



THE INVESTIGATION

This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from two different religions about why their holy buildings and works of art matter to them as expressions of devotion to God and worship, and about how they practice generosity and charity. Muslim and Christian examples are sometimes criticised by non-religious people: this critique is examined too. Of course, the rather polarising title can receive the response 'both matter', as the final lesson will show, but the controversy is good for the pupils' learning.

STEP 1: THE KEY QUESTION U2.5: Is it better to express your religion in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?

Trips: St. Dunstons Church, Stepney
East London Mosque

Web Links: Introduction to Christianity: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdykjxs>
Introduction to Islam: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/ataglance/glance.shtml>

STEP 2: SELECT LEARNING OUTCOMES Being clear about these outcomes will help you to decide what and how to

EMERGING	EXPECTED	EXCEEDING
<p>Respond with ideas of their own to the title question (B2).</p> <p>Find out about religious teachings, charities and ways of expressing generosity (C3).</p>	<p>Describe and make connections between examples of religious creativity (buildings and art) (A1).</p> <p>Show understanding of the value of sacred buildings and art (B3).</p> <p>Suggest reasons why some believers see generosity and charity as more important than buildings and art (B2).</p> <p>Apply ideas about values and from scriptures to the title question (C2).</p>	<p>Outline how and why some Humanists criticise spending on religious buildings or art (A3).</p> <p>Examine the title question from different perspectives, including their own (C1).</p>

STEP 3: SUGGESTED CONTENT FOR LEARNING

This plan has selected the following content to exemplify the learning outcomes. Pupils will:

- Find out about some great examples of religious art and architecture and present their reasons for choosing those they find most impressive;
- Work in a small group and present to the class an example of the most impressive religious art or architecture.
- Notice, list and explain similarities and differences between Christian and Muslim sacred buildings.
- Discuss Muslim and Christian ideas (e.g. from scriptures) about the importance of being generous and charitable, ranking the ideas according to their importance, and applying them to issues about poverty and charity.
- Consider why Christians and Muslims think giving money away is important, and what difference this makes, both to those who give and to those who receive.
- Compare Christian and Muslim ideas about art (e.g. contrasting views on presenting or not presenting God or people in art; use of calligraphy/ geometrical art vs representational art).
- Connect ways in which art and actions can reveal what people believe about God (e.g. cathedrals and mosques might express ideas of greatness and perfection of God; actions might suggest that God is concerned with justice).
- Suggest reasons why some people may be critical of religious art/ architecture, and why some would defend it as important.
- Weigh up which has greater impact – art or charity? Consider what the world would be like without great art or architecture. What about a world without charity or generosity?



STEP 4: ASSESSMENT: Write specific learning outcomes.

Turn the learning outcomes into pupil-friendly 'I can' or 'You can' statements.

You might adapt these specific outcomes to form 'I can' statements (for pupil self-assessment), 'You can' statements (for teacher assessment), and 'Can you...?' statements (for next steps or challenge)

EMERGING	EXPECTED	EXCEEDING
<p>I can...You can...Can you...?</p> <p>Respond with ideas of their own to the title question</p> <p>Find out about religious teachings, charities and ways of expressing generosity.</p> <p>Describe and recount two Muslim teachings about Charity and give an example of how these might affect the behaviour of a Muslim .</p>	<p>I can...You can...Can you...?</p> <p>Understand different reasons why some buildings are sacred</p> <p>Consider, discuss and weigh up different views about why mosques are important.</p> <p>Consider, discuss and weigh up different views about why Christian sacred buildings are important.</p> <p>Consider, discuss and weigh up different views about why religious art is important.</p> <p>Suggest reasons, quoting religious sources, why Muslims consider charity and generosity important</p> <p>Notice, list and explain similarities and differences between different sacred buildings.</p> <p>Notice, list and explain similarities and differences between Christian and Muslim sacred buildings.</p> <p>Describe and make connections between examples of religious creativity in Muslim buildings.</p> <p>Describe why mosques matter to the Muslim community</p> <p>Apply ideas about worship and belief for themselves in a creative activity, using Christian scripture.</p> <p>Apply ideas about generosity from scriptures, Muslim and Christian, to the title question.</p> <p>Suggest reasons why some people may be critical of religious art / architecture, and why some would defend it as important.</p>	<p>I can...You can...Can you...?</p> <p>Outline how and why some Humanists criticise spending on religious buildings or art .</p> <p>Examine the title question from different perspectives, including their own.</p> <p>Weigh up which has greater impact – art or charity?</p> <p>Consider what the world would be like without great art or architecture.</p> <p>What about a world without charity or generosity?</p>



Christian Art and Architecture



Christian Art and Architecture is a general category for artworks and buildings produced for religious purposes, primarily the veneration of Christ and his teachings, the Virgin Mary, and the saints. As the ideas and practices of Christianity have changed and developed over the past nearly two thousand years, so too has the artistic expression surrounding it.

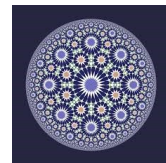
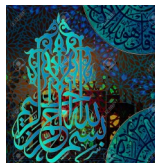
Early Christian art developed from the fourth to sixth centuries to address the demands of a growing Christian population. Its formation was marked by the construction of the original basilica of Saint Peter in Rome between 324 and 329 CE.

Over a millennium later, this site of pilgrimage was rebuilt to reflect the growing power of the papacy, who commissioned the design from Renaissance and Baroque masterminds like Donato, Bramante, Michelangelo Buonarroti, and Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

Perhaps art history's most enduring patron, the Church has also sponsored works by modern artists and architects, from Auguste Rodin to Le Corbusier, that continue to demonstrate the variety of styles and iconographies that have developed during Christianity's long history.

Islamic Art An Introduction to Islamic Art

https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/art/art_1.shtml



Introduction to Islamic art

Islamic art is often vibrant and distinctive.

Unlike Christian art, Islamic art isn't restricted to religious work, but includes all the artistic traditions in Muslim culture.

Its strong aesthetic appeal transcends time and space, as well as differences in language and culture.

This is because of common features in all Islamic art which give it a remarkable coherence, regardless of the country or the time in which it was created.

There are, however, strong regional characteristics, and influences from other cultures are also visible.

The essentials of Islamic art

Includes all Muslim art, not just explicitly religious art

Islamic art seeks to portray the meaning and essence of things, rather than just their physical form

Crafts and decorative arts are regarded as having full art status

Painting and sculpture are not thought of as the noblest forms of art

Calligraphy is a major art-form

Writing has high status in Islam

Writing is a significant decoration for objects and buildings

Books are a major art-form

Geometry and patterns are important

People do not appear in specifically religious art

Meaning and design

Art is the mirror of a culture and its world view.

The art of the Islamic world reflects its cultural values, and reveals the way Muslims view the spiritual realm and the universe.

For the Muslim, reality begins with and centres on Allah.

Allah is at the heart of worship and aspirations for Muslims, and is the focus of their lives.

So Islamic art focuses on the spiritual representation of objects and beings, and not their physical qualities.

The Muslim artist does not attempt to replicate nature as it is, but tries to convey what it represents.

This lets the artist, and those who experience the art, get closer to Allah.

For Muslims, beauty has always been and will always be a quality of the divine. There is a hadith of the Prophet Muhammad that says: "Allah is beautiful and he loves beauty."

