

YEAR

1

UNIT A



CREATION

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's appreciation of themselves and the world around them as part of God's creation. It also helps the children to reflect on the need to thank and praise God for his many gifts.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning in nursery and reception of the story of Creation.

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- prior knowledge of the story of creation
- some knowledge of God creating the world
- the ability to identify things that they are thankful for.

SKILLS

Observation, sequencing, drama, song, psalm writing, prayer writing.

VOCABULARY

Creation, Bible, Psalm, Harvest, St. Francis of Assisi.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will recognise different parts of God's Creation and be able to show appreciation for it. Know and be able to sequence the story of creation. Be able to write prayers for use in a harvest liturgy associated with God's Creation. Know the story of St. Francis of Assisi.

Less able children will identify different things in creation that God has made and know some parts of the story of creation.

More able children will show a greater appreciation of the creation of the world. Identify the need to care and look after God's Creation.

A.T.1 A.T.2

1a 1b
1c
1d

1a 1c
1d

2a 2a
2b 2b
2c 2c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.
R1 Hear and explore in Scripture praise of God in creation and the story of creation as God's work.

L6 Hear scripture passages which reveal God's love, e.g. psalms of thanks.

L8 Hear about and explore signs of God's care and blessings in creation and human life.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Children to collect artefacts, pictures and symbols from the created world.
- Hold a class "show and tell" session. Children to talk about what they have brought to school and how it reminds them of the world in which they live and the different things they find in the world.
- Discuss with the children what they think are the most important things in creation and what would happen if we didn't have certain things.
- In the Bible we find an important story which reminds Christians that God has made everything in the world.
- Read with the children the story of the creation of the world. Invite the children to join in with different parts of the story.
- Hold a guessing game where the children have to remember the different things that God made on the different days.
- Sequence the days and events in chronological order.
- Re-enact the story of creation in drama and song.
- Create a class litany of thanks. Each child names the part of creation they most value (e.g. Thank you God for ... the sunshine because, etc.)
- Write each part of the litany on different coloured strips of paper to use in class liturgies.
- Show children, through pictures and produce, that this is Harvest time and that this is a time for celebration and giving thanks to God.
- Introduce the word "Psalm" to the children. Explain that these are special songs and prayers in the Bible that thank God for his special gifts.
- Share with the children Psalm 8 and 139. Enlarge to A3 so that the children can share the text and begin to recognise the elements of psalms.
- List some of the things that God has made. Why are they important?
- What does Psalm 139 tell us about human beings?
- How long has God known us?
- Provide a writing frame for the children to structure their own psalm thanking God for the gifts of his creation.
- God has made so many different things in the world that need caring for and treating with great respect. Ask the children to think about ways in which we can work to care for creation and other human beings.
- Reflect with the children about people and parts of the world that don't have the gifts of God's creation that they enjoy. Link this with some work about Mission Together and CAFOD.
- Celebrate a Harvest Liturgy or Festival using the litanies and psalms created by the children.
- Share with the children the story of St Francis of Assisi and his love of God's creation.
- Read the story of St. Francis preaching to the birds of the air.
- Why do you think St. Francis spoke to the birds of the air?
- What does this story tell us about the world God has made?
- St. Francis wrote a special song praising God for everything he had made in the world: Sun, Moon, Fire, and Water. Share with the children a version of the song.
- Write a class version of St. Francis' song praising God for the different things that God has made. Begin each verse with the words, "Be praised my Lord."

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.

R1 That praise and thanks are expressed in prayer, e.g. creation psalms.

- Know and sequence the story of Creation.
- Understand the story of creation through drama and song.
- Understand more fully what God has created in the world.
- Know that Christians praise God in prayer for the world he has created especially at Harvest time.
- Be able to write a creation psalm.

L6 That God's love is a source of joy and trust.

L8 That God's blessings in creation are shown in many varied ways; God's love is shown in the gifts and qualities of every person.

- Know the story of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for God's creation.
- Be able to think of reasons why we rejoice in the gifts of creation.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Explore the Jewish festival of Sukkot as a celebration of the harvest. This is a celebration that Jesus would have taken part in.

Make a class display of the artefacts from creation that the children have brought into school. These might be used during collective worship.

Children to find out some of the things their families enjoy about the world God has created and to include these in the special liturgy.

Children to hear more about the story of St. Francis of Assisi.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1: 2-4 – The Story of Creation

OTHER LINKS

Multicultural links: Look at the celebration of the Harvest in the Jewish religion.

Invite parents to attend a special creation liturgy with the class.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Hold a special liturgy celebrating some of the work in this topic.
- Use some of the creation psalms in Collective Worship.
- Learn some songs and hymns praising God for the gift of creation.
- Prayers for people who do not enjoy all the gifts of God's creation.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?