects, but also explain their choice of objects and justify them with their classmates. You may want the children to focus specifically on the GenR8 theme of ‘Love’.
The colour of Easter	What colour is Easter?	Ask the children to write a poem called ‘The colour of Easter’. The poem by Coral Rumble may be used as a starting point (see additional resources). Children might consider which colours best express Christian views, and may compare these to their own perspectives. Links might be made to the church year.
Express a key concept through art	How can we express big ideas? What is salvation? What is atonement? What is love? What is reconciliation?	Children might create a design for a new church window based on one of the concepts they have explored such as salvation, love or atonement/reconciliation. The following artist may provide some inspiration: Church window design ‘Easter Sun’ by Stushi http://stushieart.wordpress.com/2008/03/ Alternatively children could create their own ‘stations of the cross’ illustrating what they have learned, and explaining their designs to others.