

Jigsaw RE Knowledge Organiser

This knowledge organiser is a guide, offering key information to point the teacher in the right direction as to the beliefs underpinning the particular enquiry.
The summaries must not be taken as the beliefs of ALL members of the particular religion.

Religion /Worldview: Christianity	Enquiry Question: How significant is it that Mary was Jesus’ mother?	Age: 10-12 Autumn 2
This enquiry investigates the reasons behind the choice of Mary as Jesus’ mother and how her conception of Jesus was due to the Holy Spirit.		

Core Knowledge (see also background information documents)		Link to other aspects of belief	Personal connection / resonance
<p>Christians celebrate the arrival of Jesus as God’s Son. God chose a Jewish young woman called Mary, who was engaged to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his earthly son and sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. This is called the annunciation. Mary agreed to allow this to happen and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Mary was a virgin, so this was a miracle.</p> <p>This is the Christian concept of “incarnation”: God becoming man or literally being “made flesh”. A common misconception is that this event was done to Mary without her consent, or with very little choice. However, the Christian belief in free will precludes this and in response to the angel, Mary says “<i>Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.</i>” (Luke 1:38)</p> <p>Some Christians believe the virgin birth is symbolic of humanity and divinity joining. Jesus needed to be human and divine in order to bring salvation, so what better way to show this than by Jesus having a human mother and a divine father.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trinity: consubstantial relationship between God (the Father), God (the Son) and The Holy Spirit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do I think it is possible that somebody could live without doing anything wrong ever in their lives? Would this make them very special? Why? Why are certain people significant or special to me?
Key Terms and definitions	History/Context	Impact on believer/daily life	Spiral curriculum link
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incarnation: God becoming man Fiat: Mary’s “Yes” to the Angel Gabriel when asked if she would be the mother of Jesus. It literally means “let it be done” Annunciation: the visit of Angel Gabriel to Mary to ask her to be Jesus’ mother and her agreement. 	<p>Both the Anglican and Catholic churches believe that Mary was sinless herself. A 2005 report from theologians from both churches states: <i>“In view of her vocation to be the mother of the Holy One (Luke 1:35) we can affirm together that Christ’s redeeming work reached back in Mary to the depths of her being and so to her earlier beginnings.”</i></p> <p>So, Christians believe that not only was her conception of Jesus miraculous, but her own life had been without any wrong-doing in order to prepare her for the question that God would ask of her, to be the mother of Jesus.</p>	<p>Some Christians pray to Mary because they believe she is significant. They may pray their own prayers or special ones written for Mary e.g. the Hail Mary or the Hail Holy Queen. They believe Mary can intercede for them with God as she was a human being and mother of his son.</p>	<p>This enquiry links with all previous Christmas units. Discussion around Mary’s virginity and Jesus’ conception may ensue which may require some explanation in accordance with your school’s RSHE policy.</p>
Home learning ideas/questions: Which people are particularly special or significant to us as a family? Why?			