



Trinity: 3 is the magic number

Title: Trinity

Key Concept: Trinity

Religion: Christianity

Key Question: Why is the day of Pentecost important to Christians?

Duration: approx 6 hours

Back Story Although the term “Trinity” is not actually used in the Bible, <http://www.christianity.co.nz/trinity6.htm> shows how many verses in the Bible relate to 3 persons. Trinity is the name given to the statements of God used in the Creed and a summary of the use of the early church of the saying that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament as a whole. Jesus directs us to baptise in name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19). Judaism and Islamic teaching share the Christian belief in one God but only Christianity follows the New Testament teaching of God as the Father as well as the creator of the world, but also as the Son who came into this world, and as the Spirit who lives and works on Earth from the lives of the prophets of the Old Testament right up to influencing Christian lives in the present day (both famous saints and our own). The church carefully worked out and worded the statement of belief in the Trinity found in the Creed in order to uphold the New Testament against false beliefs. The Bible story of the Baptism of Jesus shows all 3 persons of the Trinity present at one time (Matthew 28:19) and Paul’s letter to the Ephesians Chapter 1 outlines the roles of the three persons of God.

Bible Story: The day of Pentecost Acts chapter 2: To some Christians the day of Pentecost is considered the ‘birth date’ of the church as it was the Holy spirit that convicted people to believe not the words of the disciples. The church began to expand rapidly from this point.

Resources you will need web links in text)

Cube nets <http://www.senteacher.org/worksheet/12/NetsPolyhedra.html>

6 pictures of each child that will fit on the cube with lines underneath for them to write an aspect of themselves.

Lyric s to hymn: Spirit of God unseen as the wind

Children’s Previous Experience: KS 1 Trinity made up of 3 aspects of God. Burning Bush as an example of the Holy Spirit on Earth.

Potential Cross Curricular links: Science – materials, changing state. Maths – making a cube

Glossary of Terms: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Trinity, Pentecost.

Take care :

Discussion can move between Spirit and Ghost depending on children's experience but be careful to clearly explain that the belief in this presence is a good spirit because it comes from God. Muslim children in the class may also express an understanding of Jesus as a real person so Teacher will need to be clear about the Christian belief in him being one with God. Jehovah's Witnesses also do not believe in the Spirit as separate entity – more a force of God's person

	Learning intentions Know understand and investigate Christian beliefs about the trinity and Pentecost Explore a range of expressions of Christian beliefs about the holy spirit Express and communicate their ideas about the trinity	Skills: gained and deployed
Engagement 	Different aspects of me. Each child to have a net of a cube and six small pictures of themselves. A picture is stuck on each side of the cube and words written underneath to explain which aspect it shows e.g. mother, teacher, daughter, climber, dancer, hat-maker.	
Enquiry 	What is God to you? What does He mean to you? Play De La Soul's 3 is the Magic Number and show the water, ice and steam. What do you think the connection is? (3) Explain The Trinity 3 states of matter. Use ice, water and steam to show the 3 aspects of God. Under the title – What does God mean to a Christian child, draw an alternative to the engagement session with three pictures of own choosing to represent the 3 aspects of the Trinity. Leave the lines underneath for a later activity. Show an example of a picture showing God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and point out that the Holy Spirit is often represented by a dove.  <small> http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?um=1&safe=active&sa=N&rlz=1T4GGLR_enGB362GB363&hl=en&tbn=isch&tbnid=qJV8oZjZz3e3M%3A&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fbittrix.com%2F2013%2F02%2Fthe-church-fathers-reflect-on-jesus-and-the-holy-spirit-the-theophany-after-the-baptism-of-the-lord-part-%2F&docid=8y1jWV6e2j6M&imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fbittrix.files.wordpress.com%2F2013%2F02%2Ftheist-being-baptized.gif%253Fw%253D474&w=372&h=298&ei=LycPU8nFyrihAeww4GABA&zoom=1&iactrc=&dur=1344&page=5&start=50&ndsp=15&ved=0CP8BEKO DMDY </small>	Discuss and present their own and others views on challenging questions about meaning and truth ; applying their own ideas thoughtfully in different forms

	<p>What is Jesus' role in the Holy Trinity? Bridging the gap between God and mankind. Restores the relationship between God and mankind. Leader of men on earth.</p> <p>Why was it important to have God in human form (Jesus) on Earth? Role play why they think it was important? Create a 'wanted poster' for Jesus highlighting what his job was on Earth: Teaching humans to love each other Leading mankind Teaching about loving God To be a 'middle man' between God and mankind And what qualities he needs to have to do the job: Brave, Caring, Loving, Forgiving, A good leader</p> <p>Pentecost Start speaking gobbledegook and ask them how they feel about it – funny? Unnerving?</p> <p>With talk partners each make up a complement about the other person and make up a gobbledegook language to tell them the complement in (or a foreign language if you have children with another language).</p> <p>Show video of Pentecost then Show powerpoint on Pentecost.</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww-0sCm0ge4</p> <p>Use lego video to explain the Pentecost and discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in proceedings. What was the end result? Why do you think this was important to God's message?</p> <p>What is the Holy Spirit? (the helper, the comforter, helps us to be the people that God wants us to be) The fruit of the Holy Spirit – if he is working in our lives then we will exhibit the fruit of the spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control (Galatians 5 22:23)</p> <p>The day of Pentecost is sometimes called the Birthday of the church? Why do you think this is?</p>	
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<p>Evaluate</p> 	<p>See Venn diagram activity in assessment activities box.</p> <p>Jews and Muslims believe in one God but don't follow the idea that Jesus was the Son of God or that there is a Holy Spirit. Gather and present the views of other religions and of groups like Jehovah's witnesses, Humanists, etc on the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Children add to their drawings of the Holy Trinity, explaining the jobs of God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Consider and apply ideas responding thoughtfully to ideas about Trinity and the Holy Spirit</p>
<p>Expression</p> 	<p>Creating compliments to pay to their peers Making cube showing aspects of self Drawing ideas about the Holy Trinity</p>	

Assessment activities: 3 way Venn Diagram – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Split statements into who did what in the Bible. The statements are from the point of view of a Christian child. Extension – Children can create their own statements to add into the Venn Diagram.

Listen to the Hymn: Spirit of God (unseen as the wind) .Highlight what they feel are the three most important lines. Explain why. Draw a suitable design for an 'album cover' for a recent 'Cover version' of this song by Mumford and Sons (or similar as suits taste). Annotate design to explain the symbolism used.

I can statements	Self assessment	Peer Assessment	Teacher assessment
<p>AT 1 Strand C: Forms of expression</p> <p>Level 2: say what some Christian symbols stand for and say what some of the art (music, etc) is about.</p> <p>Level 3: Use religious words to describe some of the different ways in which people show their beliefs about the trinity</p> <p>Level 4: Express religious beliefs (ideas, feelings, etc) in a range of styles and words used by believers and suggest what they mean.</p>			
<p>AT 2: Strand E: meaning purpose and truth</p> <p>Level 2: talk about some things in stories ie Pentecost that make people ask questions.</p> <p>Level 3: ask important questions about life and compare my ideas with those of other people.</p> <p>Level 4: ask questions about the meaning of belief (holy spirit) suggesting a range of answers which might be given by others and by me.</p>			

