

How do people express their faith through the arts?

Learning Objective:

To understand how colour can be used to express religious feelings and ideas.

NEXT



Members of the clergy in Christian churches (such as priests, ministers or vicars) wear clothes called vestments. Throughout the year, the colours they wear will often change depending on what festival is being celebrated or the time of year. This can change depending on the type of church but there are lots of colours that symbolise different Christian ideas and beliefs.

What do you think these colours might represent?

RED

GREEN

WHITE

PURPLE

BLACK

BACK

NEXT

RED



Red is used to symbolise the blood of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is used for festivals such as Pentecost to remember the tongues of spiritual fire that rested on the heads of Jesus' followers. Red is a colour that reminds Christians of God's passion.

Pentecost takes place seven weeks after Easter. During this festival, Christians remember when the Holy Spirit first descended on Jesus' followers after his death. This event is often thought to be the birth of the Christian church. Tongues of fire rested on the followers' heads and they started speaking lots of different languages. Some people thought they were drunk but it was the Holy Spirit making them speak in foreign tongues!

BACK

NEXT

PURPLE



Purple is used for times of preparation, such as Advent, when Christians prepare for Christmas, or Lent, when they prepare for Easter. It is sometimes a symbol of humility.



Do you ever do anything special during advent or Lent?

BACK



NEXT

WHITE



White is a colour of celebration. It is worn for all the major Christian holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. White symbolises peace, love, purity, innocence and triumph.

Do you know what Christians celebrate at Christmas and Easter?



BACK

NEXT

GREEN



Green is used when the other special colours are not needed. Green symbolises creation, faith and hope.

BACK

NEXT

BLACK



Black is a colour associated with death and mourning. It is used when priests perform funerals and sometimes on Good Friday when Christians remember how Jesus died on the cross.



BACK

NEXT



Can you think of any symbols that are associated with these three Christian festivals?

CHRISTMAS

EASTER

PENTECOST

Do you know any other Christian symbols?
Are any of them associated with the colours we have just learnt about?



BACK

Discuss your ideas with a partner.

NEXT