

Candles

Light is a symbol of hope across many religions.

Even among those of no religion, a candle still represents safety and warmth.

In Christianity, a candle is presented at a Baptism representing the Light of Christ.

We use candles to represent our belief in the eternal nature of love that can never die.



Remembrance candles called votive or prayer candles are lit to remember loved ones.



The Menorah 'lamp stand' has been a major symbol of Judaism for thousands of years.

The seven candles of the Menorah are a symbol of the story of the Creation, with the central light representing the Sabbath (or Shabbat).



Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists also use candles as symbols of life and hope in Naming Ceremonies



Many religious festivals use candles in their celebrations. Candles are a symbol of hope and guidance and the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

A message for everyone?— —The Buddha said ' Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness in no way decreases with being shared.'

How could you make other people happy?



Candles to celebrate a birthday or anniversary.

Classroom Activity

Exploring the use of candles in places of worship helps children to see similarities between faiths.

See Illustrated guides for places of worship

<https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartssociety.org/>

Ideas for candle craft activities are given.

Candle Clocks

The Chinese used a Candle Clock nearly 2000 years ago and people have found evidence of the Japanese and Romans using them. But the Anglo Saxons gave the credit to King Alfred the Great. A candle clock is a thin candle with consistently spaced markings that, when burned, indicates the passage of a period of time. It provided an effective way to tell the time indoors, at night or on a cloudy day.

Research King Alfred the Great and the Candle Clock.

How would you make a candle clock?



A Candle Clock

Candles in Religious Festivals and Worship.

The festival of light, Diwali, is a festival celebrated by **Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists.**

Candles are lit as a symbol of light out of darkness.

They are also helpful in meditation, helping you to feel calm and to focus.



In **Islam**, Muslims refer to the Qur'an - their holy book - as 'the divine candle' or the 'candlelight of God'.

Muslims lit 2000 candles and 5000 suspended lights at the Dome of the Rock, the Islamic shrine in the old city of



Candles are very important in the **Jewish** tradition. Two candles are lit on a Friday evening before sunset to usher in

Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath.

A candle is also lit for festivals such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and on the anniversary of the death of a loved one.



To the right is a Pascal or Easter candle in Birmingham Cathedral. This is a new candle every year on Easter Sunday when **Christians** remember that Jesus rose from the dead.

It is lit for baptisms and Sunday services.



The two candles on the altar are lit at every service and the candles on the choir stalls are lit when the choir is leading the singing at services.

Christians believe that Jesus is the 'Light of the World.'

There is a wide range of activities online for decorative art using candles.

See ActivityVillage.co.uk



This activity is part of a pack of curriculum enrichment activities linked to <https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartssociety.org/> See Stained Glass Windows (Activity Red 2)_ Circles and Patterns (Activity Red 4)