



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Christianity. Here they will explore the significance of Mary, Jesus's mother. The children will make links between the Virgin Birth and Christian beliefs about Jesus (incarnation). They will explain why it is significant to Christians that Mary was Jesus's mother. The children will consider their response to the belief in the Virgin Birth, showing respect for Christian views.

What? (Knowledge)

Who was Mary?

Mary was young and pure. She was a virgin and an ordinary girl (not a princess or celebrity). She was engaged to an honest man named Joseph, who was a carpenter. Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit while still a virgin. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her divine selection to be the mother of Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38	What was Mary's reaction? Why was she scared?
Luke 1:47-55	How was Mary feeling? What was special about Mary?
Matthew 1:18-25	How did Joseph react to the news? How was he convinced? Why was a virgin chosen for the birth?
John 1:14	Why did god send Jesus to Earth this way?

Why was a virgin Chosen?

A virgin, like Mary, was chosen so that it was obvious that Jesus was not just a human with two human parents but was also God. The Incarnation (Jesus is God on earth in human form) is a key belief in Christianity.

How significant is Mary

It is significant to Christians that Mary was Jesus' mother because she was a virgin therefore could not have conceived in the natural way. By giving birth to Jesus it was clear that he was the Son of God, God in human form. This is called incarnation. Another reason Mary was chosen is because she was a strong believer in God and very loyal to God. She was also poor so it shows Jesus was on earth for everybody, not just rich people.

What? Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Depictions	Depicting something, especially in a work of art
Incarnation	Person who embodies the flesh of a God
Virgin	Someone who has not had sexual intercourse
Convinced	Completely certain about something
Angel	Spiritual being, messenger from God
Divine	Of or like God
Obvious	Very clear to see
Mary	Galilean virgin woman, Mother of Jesus
Holy Spirit	God as spiritually active in the world
Joseph	Husband of Mary

Key Question

- Explain the relationship Jesus had with his Mother Mary.
- Explain the significant of Mary's role in Jesus's life.
- What have you learnt from Mary's and Josephs journey ?

Diagrams, Images and Symbols

