

Christian Churches



Aim

- To know what a Christian church is and what it is used for.
- To identify some features of a Christian church.



Starter Activity

What are these buildings?



How do you know?

Have you been in a building like this before?

Photos courtesy of hugh Llewelyn and Emmanuel Dyan (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

What is a church?

Tell your friend something about these 2 buildings. How would you describe them?



What is similar about them?

What is different?

Special Places

Here are two different Christian churches:



St Paul's Cathedral was first built over 1000 years ago! It was built from wood at first, but unfortunately it burnt down and had to be built again. This time it was built in stone. Many famous people have been buried there, including Henry VIII and Admiral Nelson.



This Methodist Chapel is in Leeds, West Yorkshire. It is a simple stone building.

Compare the two churches. How are they similar or different?

Special Places

Here are two different Christian churches:



Hagia Sophia was built over 1000 years ago in Turkey. It was a cathedral but is now a museum.



Santhome Cathedral Basilica is a Christian church in India. The tomb of the disciple Thomas is in this church.

Compare the two churches. How are they similar or different?

Features of a Christian Church

There are some features you might see:



A cross – This reminds people that Jesus died on a cross. Some churches are even built in the shape of a cross.

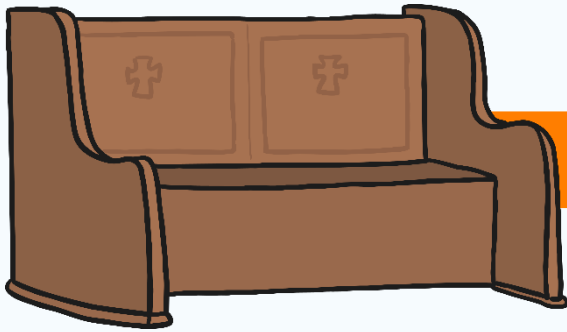
A bell tower – The bell used to be rung to remind people it was time to go to church.



Stained glass windows – These often show pictures of Bible stories.

Inside the Church

There are some features you might see:



Pew – The benches where people sit.

Altar – The table used during church services such as the Eucharist.

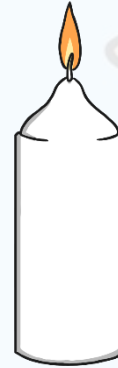


Organ – An instrument used to play hymns.

Inside the Church



Font – A basin used for baptisms.



Candle – They are lit to represent God's love.



Lectern – A stand that someone might read from.



Pulpit - A raised part of the church for the priest or reverend to talk to the people.

Have you seen any of these things? Talk to your partner about when you have seen any of these things being used.

Why Do People Go to Church?

To pray – People like to pray in God's house in peace and quiet.

To sing – Singing hymns is an important part of going to church for some people.

To worship – People like to worship God in church where there are no other distractions.

To learn – People visit church to learn about the stories in the Bible.

To get married – People get married in a church as it is a holy act.

To get baptised – A ceremony to welcome a baby or member to the family of the church.

For a funeral – A funeral service is held to remember someone who has died.

To meet friends – Church is often a social place to make friends and be part of a group.

Your Task

Imagine your local church is having an open day where visitors can go and have a look round.



Design a leaflet or flyer telling people about the church. Tell them what they will see, and what the church is used for. Remember you are trying to get lots of people to come to the church, so make your leaflet bright, interesting and full of information.

Aim

- To know what a Christian church is and what it is used for.
- To identify some features of a Christian church.



