

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

Year 2

Autumn (ii)

What Christian and Jewish Celebrations do we know?

Substantive Knowledge - There are many similarities between the festivals of Christmas and Hanukkah (being together, gift giving and eating special food).

Light is Symbolic in many Religions

Light is linked to being able to see. Many religions show light as a symbol to show religious people the way through life. It is symbol of life and energy.

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah and Christian festival of Christmas both use light as a symbol of hope and continuing life.



Hanukkah and Its Rituals are important to Jews

Hanukkah in the home



give gifts



share food with family



play special games

Throughout the eight days of Hanukkah, Jewish families celebrate by eating latkes (fried potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (fried jelly doughnuts). Notice a theme? Traditional Hanukkah foods are often fried because they're reminders of the oil in the legendary Hanukkah story. They also exchange presents and sing songs.

Hanukkah in the synagogue



Lighting the Menorah (eight candles)



Extra prayers



Special readings from the Torah

Christianity and Its Rituals are important to

Easter - marks the resurrection of Jesus and the joyful end of Lent. It is the oldest Christian festival and eggs are exchanged to symbolise the start of life.

Christmas - celebrates the birth of Jesus. However there is no proof to say this was the actual date. Presents are given and received to celebrate the gift of Jesus.



A Christingle is lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Father Christmas to arrive.



Giving Gifts



The Christmas Tree



Church



Christmas Dinner



Father Christmas



Christmas Dinner in Nigeria



Christmas Dinner in Poland

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

Light is symbolic; it shows religious followers the way to God.

A menorah is a special candelabrum which is lit during Hanukkah. It is known as the Festival of Lights.

Christmas is the festival of Jesus Christ's birth.

Core Vocabulary

Light – a source of energy which takes away the darkness

Symbolic – an idea, feeling, emotion, or other concept is used to show something else

Rituals – the same way of doing things

Menorah - candelabra used in Jewish religious rituals