

RE Today: socially distanced learning in groups for 5-14s

B. 30 leaves, 30 pieces of RE knowledge

These flexible suggestions for teachers provide outdoor or socially distanced learning ideas for groups of pupils in the 5-14 age range. As schools follow demanding guidance about distancing, these ideas can be used creatively with your pupils to provide good RE out of doors or in larger indoor spaces, making a wide range of learning opportunities possible. The activities can lead on to individual work at desks, but bring some energy, movement and interaction from RE to the class. These are flexible ideas - you can tailor them easily to your needs.

Engaging socially distanced learning

This is one of a series of separate session ideas which we are making available in this learning pack, via the NATRE website.

Each one involves some engaging learning out of doors, or in larger indoor spaces, some thinking all together and some opportunities to take the learning and record thoughts and ideas individually afterwards through good RE writing activities. We hope these ideas will flex across the 5-14 age range.

The activities in this pack are:

- A. The chalk circle of enquiry (you can use masking tape on an indoor floor instead)
- B. 101 words, 30 leaves, 30 pieces of RE knowledge – a religious knowledge memory test. In which a 20 or 30 piece factual account of three religions is tested and pupils count their scores with leaves or stones, then retest to improve.
- C. The walk of faith-exploration. In which a faith community's practice is understood at increasing depth, example from Islam
- D. The shouted story. In which a faith story in 30 pieces is related by pupils in groups of 8-20 in size.
- E. The Golden Rule in forms from different communities. Explored through movement and decision making.
- F. Feeling sad? Feeling happy? Feeling brave? Feeling miserable? Four squares on the floor to identify your responses, linked to some sacred texts.
- G. Bring It All To Me – a musical lesson derived from the Psalms, holy text for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people.

30 leaves, 30 pieces of RE knowledge

A religious knowledge memory test, in which a 20 or 30 piece factual account of a religion is tested and pupils count their scores with leaves or stones.

For this simple knowledge-building quiz-based learning idea, you need pupils to have 30 leaves (or whatever tokens they can use – card squares, paper clips, stones – something that doesn't need disinfecting). Pupils need two plates, jars, chalk circles or other markers so that they can move a token from one to the other every time they get a correct answer.

This is a nice outdoor lesson. It can also be done at desks and tables, or on the floor in a large space. 5 steps:

1. Make sure the pupils have all collected 30 tokens to do their scoring
2. Round 1: Teacher (or a couple of chosen pupils) can be quizzer, and ask the questions on page 3, finishing each one with '5-4-3-2-1' On '1' all the children can yell their answer. If they yelled the right answer (some public info here, but they have to play fair too) then they can move a leaf / token to their 'winners enclosure'.
3. Next get the pupils to read the '101 Words' sheet (page 4 below) – give them a very short time to take in the information, and then put the sheet face downwards. Each paragraph about the three religions is exactly 101 words. These 101 words do have all the answers in them.
4. Round 2: Now do the quiz again in the same fun way as the first time. At the end of 'round 1' when the 30 questions have been asked give pupils a short time (3 minutes?) to review the information sheet.
5. Discuss: did pupils' scores improve? What did they learn? Can they remember the thirty facts now? How will they be sure to remember them?

Variations

Use your own information sheets with more details about the RE you are studying (this could be one particular religion), or a quiz based on a video they have watched, etc. Get pupils to create the quiz sheet – can they catch the teacher out? Vary the rules and format, or the role of the quizzer.

Sample questions about three religions (these start easy and get a bit harder)

1. What is the festival called where Sita is rescued by Rama and Hanuman? Diwali
2. Which religion has a Mosque as a place to worship? Islam
3. What is a Christian holy building usually called? Church
4. Which festival remembers the story of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus? Christmas
5. If you don't eat during daylight in Ramadan, what is your religion? Muslim
6. What is a minaret? Tower on a mosque for calling people to pray.
7. What is the name of a Hindu holy building? Mandir (some Hindus say 'Temple')
8. What holy book is split into the Old Testament and the New Testament? Bible
9. Which religion uses the word 'Allah' for God? Islam
10. What is a diya? A lamp used by Hindus at Diwali
11. Which religion says God is 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit'? Christianity
12. Which religion has the deities Ganesh, Shiva and Lakshmi? Hinduism
13. What religion often welcomes a new baby with a baptism or Christening?
Christianity
14. Which country saw the beginning of Islam? Arabia / Brazil / Palestine / Ireland
15. Which country has most of the world's Hindus living in it? America / England / India / South Africa
16. Which country did Jesus live in? France / Israel / Pakistan / Sri Lanka
17. Which famous Christian is the leader of the Catholic Church? Pope Francis
18. What is the festival at the end of Ramadan called? Eid Al Fitr
19. What do Christians call the day they remember Jesus getting crucified? Good Friday
20. Which Hindu festival is celebrated by people throwing brightly coloured powder?
Holi
21. What is the main symbol of the Muslim religion? Moon and star
22. Which famous Hindu was called 'Mahatma', meaning 'Great soul'? Gandhi
23. The symbol called 'AUM' comes from which religion? Hinduism
24. What is the main symbol for the Christian religion? Cross
25. What are the different chapters of the Muslim holy book called? Surahs
26. How many times a day do Muslims pray? 5
27. What is the right word for a statue of one of the Hindu deities? Murti
28. Which religion has a daily worship using a flaming lamp called Aarti? Hinduism
29. If you said the Christian 'Lord's Prayer', what would the first sentence be? Our Father in Heaven...
30. Which famous Christian wrote 13 Bible books, including a famous poem about love? Saint Paul

In class work, let pupils use the information sheet. Can they design three web pages for three websites, one about each of the religions, which use the facts they have been remembering to introduce the religion?

One hundred and one words

Information about three religions: read and remember as fast as you can...

The Hindu religion began thousands of years ago in India and it is the hugest religion there still. There are now over 400 mandirs in Britain, where Hindus worship. These temples have murtis of deities inside. They are often decorated with the famous Aum symbol, and some Hindus go every day to worship in the Aarti ceremony. Lots of Hindu festivals are celebrated. At Diwali, the story of Rama and Sita is remembered with little diva lamps. At Holi, children throw coloured powder at each other and the grown ups! The most famous Hindu in the world might be Mahatma Gandhi.

The Arabic word for God is Allah, and the religion of Islam began in Arabia, over 14 centuries ago where the Prophet Muhammad lived. Many British Muslims worship by saying five daily prayers. They are called from a minaret to go to the mosque. The biggest prayer at the mosque is usually on Friday. Minarets often have a moon and star symbol on top of them. Every year, at the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid Al Fitr, as the Quran says. Different chapters or Surahs of the Quran explain how Muslims should live and tell them about the 5 Pillars.

Jesus' story is told in the part of the Christian holy book called the New Testament, which has lots of writings by Saint Paul in it as well. Jesus' birth in Palestine is celebrated on Christmas day, and his death on a cross is remembered on Good Friday. Christians believe Jesus came back from the dead at Easter because he was the Son of God, and they believe in the Holy Spirit too. Jesus taught all his followers to pray to God: 'Our Father in Heaven'. One of today's most famous Christians is Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church.

Follow on task: give trios of pupils these three paragraphs and ask them to design three webpages to introduce each of the religions, using the information in the 'One Hundred and One Words'