**Awareness Mystery Value (AMV)**

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| **Key Stage 2 Unit 7: How do people express their beliefs and identity? [C&D]****This unit explores how religions and beliefs employ signs, symbols and the arts to express aspects of human nature** |
| **About this example**This mini-unit of four lessons is intended to provide a set of learning activities on *community cohesion* for a **Year 3/4 class**. It could be used in RE lessons or as part of a ‘creative curriculum’ approach where a number of subjects, including RE, contribute to pupils’ understanding of issues related to ‘community cohesion’. It was written by Dave Francis (NATRE) and Colline Smith (St Mary’s CofE VA Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset).The focus here is on the role and voice of women within different communities and aims to engage pupils through activities that will promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. |
| **Where the example fits into the new primary curriculum**This example may be connected to the ‘historical, geographical and social’ and ‘understanding the arts’ areas of learning.It may also be used as a ‘stand-alone’ sequence of learning within a discrete unit of learning for RE. **Essentials for learning and life.** This sample scheme will support pupils to learn how to: listen attentively, talk clearly and confidently about their thoughts, opinions and ideas (Literacy); investigate and communicate (learning and thinking skills); work collaboratively towards common goals (social skills). |
| **Prior Learning**Pupils will be familiar with some key ideas in Literacy, such as how to hold a discussion on issues and dilemmas, and will have some experience of and practice at being able to put forward a point of view and say why things are important, giving reasons. In PSHE, they will have explored questions of identity and feelings, self-awareness and assertiveness. In addition, pupils will have explored some different ways in which people live within their own environment.Pupils will have explored various meanings to different people of the cross in Christianity, e.g. different types of cross in the local church.Pupils will have had some experience of and practice at speaking and listening in small group and whole class situations, e.g., describing emotional responses to a variety of stimuli.  |

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| **Featured Religions / Beliefs** | **Areas of Enquiry** |
| Christianity | **AT 1: Learning ABOUT religion and belief** | **AT 2: Learning FROM religion and belief** |
|  | A. Beliefs, teachings and sources |  | D. Identity and belonging | 🗸 |
|  | B. Practices and ways of life |  | E. Meaning, purpose and truth |  |
|  | C. Forms of expression | 🗸 | F. Values and commitments |  |
| **Key Question: How do people express their beliefs and identity?** |
| **Supplementary Questions** |
| 1. How do people express their beliefs, identity and experiences using signs, symbols and the wider arts, e.g. art, buildings, dance, drama, music, painting, poetry, ritual, and story? Why do some people of faith not use the arts to represent certain things?
2. How and why are ‘universal’ symbols like colour, light, darkness, wind, sound, water, fire and silence used in religions and beliefs?
3. Why are the arts really important for some religions and beliefs?
4. How might I express my ideas, feelings and beliefs in a variety of different ways?
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| **Resources**The following texts and e-resources have been used for the sample learning activities below. Teachers are, of course, free to vary the resources suggested here to suit their pupils. * Blank outline of a cross.
* Coloured markers or paints.
* Vivid pictures of the Salvadoran countryside, and its people, customs, churches, plants, and animals can be found in the photo gallery of a native Salvadoran at <http://gocentralamerica.about.com/od/elsalvadorguide/ig/El-Salvador-Photo-Gallery/>
* Salvadoran cross, real or sketched, e.g., [www.ecva.org/exhibition/cross/pages/salvador1.html](http://www.ecva.org/exhibition/cross/pages/salvador1.html)
* Some Roman Catholic perspectives on El Salvador: <https://maryknollsisters.org/about-us/our-work/>
* For the BBC’s country profile on El Salvador see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1220684.stm>
* Music from El Salvador, e.g: Por Eso Luchamos (This is why we are fighting) by Cutumay Camones. Spotify link: <https://open.spotify.com/album/6m2ibuulYT4EY3hjSFYAXN?si=KttNZGJyTV25iVo_7RAfCw&dl_branch=1> YouTube options: [www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=por+eso+luchamos](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=por+eso+luchamos)
* Information about El Salvador for children: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/el-salvador>
* Some more useful data: <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/where-we-work/el-salvador>
* Teacher created PPT slides with several nice images of Salvadorian crosses and discussion questions: [www.tes.com/resource-detail/download/6431237](http://www.tes.com/resource-detail/download/6431237)
* Secondary based but informative resources about Romero: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Romero-secondary-resources>
* CAFOD resource sheet: <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/26254/190761/version/5/file/HFD15%20El%20Salvador%20Guide%20page%204.pdf>
* Martyn Payne and Betty Pedley, ‘A-cross the World’. Book exploring variety of crosses from different cultures and Christian faith traditions worldwide, e.g. from [www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/school-and-church-teaching-resources/religious-education/across-the-world/](http://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/school-and-church-teaching-resources/religious-education/across-the-world/)
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| **Learning Outside the Classroom**Pupils should have had the opportunity to visit a local church, in particular to examine different symbols including crosses and to hear from at least one Christian point of view, e.g. from the minister at the local church, the significance of some of the crosses familiar in English churches.Pupils could also consider from an artistic perspective, some of the symbolic meanings contained within religious art.They could apply their learning in discussions about the role and image of women in society with friends and family members.They could apply their learning by proposing and taking action in a school or class council meeting. |
| **Expectations: ‘C&D’ are the focus areas of enquiry identified on the previous page****By the end of this sequence of learning:** |
| **All pupils:** | **Most pupils (majority class expectation):** | **Some pupils:** |
| * use religious words to describe some of the different ways in which people show their beliefs
* compare some of the things that influence me, with those that influence other people.
 | * compare different ideas about God and humanity
* describe what some of the arts in the tradition being studied might mean to believers
* describe some of the different ways in which different Christians show their beliefs, including through the arts, worship and helping others
* provide good reasons for the views they have and the connections they make.
 | * use a wide religious vocabulary in suggesting reasons for the similarities and differences in forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression found within and between religions
* give their own and others’ views on questions about who we are and where we belong and on the challenges of belonging to a religion
* explain in detail what inspires and influences them and why.
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| **Key Question: How do people express their beliefs and identity?** |
| **Supplementary Question: (c) Why are the arts really important for some religions and beliefs?** |
| **Learning objectives** | **Suggested activities for teaching and learning** | **Outcomes** | **References and notes** |
| **Lesson 1**Pupils will:* reflect upon the underlying meaning of different forms of expression;
* consider how people express information, ideas, feelings and beliefs in a variety of ways.
 | 1. Show pupils a selection of decorated cross from El Salvador, either from an [online source](https://www.ecva.org/exhibition/cross/pages/salvador1.html) or actual ones if you can. Ask pupils to identify all the different images they see and to say what they find most interesting about the designs.Explain that these designs are on a Christian cross and are very brightly coloured because the artists believe that the cross is a sign of hope even in the middle of terrible situations. Ask why that might be.Ask pupils to look at the designs again and identify the images of hope and enjoyment of life. Ask them to discuss in pairs:* How are the lives of women depicted?
* What pictures of hope and enjoyment of life would they put in a picture?
* Why might expressing your ideas in artistic forms sometimes be better than putting it into words?
* Why might people who are suffering still believe in God?
* Are there different ideas about who or what God is?
 | Pupils:* learn that for Christians, the cross is a sign of hope because it symbolises Jesus’ resurrection after his death by crucifixion.
* learn that, for Salvadorans, images of the sun, flowers, animals, men, women and children, doves, angels, homes etc represent reminders of the good things in life.
 | **Key vocabulary:**signs, symbols, poverty, oppression, hope, faith, Archbishop, nun, community cohesion, reconciliation.**Notes:**The people of El Salvador are largely Roman Catholic Christians. It is a relatively poor country whose people have suffered many conflicts in recent times. Christian bishops, priests and nuns have even lost their lives standing up for the poorest people in El Salvador, but the people have faith that the future will be more just and peaceful. Pupils might consider why they have this faith.Note that many of these crosses have the life of women portrayed as a major idea. |
| **Key Question: How do people express their beliefs and identity?** |
| **Supplementary Question: (c) Why are the arts really important for some religions and beliefs?** |
| **Learning objectives** | **Suggested activities for teaching and learning** | **Outcomes** | **References and notes** |
| **Lessons 2 & 3**Pupils will:* learn about aspects of El Salvador’s history and the influence and activities of some religious groups on behalf of the poor and refugees.
* consider the value of being part of a community.
 | 2 & 3. Tell pupils about the suffering of the people of El Salvador and about the Maryknoll Sisters and Archbishop Oscar Romero – victims of the ‘death squads’. Spend some time explaining the background to El Salvador’s history and some stories around the Maryknoll sisters and the life and death of Oscar Romero. Share some of the difficult statistics about life for children in El Salvador from [www.savethechildren.org/us/where-we-work/el-salvador/](http://www.savethechildren.org/us/where-we-work/el-salvador/) What questions do children have? Ask pupils for their ideas about the character of the Sisters and Archbishop Romero – make lists of character words, e.g., brave, courageous, foolish, helpful, and choose three that they think are the most appropriate. Ask the pupils to keep their chosen words safe as they will be used later in their own art work.Ask how having a like-minded friend can help pupils to put forward their point of view in situations such as a school council meeting?Ask pupils how they think that being part of a community, like the Sisters, can help in situations of oppression. Can they give examples?Explain that, for many Christians, as well as other people living in difficult situations, art can be really helpful. They can use different artistic forms to express their beliefs. For example, they can use symbolism to express their beliefs that there is strength in sticking together in a community and that God can bring happiness out of suffering. It is often the case that women’s voices are not heard in places where decisions are made about people’s lives; art can provide a medium for women’s voices to be heard.Ask the pupils work in pairs or threes to talk about, and then write down, some reasons for the importance of artistic expression for people who are suffering. Remind them if needed of how art can express the troubles and joys they are experiencing in daily life, encourage people to stick together in difficult times and to communicate a hopeful message about the future. | Pupils:* respond to the history and stories of suffering in El Salvador and make comments about the character of those who stood up to violence, including the Maryknoll Sisters.
* learn the importance of building trust into a community to enable people to express their views and opinions.
 | See the [Maryknoll Sisters Website](https://maryknollsisters.org/about-us/our-work/) for information about the four churchwomen who were killed in El Salvador in 1980. |
| **Key Question: How do people express their beliefs and identity?** |
| **Supplementary Question: (d) How might I express my ideas, feelings and beliefs in a variety of different ways?** |
| **Learning objectives** | **Suggested activities for teaching and learning** | **Outcomes** | **References and notes** |
| **Lessons 4 & 5**Pupils will:* reflect on what gives meaning to their lives and consider why God is important to many people as they create crosses of hope using symbols and images from their experience;
* think about the key question: art and being human.
 | 4 & 5. Ask pupils what gives them hope and enjoyment in their lives. Supply pupils with large pieces of paper with an outline of a cross. Ask them to use their ideas on what gives them hope and enjoyment to create a rough design for their own Salvadoran style crosses. They might include words as well as pictures and include ideas on how men and women, boys and girls, can all get on well together.Encourage them to make use of the character words, e.g., brave, courageous, foolish, helpful, they used in the previous lesson, or to decide on some new ones to put into their designs.They should then produce a ‘best’ version, together with an explanation of their artwork showing how it links to the ideas explored so far on El Salvador.If the equipment is available, take digital photos of finished results and display on the whiteboard. Invite pupils to comment on their own designs and on what they liked about those of others.  | Pupils:* reflect upon the underlying meaning of different forms of expression on the crosses: signs and symbols, artistic expression, universal symbols, use of vibrant colour;
* produce their own artistic responses to the ideas of being human and being in community;
* write explanations of what is included in their designs, showing links between what they have learnt and their own ideas and experiences.
 | Sensitivity needs to be shown when asking pupils to share their ideas about God. Members of some faiths might find it inappropriate, for example, to ask pupils to draw pictures of God. There are also sensitivities in some faith traditions about the depiction of people and animals in ‘religious’ art and it may be more appropriate to ask for more ‘symbolic’ designs.Point out some similarities and differences between the lives of Salvadorans and those in Britain. |
| **Key Question: How do people express their beliefs and identity?** |
| **Supplementary Question: (d) How might I express my ideas, feelings and beliefs in a variety of different ways?** |
| **Learning objectives** | **Suggested activities for teaching and learning** | **Outcomes** | **References and notes** |
| **Lessons 6 & 7**Pupils will:* reflect on themes of hope and reconciliation;
* explore ways of expressing what is important to them and other people and brings meaning and hope to their lives.
 | 6 & 7. Explain the meaning of ‘community cohesion’ and ‘reconciliation’ to pupils. Explain that these words are important in many religions and beliefs. Provide some background to the importance of these terms amongst many Christian groups and perhaps in one other worldview. Ask pupils why they think this may be. Point out that small groups get strength from sticking together but that there are advantages too, of co-operating with other groups within any community: working together for the common good. Explain how interfaith groups work together on join projects to create more social harmony.Reconciliation is also important if disputes between people are not to be prolonged forever. Can pupils think of examples where disputes go on and on until someone apologises for any wrong-doing or mistakes and then friendships can resume again?Jot down some key points on the board. Tell pupils that as well as the art they have been looking at, another way of expressing important ideas and feelings artistically is through poetry. Remind them of any poems they have come across in English lessons and point out how ideas can take on a special meaning and become more emotional and powerful through poetry. Ask pupils to draft their own short poem or simply a collection of words such as those on the board to go with their cross designs, entitled, ‘Being Human’.The repetition model would work nicely here:The important thing about being human is….It is/it means….It is/it means….It is/it means….But the important thing about being human is…. (repeat first line).Encourage them to produce a ‘best’ version of their poems for class display. Some of the poems and the earlier artwork could feature on the school website as examples of work being done in RE. | Pupils:* reflect upon the needs of poor and oppressed people;
* produce their own ideas on the struggle for peaceful (cohesive) communities.
 | **Vocabulary:**community cohesion, reconciliation**Notes:**Use, e.g., ‘Power of Reading’, and ‘Talk for Writing’ approaches, e.g., looking at their own pictures, jotting down connected words and phrases and linking together in a poem. |

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| **RECORD OF ATTAINMENT** |
| **Key Stage 2 Unit 7: How do people express their beliefs and identity? [C&D]** |
| **By the end of this sequence of learning:** |
| **[Developing] Students:** | **[Secure] Students:** | **[Exceeding] Students :** |
| * use religious words to describe some of the different ways in which people show their beliefs
* compare some of the things that influence me, with those that influence other people.
 | * compare different ideas about God and humanity
* describe what some of the arts in the tradition being studied might mean to believers
* describe some of the different ways in which different Christians show their beliefs, including through the arts, worship and helping others
* provide good reasons for the views they have and the connections they make
 | * use a wide religious vocabulary in suggesting reasons for the similarities and differences in forms of religious, spiritual and moral expression found within and between religions
* give their own and others’ views on questions about who we are and where we belong and on the challenges of belonging to a religion
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