

Theology - Why is light an important symbol for Christians, Jews and Hindus?

Big Ideas: Light, Hope, Celebration

1) What is a Christingle?		2) Why do Jews light a menorah?	3) What is special about Diwali?
Vocabulary		Key Festivals	Key Facts
Diwali	A Hindu festival with lights	Christmas: During Christmas there is a service where people make and bring a Christingle which has a candle in the centre.  Hanukkah: Jewish people light a menorah during Hanukkah. It reminds them of the miracle of Hanukkah and the goodness of the creation story.  Diwali: Hindus believe that light triumphs darkness and follow the story of Rama and Sita. Hindus have diya lamps to represent leading the way home and fireworks to celebrate their arrival. 	Diwali means string of lights. There is another story that says the goddess of wealth find her way to everyone's houses. 
Menorah	A candelabrum with eight branches and a central socket used in Jewish worship.		
Worship	Devotion to religious beliefs		Festivals of light connect celebrations between different religions. 
Hanukkah	A Jewish festival lasting 8 days		
Symbol	Using pictures to represent ideas		Christians believe that Jesus brings light to the world. 

We Are Learning To

Identify different light sources and discuss how they affect the senses.	Examine what different sources of light mean to Christians.	Compare beliefs of different faiths regarding light.	Investigate Hindu beliefs about light.	Assess similarities and differences in beliefs.
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