



Using light as a symbol

- *Why is light important in everyday life?*
- *How is light used in the festival of Hanukkah?*
- *How is light used in the festival celebration of Christmas? Advent, Christingle, St Lucia*

Additional material is available on our Year 5 lesson page.

Lesson ideas

- Brainstorm - ask the children to think of as many different kinds of light as possible. Work back through the list classifying light by underlining with different coloured pens:

RED - warning lights

YELLOW - celebration lights

GREEN - guiding lights

or

- Where does light come from? List the sources and uses of light. You could show a variety of light sources eg. a torch, a candle, a picture of a lighthouse and a pair of sunglasses Ask pupils "Which is the odd one out?"
- Think about the good feelings of finding the light switch, sunshine, firelight glow, candles, twinkling fairy lights.
- Why do we need light? To help us find the way.
- What is a shadow? Look at shadows. Play 'Guess the object by its shadow' on an OHP / Using angle poise lamps make own silhouette pictures - draw around pupils facial profiles, cut out and mount.

Art links

- Pupils paint various tones of colour or pictures using light/dark colours or cover page with yellow wax crayon then a layer of black crayon - scrape star/light shapes to reveal yellow colour underneath or use wax resist technique to paint the night sky or create 'light' pictures by drawing on dark paper with glue and overlaying with metallic embossing paper (available from WRAP) or paint 'light' pictures with glass paint onto acetate.
- Ask "Is anyone afraid of the dark?"
- Read 'Can't You Sleep Little Bear?' big book by M. Waddell (ISBN 0 7445 3691 X).
- Ask pupils to imagine they are in a very dark place and describe it.
- Listen to dark/light music e.g. The Prince of Egypt 'When You Believe' or Bach's Easter Oratorio
- Divide page in half and draw light v dark pictures.

- Give pupils outline of a light bulb on an A4 sheet. Write describing words for 'light' (eg. sparkle, bright, shimmering, blazing) inside the bulb and words to describe darkness around the edges of the page.
- Write light poems.
- Read story of Hanukkah (see Year 5 page) and investigate how Jewish families celebrate the festival today.
- Watch BBC's 'Pathways to Belief' Jesus video which begins by describing Jesus as a light. Christians believe God sent Jesus to show people the way - so they call him 'The Light of the World'.
- Look through old Christmas cards for designs/pictures with light in them. Martin Luther was believed to be the first person to place lights (candles) on an indoor Christmas tree in his German home in 1540. He did it to show that God was welcome in his home. Today candles have been replaced by fairy lights.

Christingles

- Explore the symbolism of Christingles.
- Many churches in Britain hold Christingle services during Advent ('Advent' means 'coming') as part of their preparations for Christmas. Children usually make the Christingles before the service begins.
- Click here for information on [St Lucia Day](#) from the Why Christmas? website.

Light Poem - by Nina Cook

Light
Bright
White
Sudden
Flooding the darkness out of sight
Amazing
Blazing
Shining
Glittering, sparkling
Shimmering, glistening
A river of diamonds
Scattering beams of silver
Across the darkness of night

Sun - fun
Sky - high
Joy reflected a million times
in every sparkling mirror of a raindrop
The day has won the victory over night
Everything is lit by light!

The Trust has more light poems available - e-mail us at the address on the Home Page