

Starter Activity



All of these building look different, but what do they all have in common? Who might visit them?

What might happen in them?

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Aim

• To learn about the Christian church and its importance to individuals and the community.

Success Criteria

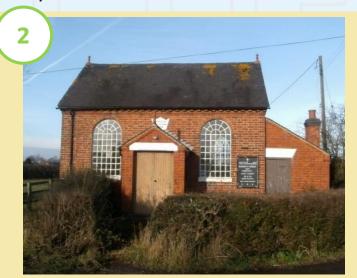
- I can describe similarities and differences between a variety of Christian churches which exist throughout the world.
- I can name and describe the significance of special objects found within Christian churches.
- I can explain why church is an important place for many people by describing acts of worship and other special events which take place here.
- I can explain how and why Christians worship in the home.

Churches throughout the world.

Church buildings throughout the world vary hugely!

Church buildings reflect the people who built them, when they were built and the needs of the Christians who worship in them.





Here are two churches in the UK.

How might each church reflect who built them?

How might location have affected how big each church needed to be?

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Churches throughout the world.



Wells Cathedral, Wells

Wells Cathedral was planned by a Bishop in 1175. It was built to be the seat of the Bishop (an important Christian leader).

The church is so grand because it was meant to be the central building for Christianity in its area of the country.

Sutton-on-the-Hill Methodist Chapel, Derbyshire

This chapel was built by the Methodist church.

It was built to serve a very small, rural village, so small that it doesn't have a shop. Therefore the church could be simple and small.



Churches throughout the world.

Here are some more examples of how churches around the word reflect the people who built them and who worships in them.



Hillsong Church in Cape Town, South Africa.

The modern building reflects a modern way of worshipping.

Congregations here worship with rock music and dress casually.

St. Artemios church, Santorini, Greece

This old church building reflects the local architecture of the island.

Many people on Santorini would have felt very connected to the sea, perhaps this is why the church and other buildings are blue and white?



Look out for these other special features!

Some churches or cathedrals are built in the shape of the cross. Why do you think this is?





Look out for these other special features!

Many older churches have gargoyles carved into the stone.

Gargoyles are strange looking creatures which were believed to scare away evil spirits.





Many churches also have a bell tower.

This is the home to the bell which is rung before a service to let people know it is time for worship.

Photo courtesy of Andy Hay, LenDog64 and Sharon Mollerus (@flickr.com) – granted under creative common

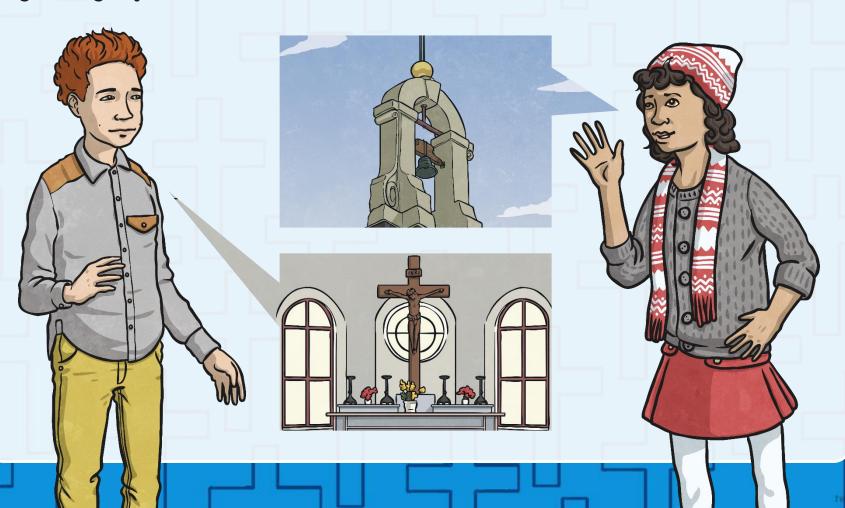
Look out for these other special features!

Stained glass windows often appear in Christian churches depicting the life of Jesus.

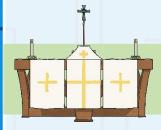


Things you might find in a church.

If you went into a church in this country, talk to your partner about what you might find.



Things you might find in a church.



Altar: The table at the very front of the church which holds the bread and wine.

Cross: This is the symbol of Christianity because Jesus died on a cross.





Candle: Candles are common in churches as they represent Jesus as the light of the world.

Organ: An instrument played to accompany traditional hymns.





Musical Instruments: Christians can worship God using a wide variety of instruments, from guitars to cellos.

Things you might find in a church.



Font: This is where part of the Baptism service takes place. The font holds Holy water.

Seating Area: The people who come to church services are called the congregation and they sit here. Some churches have long wooden pews or individual chairs.





Lectern: Where the Bible sits. Readings are read from here during a service.

Pulpit: A raised platform from which the church leader can teach from the Bible.

