

Exploring festivals of light

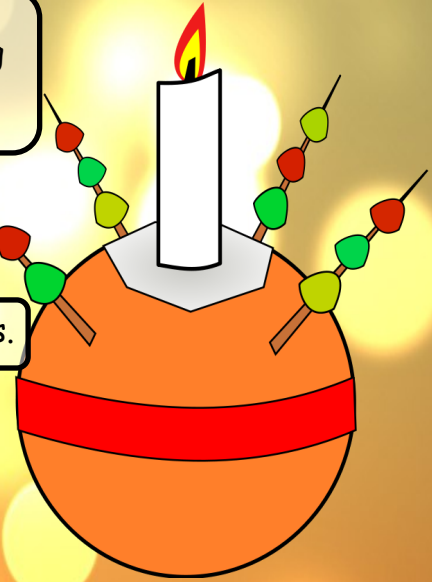
In this unit, we will:

- understand how light can be a symbol of 'good' in many faiths
- be able to give examples of festivals as celebrations of religious stories, including Diwali, the Christingle and Hanukkah.
- explain the symbolism of the Christingle for Christians.
- know what is meant by Jesus being the 'Light of the world' and how His followers can also 'shine as lights.'
- know why some Christians celebrate All Saints Day.
- be able to say why the Menorah is an important part of Hanukkah for Jews.

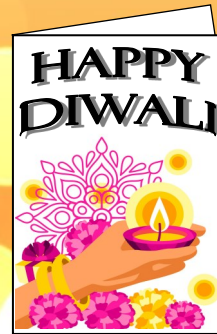
Festivals of light are usually celebrated in the Winter and symbolise good over evil and bringing light into dark times. Light is used around the world to celebrate different events.

Some celebrations take place in the community and others in the home.

Many religious festivals are based around stories.



Light during Diwali celebrations symbolises goodness and wisdom. Leicester has the biggest Diwali celebrations in the world (second to those in India)



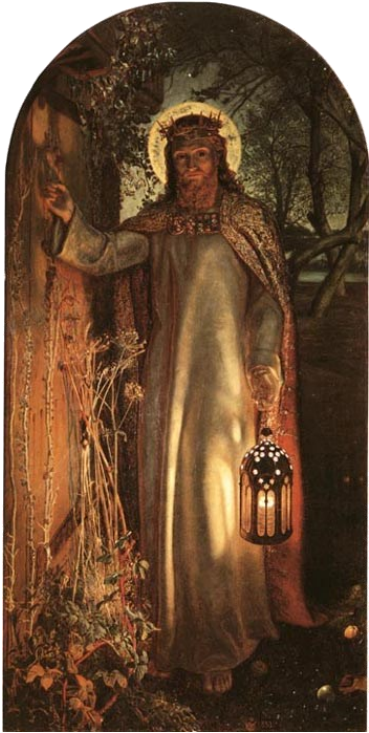
Can you discover a deeper meaning of each festival?

Glossary

Christingle	A decorated orange to symbolise God's love for the world.
Diva lamps	An oil lamp made from clay used at Diwali.
Diwali	This means 'Row of lamps' and is celebrated by Hindus and some other religions.
Faith	A belief in something
Festival	An event to celebrate a significant moment.
Hanukkah	A Jewish festival of light. Pronounced Hanukah.
Hanukkiah or Menorah	A candleholder used in Jewish worship. It has eight branches and a central holder.
Hindu	A person whose religion is Hinduism
Jew	A person whose religion is Judaism.
Symbol	Something that helps to carry meaning.
Tradition	An official event to celebrate customs or beliefs passed down through generations.

Look in the envelope to find the key information about the festivals that we will be investigating

Envelope will go here.
Contents on next page. They will be able to get them out for reference in lessons and to quiz each other.



The Light of the World is a painting created between 1851 and 1853 by William Holman Hunt. What could each part of this painting symbolise?

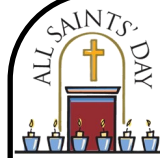
Item on left an example of cultural references (art) and will be used by the children to consolidate learning about Jesus Light of the world. Cards on right for envelopes.

Bonfire Night



On the 5th November every year, bonfires are lit and in England, we have firework displays and sparklers. This is because King James I ordered that people should celebrate his survival from Guy Fawkes' Gun Powder Plot attempt to kill him.

All Saints Day



All Saints' Day is also called 'All Hallows' Day' and celebrates hope, goodness and light. On this day, some Christians celebrate the special lives of people who they believe are in Heaven. They do this to be inspired to live their lives more like Jesus. Saint Chad is often remembered locally as he set up a Christian community in Lichfield. There is a statue of him at the cathedral.

All Saints' Day is a holiday in many countries like Sweden, France and Germany. Candles or lamps are lit to represent eternal light and Heaven.

Hanukkah



Hanukkah lasts for eight days and is celebrated by Jews to remember a miracle that they believe happened over 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem. A nine-stick candle called a Menorah is used. A small, central candle is used to light a candle every night for eight nights to remind the Jews of the time that there was only enough oil for the temple light to burn for a day. Miraculously it stayed lit for eight days. In 2022, this begins

Christingle



A Christingle service is a joyful Christian celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope and light into times of darkness.

Christingle means 'Christ's light.'

Each part of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange symbolises the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) is to show the love and blood of Jesus
- The sweets or dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus' (Christ's) light in the world