

## How Do Easter Symbols Help Us To Understand The True Meaning of Easter?

Christianity

<b>Name of Unit:</b> How do Easter Symbols help us to Understand the True Meaning of Easter?	<b>Faith:</b> Christianity
<b>Key Stage In Which This Unit Should Be Taught:</b> Key Stage I	<b>Recommended Year Group (if specified):</b> Year 2
<b>Previous Learning:</b> Foundation Units on Salvation: - Easter Story; Special People. (Depending on where this unit is placed in the school's RE Curriculum Map) Why Is Easter The Most Important Festival For Christians? Why Do Christians Make and Keep Promises Before God?	
<b>AT1 Learning About Religion</b> <b>Focus:</b> Forms Of Expression.	<b>AT2 Learning From Religion</b> <b>Focus:</b> Identity and Belonging.
<b>What This Unit Teaches:</b> This unit covers the different Christian symbols linked to the Easter Story, specifically focusing on the cross and water as symbols of forgiveness and new life. Lesson 4 should take place in the parish church.	
<b>Key RE Vocabulary:</b> Christian; Easter; symbol; cross; Palm cross; bread; wine; crown of thorns; lamb; Passion Flower; hot cross bun; simnel cake; egg; Easter Egg; water; Baptism; forgiveness.	<b>Cross-Curricular Links:</b> Maths – sorting; Computing – opportunity for research; Geography – Crosses around the world; Art & Design – designing and making, opportunities for creativity and expression.
<b>Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development:</b> Appreciation of other faith groups; Religious symbols in other faiths; Easter Service / Collective Worship.	<b>Sensitivities:</b> Concept of death; Pupils from other faiths.
<b>Possible Further Thinking and Extension Activities:</b> Further thinking questions for discussion (following lesson 3): In some countries people cannot wear crosses – how would that feel? What symbols from other faiths are worn? Opportunity for 'Barnabas in Schools' Workshops – Lent & Easter and A-cross the World Possible links with other religions: Islam - Wudu.	
<b>Future Learning:</b> Easter People; Easter Holy Communion; What Happens in Churches at Easter? How Does The Christian Festival of Easter Offer Hope? (Depending on where this unit is placed in the school's RE Curriculum Map) - Why Do People Make and Keep Promises Before God?	



Learning Objectives	AT1	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
<p align="center"><b>Session 1</b></p> <p>Pupils should:</p> <p>AT1: Understand what a religious symbol is, recognise religious symbols of the Easter story and discuss the meaning behind these Christian symbols;</p> <p>AT2: Talk about symbols that are important to them and to others with respect for their feelings.</p>	<p align="center">✓</p> <p align="center">✓</p> <p align="center">✓</p>	<p align="center">✓</p>	<p align="center"><b>Which Story Do the Symbols Belong To?</b></p> <p>Introduction: Play 'Guess the Symbol' with the pupils. Show the pupils some symbols of different organisations / objects that they will recognise. Ask them to name the organisation / object. Look at the school badge as a symbol. Talk about it. Discuss what a symbols is, where symbols are, what has a symbol, what does a symbol do, etc.</p> <p>Main Part of the Lesson: Tell the pupils that the RE Subject Leader / Headteacher has given them their new Bible story to look at, but something strange happened – it's not a book that they have been given, they have given us a bag! Ask the pupils to be detectives and 'unlock' the story by feeling the items in a feely bag to work out what it could be. [Palm leaf, cross, bread, bottle of water, egg.]</p> <p>Recap and sequence the Easter Story using visual resources with the pupils. How do our objects from the feely bag fit in with the story? What are each of these objects symbols of? What does each object symbolise?</p> <p>Activity: In small groups, children then place a selection of given symbols, (real or pictures of them,) on the different sections of the story that they feel it goes with, e.g. palm leaves, bread, wine, cross, crown of thorns, lamb, Passion flower, water, red egg, Paschal candle, etc.</p>	<p>If this teaching unit is taught in Year 1, children will need to have an awareness and understanding of the Easter Story.</p> <p>Hard boiled eggs painted red is a Greek Orthodox tradition for Easter, representing the tomb stone rolled away.</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> 'Guess the Symbol'; 'Feely bag containing objects associated with the Easter Story'; Pictures of the Easter Story to sequence; Symbols associated with the Easter Story.</p>



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	✓	✓	<p>Discuss:                      What do the symbols mean?                      Are they in the correct order?                      Were there any symbols that didn't fit?                      What other symbols would you associate with this Christian festival of Easter?                      (e.g. hot cross buns, simnel cake, chocolate eggs, etc.)</p> <p>List as a class and discuss.</p> <p>Plenary:                      Reflect on all of the Easter symbols discussed. Show images of the different symbols to remind the pupils.                      I wonder which means the most to you? Why?                      Pupils reflect on the different symbols, pick a symbol associated with Easter and draw it in their RE book along with writing about why they chose it, what it represents about the Christian festival of Easter and what the symbol means to them.</p> <p>Extension:                      Think or draw on a Post- It Note and make a class collage. This can be adapted / added to as the topic progresses.</p>	



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<p align="center"><b>Session 2</b></p> <p>Pupils should:</p> <p>AT1: Identify what some symbols stand for, including Christian symbols,</p> <p>recognise that the cross is the most important symbol for Christians and understand why;</p> <p>AT2: Understand how different styles of crosses might help Christians remember what is important to them.</p>	<p align="center">✓</p>	<p align="center">✓</p>	<p align="center"><b>What's The Most Important Symbol from Easter?</b></p> <p>Introduction: Recap with pupils what a symbol is and what the purpose of symbols are.</p> <p>Main Part of the Lesson: Have a variety of symbols available for pupils; include the symbols of Easter from the Easter Story and also other secular symbols that may be associated with Easter and / or Spring. Pupils sort the symbols into 2 groups with the following headings: - Christian symbol in the Easter Story; - Not a Christian symbol in the Easter Story. As pupils sort, they should share the significance of each symbol with each other.</p> <p>Once sorted, discuss: ✠ Which ones were difficult to place? Why? ✠ What part of the Easter Story does each symbol represent? ✠ What does each symbol help Christians remember about the meaning of Easter? ✠ Which symbols are special to Christians? ✠ Which symbol is the most important to Christians? Why? (The cross represents the core Christian belief of Jesus dying on the cross and rising again, to mend peoples' friendship with God - salvation.)</p> <p><i>*Assessment opportunity – AT1 to show understanding of symbols for Christian faith &amp; other faiths.</i></p>	<p>Cross curricular links – maths – sorting.</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Symbols to sort;</p> <p>“A-cross the World” by Martyn Payne. Published: Barnabas in Schools. ISBN: 9780857460745 (See resource sheet.)</p>



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	✓		<p>Walk around the school and see how many different crosses you can see. Record these – take photographs / draw / discuss.</p> <p>Activity: Research different styles of crosses from around the world, e.g. Canterbury Cross, Celtic Cross, Taizé Cross (French,) Central American Cross, South Indian Cross, etc.</p> <p>Each pupil to choose a particular style of cross and make their own personal reproduction of it out of clay or wood, etc.</p> <p>Plenary: Share the different crosses: ✚ How does each cross symbolise the real meaning of Easter? How will each cross help its owner to remember?</p>	







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<p><b>Session 4</b></p> <p>Pupils should:</p> <p>AT1: Understand the importance of water for Christians and how it is used as a Christian symbol, particularly relating its symbolism to Easter;</p> <p>AT2: Reflect on how water symbolises a fresh start for Christians and how they can make a fresh start in their life.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><b>How Does the Symbol of Water Relate to Easter?</b></p> <p>Introduction: Play a sound effect of water, possibly with a visual image, and ask the pupils to describe what it makes them think of. What do we use water for? Washing, cleaning, drinking, etc. How precious is water?</p> <p>Main Part of the Lesson: How does the symbol of water relate to the Easter story? Water is used for washing, cleaning, getting rid of dirt and making things new again. Water is a symbol of being made clean of forgiveness. Christians believe that Jesus died and rose again to make right all the things that people had done wrong, to mend people’s friendship with God. Christians believe that God forgives them and brings new life. The way that people become a Christian is by being Christened / baptised. Water is used at a person’s baptism and it symbolises washing away their old life and sins and cleanses them in baptism for a new life as a Christian with God. Many people get baptized on Easter Sunday. Also on Easter Day in church, Christians, (particularly Anglicans and Roman Catholics,) are encouraged to renew their baptism vows, the promises that they made or that their parents and godparents made for them when they were baptised. These promises are about trying to be a good Christian and believing and trusting in God.</p> <p>In many churches, water is blessed and the holy water is often sprinkled onto the people as a sign of new life and the promise of this from God.</p>	<p>If possible, lesson on location at local church, or invite vicar to school.</p> <p>*Pupils will particularly focus on Christian Baptism when they study the teaching Unit: “Why Do People Make and Keep Promises Before God?”</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Water music / video for Introduction, (available on YouTube;)</p> <p>Vicar / other clergy; Church;</p> <p>Learning grid with Easter symbols.</p>





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	✓	✓	<p>Visit the church and ask the Vicar / other clergy to explain about the symbolism of water for a Christian, particularly in its use at Easter. Include baptism. (However please note Point To Note *) Focus on explaining about the renewal of baptismal vows as they are said in the Easter Day Service and the sprinkling of holy water.</p> <p>Pupils could also look around the church for other symbols associated with Easter and the vicar could be asked to support this.</p> <p>Think and reflect: A theme from Easter and baptism is a fresh start. What things can we think of that we have done in the past which we could do differently in the future to give us a fresh start? Pupils to record in their RE books their fresh start and decorate with the symbol of water.</p> <p>Plenary: To conclude unit on the symbols of Easter, show pupil a learning grid with Easter symbols on it. Model rolling the dice to find a square, (along and then up,) pupils then talk about what is in the box from their learning within this teaching unit.</p> <p><i>*Assessment opportunity: Write down pupils' comments.</i></p>	

