

RE SCHEME OF WORK
KEY STAGE 2
Mid-term planning

Year 4: Unit 2

Term: Autumn 2

Year:

Does the Christmas narrative need Mary?

Key Concepts: God; Virgin Mary; Christ; Icon

Learning Objective: to explore the role of Mary in Christian life and in the Christmas story in particular

Brief Background knowledge for teachers

Mary, the mother of Jesus is a prominent figure in Christian religious art, but is only mentioned in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Most of the narrative about Mary is found in Luke's version. Chapter 1 focuses on her role in the Christmas narrative. Most Christians believe that Mary conceived the infant Jesus by the Holy Spirit, after a visit from the Angel Gabriel. Her sister Elizabeth was also carrying a miraculous child and Mary visited her. The prayer offered by Mary in Luke 1:46-55 during her visit has become the Magnificat, said or sung in many traditional church services. The journey to Bethlehem, the birth, the visit of the shepherds and the Magi, followed by the subsequent flight to Egypt are the main features of the narrative as told by Luke. Mary is often depicted as wearing blue, because the colour is associated with holiness and royalty, it being one of the most expensive dyes to create. Her willingness to be used by God is one of the characteristics that is most praised, particularly in the Catholic Church, which places a greater emphasis on the role of Mary than the protestant tradition. Many icons in the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions feature Mary; statues of her are carried during religious festivals particularly in Europe and South America. She has been represented in poetry as the queen of heaven; the feast of the assumption on the 15th August celebrates her being taken bodily into heaven. These ideas are not contained in the canon of scripture, but are followed by millions of Christians worldwide.

Expected Learning

Pupils will know that Mary is considered to be the mother of Jesus and that God was his father, although Mary was married to Joseph; they will know the key events from Luke's gospel that involve Mary; they will have thought about their significance to the Christmas narrative; they will be able to interpret some of the symbols usually connected with Mary; they will know that different denominations vary in their treatment of Mary and they will have considered their own response.

Developing

Pupils will recognise Mary as the mother of Jesus in artistic interpretations and be able to recount the key events of her role in the Christmas story; they will know that there are prayers and festivals connected with Mary, but that not all Christians hold the same views.

Excelling

Pupils will know which beliefs about Mary are consistent with Biblical material, and which come from different sources; they will evaluate her contribution to the Christmas narrative and wider Christians belief; they will compare the role of Mary to other female religious figures.

Engage:

- Give out three pictures of Mary (**without saying who it is**). Maybe make one a Black Madonna or clearly from another culture. Ask pupils to look for similarities and differences. Who do they think the pictures are of? Why? What symbols can they see? Look at the symbols associated with Mary and compare to the Hindu symbols learned last unit.
- What, if anything, do images and symbols of Mary tell us about the Christian view of God? Are they different or similar to Hindu murtis?

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Enquire & Explore: (AT1)

- What do the children know about Mary and her role in the Christian story?
- Read the stories of Mary in the Bible (annunciation, visit to Elizabeth, journey to Nazareth, birth of Jesus, flight to Egypt, Jesus in the temple) focusing particularly on whether she is a key to the Christmas story.
- Look at the Catholic celebration and reverence of Mary particularly in other countries – in annunciation, assumption day and the “hail Mary” concept. Freeze frame parts of Mary’s life, communicating her thoughts on her role as the Mother of Jesus.
- Look at other religions views of women and mothers (Egyptian views of Isis, pagan Gods, Hindu goddesses etc.) and compare that to the Christian views.

Evaluate: (AT2 Impersonal)

- How important do Christians feel Mary is in the Christian story? Do all Christians feel the same about Mary? Why or why not?
- Do these stories show us that Mary is holy? How should she be treated?
- Are any of these stories more important than the others?
- Is Christianity just copying other faiths in having a female figure?

Reflect & Communicate: (AT2 Personal)

- Are the mothers of other famous people considered important? If so, how do the pupils feel about that? Is it right to treat them as special? What image do they have of Mary? What do they think she might have looked like? Do they think she is important to the Christian story? How do they respond to various festivities that they have explored?

Evaluation:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What went well? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even better if: |
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Some suggested resources:

- Similarities and differences sheet with images of Mary, including a black Madonna if possible
- Bible stories featuring Mary – annunciation, visit to Elizabeth, birth, visit of the magi, flight to Egypt, Jesus at the temple
- RE Today Publications: Developing Primary RE – Christmas
- Information about Catholic festivals – of Assumption, Annunciation etc.
- Christmas cards with pictures of Mary
- www.request.org.uk website – people and festivals section.
- Information about female figures in other faiths

RE SCHEME OF WORK
CLASS RECORD SHEET
Assessment opportunities & activities

Year 4: Unit 2

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Some pupils will have made more progress and be able to use a developing religious vocabulary to:

- Describe and show understanding of the relationship between the stories of Mary in the Bible and the beliefs of Christians about Mary
- Show understanding of the impact of these beliefs in the experience of Christians from different denominations
- Compare the veneration of Mary in some Christian circles to the use of Murtis in Hindu worship
- Ask questions about the place of Mary in the Christian story
- Suggest answers to their own questions about Mary, and some that Christians might give

Most pupils will be able to use an increasing religious vocabulary to:

- Link Bible stories to Christian beliefs about Mary
- Link symbols for Mary to beliefs about her
- Describe the impact that Mary has on the lives of many believers, referring to the festivals that are celebrated
- List some of the ways different churches respond to Mary
- Identify their own response to Mary and her importance to the Christian story
- Ask important questions about Mary and suggest answers that Christians from different denominations might give

Some pupils will not have made as much progress and will be able to use religious words and phrases to:

- Retell a story about Mary, suggesting a meaning the story might have for a Christian
- Identify a Christian belief about Mary
- Suggest meanings for some of the symbols associated with Mary
- Identify some differences and similarities between Mary and Hindu Murtis
- Respond sensitively to stories about Mary and her place in the Christian story
- Make up some good questions to ask a Christian about Mary or one of the festivals connected with her