

The Birth Narratives

Focus Concept – Interpretation (Type A)

Year 6, Autumn 2

Learning Objectives / Intended Learning Outcomes

Pupils should be able to:

- Describe what they know and understand of the Christmas story. **(L3)**
- Explain how the stories are different in Matthew and Luke's gospels.
- Explain the significance of the two different recounts. **(L4)**
- Explain how the way the stories are told affects believers' interpretation of Christ. **(L4/5)**
- Evaluate how artists express Christian beliefs about Christ by identifying and describing how the *divinity* of Christ is shown.

Assessment Opportunities

Evidence can be gathered when

- Children produce Venn diagrams.
- Children design their own cards and explain the purpose of their design.

Sequences of Activities

Step 1: Enquire - What do we already know about the Nativity?

- In groups, pupils brainstorm, then sequence, what they remember of the story of the birth of Jesus. Compare results and identify inconsistencies.

Step 2: Contextualise - What does the Bible say?

- In groups, pupils make reference to either Matthew's or Luke's version of the birth of Jesus and answer questions: *Where did Mary and Joseph live at the beginning of the story? How did Mary become pregnant? Where was Jesus born? Who visited the baby Jesus? What happened after the visitors left? Where did Mary and Joseph live at the end of the story?*
- Compare and discuss results.
- Pupils have both stories and identify similarities and differences. Pupils produce Venn diagrams – display.

Step 3: Evaluate - Why are the stories different?

- Discuss with pupils why they think there might be two different versions. (Theologians believe that the writers were writing for different audiences.)

Step 4: Communicate - How do the stories express what Christians believe about Jesus?

- Christians believe that Jesus was *God incarnate* – made man / Son of God. Pupils, in pairs, discuss and highlight which parts of the story illustrate this – feedback to the class.

Step 5: Apply - How do artists express Christian beliefs about Jesus?

- Ch explore pictures of the Nativity (Christmas cards/ paintings?) and categorise them under *according to Matthew* or *according to Luke* or both. Identify and share how the artist shows the *divinity* of Jesus or His *specialness*.
- Design own Christmas cards for Christians which show Jesus as *God incarnate* or *Son of God*.

Ext. activity: produce own interpretation of story writing for a particular audience.

Resources - Nativity scene Christmas cards or pictures of the Nativity, Photocopied sheets of Matthew's and Luke's stories(M Ch 1: v18-25 and Ch2: v 1 to 23; L Ch 2: v1 to 20 and v 39 to 40)

Key Concepts

- Concepts in human experience.
- Concepts in religions.
- Concepts specific to particular religions.

Skills

- Reflection.
- Empathy.
- Comprehension.
- Investigation.
- Interpretation and analysis.
- Evaluation.

Attitudes

- Curiosity.
- Open mindedness.
- Self understanding.
- Respect.
- Wonder and appreciation.

Programme of Study.

Enquiry and skills.

Pupils should be taught how to:

- Enquire into concepts that are significant in religious and non-religious experiences.
- Contextualise the concept within religious practise and explore diversity of practice and belief.
- Evaluate the concept within one or more religions
- Communicate their own understanding and respond to the concept
- Apply their own understanding of the concept to situations in their own and others' lives.