

Artefacts and artistic interpretations

Exploring artefacts and/or artistic interpretations can help pupils engage with, and understand aspects of religion from different perspectives. These alternative experiences do not rely solely upon the teachers' understanding or ability to explain.

The use of artefacts and/or artistic interpretations can be used to help pupils develop specific RE skills:

- recognise and name various features of religions, symbols, beliefs and religious expressions;
- make links between beliefs and sources, including stories, art, text and symbols;
- interpret a variety of different forms of religious, moral and spiritual expression;
- express their own and others' views and responses to ultimate questions and ethical issues;
- describe the impact of beliefs and practices on individuals and communities;
- explain how and suggest why differences in belief may be expressed in different ways.

Planning learning using artefacts and/or artistic interpretations

When used as a stimulus to compare with and/or reflect on their own beliefs and values, artefacts/artistic interpretations can be used to support pupils' *learning about* religions/beliefs and develop pupils' *learning from* others.

When planning to use artefacts/artistic interpretations in learning, teachers should be clear about the intended learning outcomes. This will influence *how* they are used.

Artefacts and artistic interpretations can be used in a variety of teaching and learning activities and used in many ways, depending on the skills the teacher wishes to develop, for example:

Item	Engagement	Activity
Candle	To aid reflection, or as a focus.	Sitting quietly all focusing on a 'stimulus' item to promote calm, allowing individual reflection and thinking on an ethical issue/ultimate question.

Item	Engagement	Activity
	To promote knowledge and understanding through demonstration.	Teacher explanation using a candle about why Jesus is believed by Christians to be 'the light of world'
	As a stimulus for discussion, to promote critical/philosophical/ enquiry thinking.	Using a range of artefacts/artistic interpretations/visual images to create/express their own and others' views on ultimate questions/ethical issues, such what is as 'evil and good' and why they might be described as dark and light.
Seder plate	To promote knowledge and understanding through demonstration/role play.	Identify the key symbols on the plate, teacher explanation of what they represent, eat foods as follow the order of service.
	As a stimulus for discussion or activity to promote critical/philosophical/ enquiry thinking	Discussion about fate, punishment, faith in God and persecution.
	As a stimulus for discussion to promote critical/philosophical/ enquiry thinking.	Having revised symbolism and how and when it is used, and considered the implications of these beliefs on the lives of Jews today.
	To promote understanding through kinaesthetic activity and to enhance interpretation skills.	Create own 'Seder plate': what symbols would they include in response to the ultimate questions/ethical issues considered?
Picture depicting the sacrifice of Ishmael/ Isaac	To create an impact, stimulate excitement or other emotion and/or reflections	Teacher shows and explains picture. Pupils identify/explain features of picture using text.
	To promote understanding through kinaesthetic activity and to enhance interpretation skills Ishmael.	Re-enact a story from picture, such as the sacrifice of the son of Abraham/Ibrahim, or use as a 'freeze-frame' or 'hot seating' exercise to understand what faith and sacrifice meant to believers and those involved in the story Ishmael.
	As stimulus for own creative writing/production.	Having learnt the features and beliefs/concepts of the story, create/retell their own modern day version/examples.

Some suggested artefacts and visual images:

Religion	Suggested Artefacts	Possible images
Judaism	Dreidels, chanukiah and candles, Seder plate and matzah cloth, mezuzah case and copy of scroll, shofar, grogger, Shabbat candles and sticks, Challah cloth, Kiddush cup, Havdalah candles, holder and spice box, tefillin and case, yahrzeit candle, copy of Torah scrolls, yad (pointing stick for reading Torah), kippah, tallit and bags, tzitzit.	Western Wall in Jerusalem, Synagogues (both Ashkenazi and Sephardi) from around the world, family Shabbat meal, Jews living in different cultures.
Christianity	Different types of cross (palm cross, plain cross, crucifix), chalice, altar wafers, hymn book, various bibles, witness pin, icons, rosary beads, priests' stole, baptism and advent candles, advent calendars and wreath, christening shawl.	Christmas, Easter cards, depictions of the crucifixion and events in the life of Jesus, Christian buildings, key Christian figures.
Islam	Qur'an translation, Qur'an stand, prayer mat, Tasbih/Subha prayer beads, clothing for Hajj, prayer cap, compass, woman's head scarf.	Photos of key Islamic places: Kaaba, mosques, printed instructions of how to pray, assortment of celebration/festival cards, samples of calligraphy and Arabesque design.
Sikhism	Each of the 5 K's (Kara – bangle, Kangha – wooden comb, Kachera – undershorts, Kesh – uncut hair, Kirpan – short sword) and a turban, nishan Sahib flag, mala beads, copy of the Sundar Gutka (prayer book), chauri (fan), statue or image of Guru Nanak, copy or excerpts from Guru Granth Sahib.	Images of the 10 Gurus and Amritsar, images of European gurdwaras and Sikh followers.

Religion	Suggested Artefacts	Possible images
Humanism	Fossil, a Happy Human lapel badge or brooch, a programme (order of service) for a humanist funeral, a book (to symbolise intellectual side).	Images of followers, quotes and images of famous Humanist idea-holders e.g. Darwin.
Hinduism	Puja set with Aum and lights/candle, mala (prayer beads), arti lamp and tray; copy of Bhagavad Gita text, statues/images of baby Krishna 'beds', Ganesh, Hanuman, Lakshmi and other Hindu deities including the Trimurti.	Diwali cards, images of celebrations, images of Hindu temples and key figures including Mahatma Gandhi.
Buddhism	'Shrine kit': flowers and vase, Buddha statue/image, candles or butter lamp, cloth, bell.	Images of Buddha, images of monks and nuns, Zen gardens and other Buddhist practices, lotus flower, images of stupa.