

# Fast Five

1. Christians worship in a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Their main holy book is the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Holy Trinity is the Father, the Son and the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. There are 2 parts to the bible, the Old Testament and the  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

# Fast Five Answers

1. Christians worship in a **church**.
2. Their main holy book is the **Bible**.
3. The Holy Trinity is the Father, the Son and the **Holy Spirit**.
4. There are 2 parts to the bible, the Old Testament and the **New Testament**.

Can I recognise symbols  
associated with Christianity?

What is this sign? What does it mean to you ?



# What is this sign? What does it mean to you ?

The **McDonald's logo** is symbolic of the arches that were the part of the newly-constructed architecture of the first franchised restaurant in 1952. After Ray Kroc took over the business in 1961, he incorporated the two arches to form the new **McDonald's logo** that looked like the letter “M”



What is this sign? What does it mean to you ?



# What is this sign? What does it mean to you ?

The Initial “S” of Superman Logo: The iconic “S” symbol of the Superman logo stands for the major character of Superman. The “S” symbol not only means Superman but also suggests Saving Lives, Stopping Crime and providing Super-Aid wherever needed.



What is this sign? What does it mean to you ?

It identifies a female toilet area.





# What is this sign? What does it mean to you ?

A **skull and crossbones** or **death's head** is a symbol consisting of a human skull and two long bones crossed together under or behind the skull. The design originates in the Late Middle Ages as a symbol of death and especially as a *memento mori* on tombstones.

In modern contexts, it is generally used as a hazard symbol that warns of danger, usually in regard to poisonous substances, such as deadly chemicals.



# Love

Has anyone created a symbol for love ?

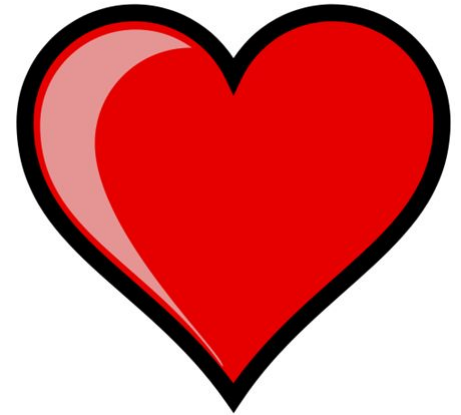
What would love look like if you could see it?

Can you think of a drawing that would represent love ?

All of these pictures are 'symbols'. Symbols are pictures or objects that make you think of something else. They REPRESENT something.

# Hearts

This symbol is often used to represent love. Symbols are useful because they sometimes remind us of things, like love, that we can't see.



Today we will look at some symbols that are important to Christians.

What do you know about this symbol?



# The Cross

The Christian cross represents the death of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.

The symbol reminds Christian believers of suffering and hope as well. The empty cross usually favored by Protestants, reminds Christians of the resurrection, while the crucifix (with the body of Jesus on it), favored by Catholic and Orthodox churches, is a reminder of Christ's sacrifice. The crucifix represents the central point of the Catholic belief that Christ died on the cross to redeem humanity.

# Candles

Christians have lots of symbols. Candles represent the light that Jesus brings to the world. When a child is Christened, they are given a candle as they bring the light of Jesus into their lives.



# Advent - use of candles

The word Advent come from the Latin word “Adventus” meaning arrival. Advent starts on the Sunday which is nearest to November 30<sup>th</sup> and lasts until midnight on Christmas eve.

During the advent season, all Christians around the world prepare for the celebration of Jesus Christ. It is also a time to celebrate light in a time of darkness, and to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time. But now the Advent period has been commercialised, with advent calendars, with the 24 windows with chocolates or something behind them, and little pictures of angels. The types that sell the most are the themed calendars, like a T.V theme e.g. The Simpsons.

# Advent candles

Advent candles are lit on each Sunday of Advent, one per Sunday. Each candle has its own special meaning:-

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – God’s people – The Candle of hope

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – The Old Testament – The Candle of Peace

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – John The Baptist – The Candle of love

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Mary The Mother of Jesus – The Candle of Joy

(A pink candle)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Jesus Christ and his birth

# Christingle candles

Christingle has its origins in a Moravian Children's Service held in Germany, on Christmas Eve. The holy person conducting the service gave each child a lit candle, with some red ribbon around it.

Over the years this “informal” service has been modernised. Christingle today consists of many things:

- The orange represents the world.
- The red ribbon around the orange represents Jesus.
- The Fruits and sweets secured in represent God's gifts.
- The lighted Candle represents the light of the world.

# Examples of Christingle





# Fish

**In the modern era, the fish symbol represents Christians and Christianity.** It is an ancient symbol that early, persecuted Christians used to mark secret meeting places and identify one another

The fish is a sacred Christian symbol. In Greek, the first letters - Iesous Christos, Theou Yios, Soter (Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior) make the word 'ichthys' – fish, with a strong symbolic association of Christ with fish.

"I will make you fishers of men". (St. Mark 1: 16-18)

The *ichthys* symbol became of great importance and started to appear in Christian art during the late 2nd century, and its use spread widely in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The fish appears in many Biblical stories, for example, the fish that swallowed Jonah is believed to symbolize Christ's incarceration in the tomb. The story of Tobias, who survives an attack by a large fish and then uses the gall of the fish to restore his blind father's sight, symbolizes God's blessings.

In a miracle, traditionally known as the 'Miraculous Draught of Fish', the symbol is a representation of abundance and wisdom. Luke's account of Christ's miracle predicts Peter's later an important role as a 'fisher of men'.

# Bread and Wine



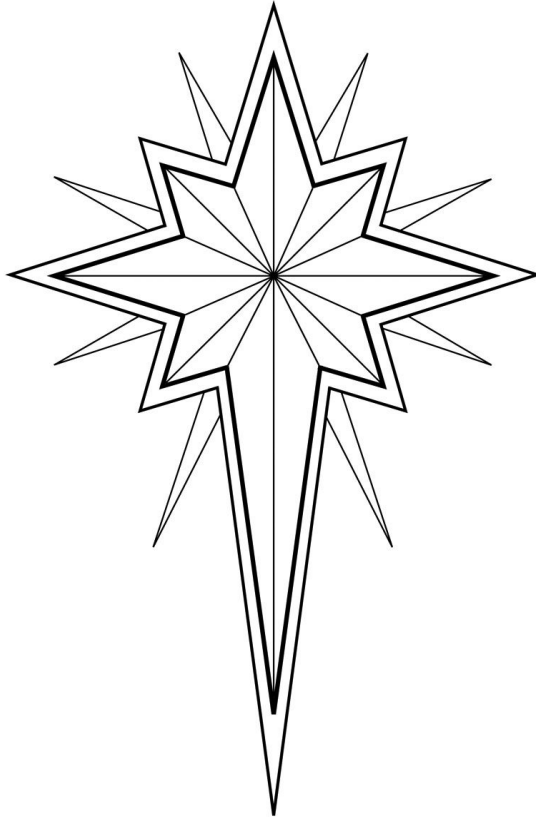
# Bread and Wine

The bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Holy Communion (or the Eucharist), is the blessing of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

According to the New Testament, the Eucharist (Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper) was introduced by Jesus Christ during the Last Supper. He gave his disciples bread and wine and referring to the bread, he said: "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." (Luke 22:19). Bread and wine symbolize Christ's sacrifice of himself on the cross and his commission of the apostles at the Last Supper. The sacramental bread (unleavened or leavened) and sacramental wine (or grape juice), are consecrated on an altar (or a communion table) and consumed thereafter.



# Epiphany Star



# Epiphany Star explained

The five-pointed (or four-pointed) star (also known as the Epiphany Star or Christian Star) represents Jesus' birth and incarnation. It is one of the most powerful symbols of Christianity. On Christmas Eve, the Star, shining brightly in the heavens, guided the wise men to the lowly manger where the Christ child was born.

Matt. 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (n) from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Many Christians believe the star was a miraculous sign and some theologians claimed that the star fulfilled a prophecy.

This star is used especially for church decoration during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

# Red task- Can I recognise symbols associated with Christianity?

Explain what these symbols mean and why they are important to Christians:

1. Cross

2. Fish

3. Candles

# Answers

**Cross** - represents Jesus' death and resurrection. It is used to show suffering and pain and to show God's sacrifice.

**Fish** - represents Christian people and was used as a sign for secret meetings.

**Candles** - show that God is a light in people's lives. It symbolises life and hope.

# Yellow Task- Can I recognise symbols associated with Christianity?

Draw out this table and

write bullet points

under each heading,

showing what these

symbols mean to

Christians.

Star	Bread and Wine
Fish	Candles
Cross	

**Star**

- Christ's birth
- Associated with advent

**Bread and Wine**

- Bread -- the body of Christ
- Wine - the blood of Christ
- Used in Communion
- Last supper

**Fish**

- Identifies Christians
- Lots of biblical stories contain Fish

**Candles**

- Jesus as the light of the world
- Advent
- Christingle

**Cross**

- Death and resurrection of Jesus
- Pain and suffering in the world
- Sacrifice

# Green Task

Make a fact sheet about Christian symbols and what they mean to Christians. Include pictures and subheadings.

Remember to include:

The cross

The star

Candles

Bread and Wine

Fish