

Symbols and Meanings



twinkl

Aim

- I can name and explain the key symbols of Christianity.

Success Criteria

- I can name and explain the key symbols of Christianity.
- I can create an information card to explain one of the Christian symbols.

Symbols



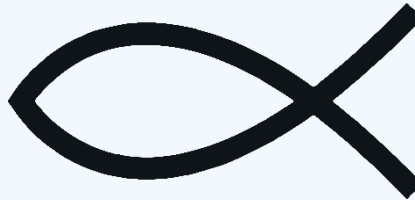
What are symbols?

Symbols are marks or characters used as conventional representations of an object, function, or process.

Can you think of anywhere you might see a symbol?



Symbols



What are these symbols?

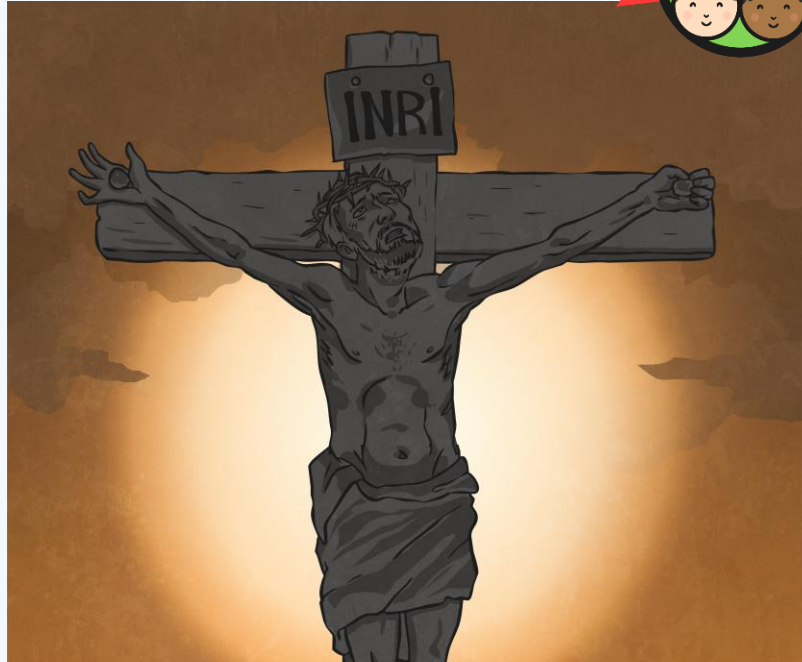
How are these symbols used in Christianity?

Why are these symbols used?

Cross



The cross is an important symbol for Christians. It reminds them that Jesus died on a cross. It is particularly important because Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross to show his love for humanity, and by dying in this way, sins are forgiven and all have a chance of entering heaven.

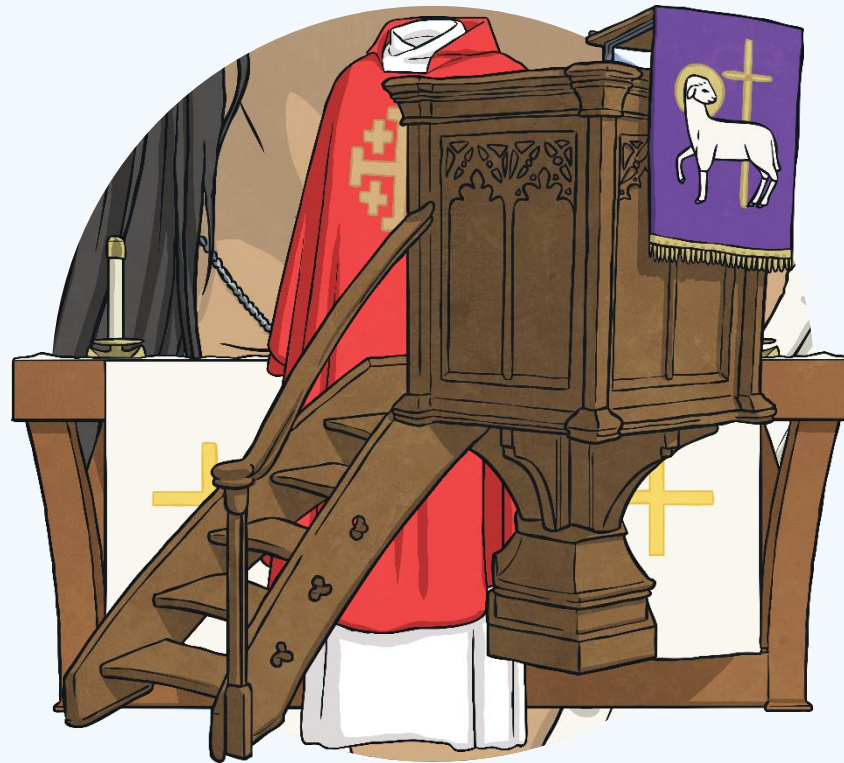


Jesus dying on the cross is known as the crucifixion and a cross symbol showing Jesus on the cross is called a 'crucifix'.

Cross



Look at places where the cross symbol is used within Christianity:



Dove



Do you know anything about this symbol already?

Dove



The dove symbol is often associated with peace. For Christians, the dove symbol also represents the Holy Spirit. When Jesus died, he promised the disciples that even though he wouldn't be there any more as a man, he would not be leaving them alone – he sent the Holy Spirit.

Christians think of the Holy Spirit as a presence with them, a feeling that God is there with them always, guiding, helping, revealing.

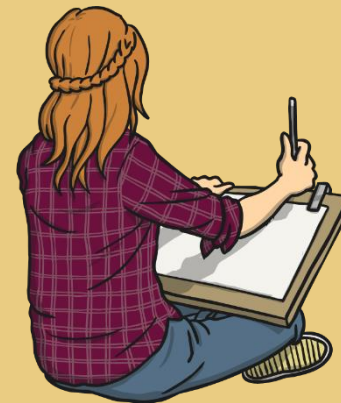


Ichthus



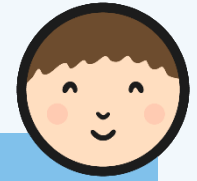
The Ichthus (also spelt Ichthys and also known as the 'fish') was a secret symbol for early Christians.

It was used to show that they were followers of Jesus Christ, and to state that they were Christians.



Draw the Ichthus symbol on your whiteboard.

Stone



Your task is to paint a Christian symbol on a stone.

Think carefully about how you visualise him and how you will show that.

1. Plan your stone using the Stone Design Activity Sheet.
2. Draw the design onto your stone in pencil (make sure the stone is clean and dry).
3. Paint the stone.
4. Complete your Information Card Activity Sheet to explain the symbol you have painted.

Two overlapping activity sheets are shown. The top sheet is titled 'Stone Design' and features a box for 'I can name and explain the key symbols of Christianity:' and a large drawing area with the instruction 'In the box below, draw a design for your stone.' The bottom sheet is titled 'Information Card' and contains several sections for reflection: 'Symbol chosen:', 'Why I chose this symbol:', 'Why this symbol is important to Christians:', 'What this symbol means:', 'Where you would see this symbol:', and 'References to this symbol in the Bible (if any):'. Both sheets have a decorative border and a 'twinkl planit' logo at the bottom.