

Year 5 Term 5

Green religion? How and why should religious communities do more to care for the Earth?
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Kent REAct Syllabus:

Describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals. Express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues. Articulate clearly beliefs, values and commitments in order to explain why they may be important in their own and other people's lives.

Essential Prior Learning:

There are concerns around how humans care (or not) for the planet and whether our actions are damaging Earth beyond repair, although people's opinions differ. Around the world, people follow different religions and many of these are represented in Britain. Not everyone has a religion. The religion (if any) that someone follows, or is part of, can influence their thinking and actions.

Progression in Skill:

Make connections between beliefs about the Earth and activist behaviour in different religions. Understand the challenges facing the planet and responses from different religions. Discuss and describe their own and others' ideas about the kinds of collaboration, activism and commitment needed to 'save the Earth'.

Long-term Memory Knowledge:

Some religions teachings about the Earth and God encourage some believers to act to protect our world. Religions have responded to some of the challenges facing the planet. Because of their beliefs (whether religious or not), some people work together to look after the planet; people have different opinions on the effectiveness of this.

Key Vocabulary

khalifah	a term used in Islam that means steward; Muslims are Allah's khalifas of the planet
corruption	when something is broken
stewardship	the job of taking care of something for someone else
ahimsa	Hindu belief: respect for all living beings; non-violence; also found in Buddhist and Jainist traditions
atman	a living thing's soul or spirit; part of the Hindu tradition
Tu B'Shevat	Jewish festival: new year for trees; a day to think about the environment to care for it
activism	campaigning to bring about change

Progression in Resources:

Websites to explore religions, their beliefs and examples of activism as recommended by Kent Syllabus

Relevance

Now	The understanding that people's beliefs can motivate them to act in a particular way is reinforced; religious beliefs can influence how people treat our planet.
Future	Regardless of their beliefs, children support their local and wider communities to care for the planet, making choices to reduce waste, conserve resources, etc.
Aspiration	Children work in inter-faith groups to conserve the planet; they may work in environmental sciences, seeking to undo damage already done or developing new methods and processes for how we live that are more environmentally friendly.