

12. Posters and banners

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Use *Introducing the activity* plus one of the *Activities*, followed by *Drawing things together*. Please read them all before making your choice. Activities marked with * are particularly suitable for younger pupils.

Teacher's notes

- This works well with biblical teaching, festivals, stories and symbols, the church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc.)
- Some churches have their banners to view on line, for example: www.rhylbaptist.org.uk/ministries/banners_gallery.htm and www.sandbachmethodist.org.uk/banner_s.html
- If you cannot borrow banners and posters there is a wide range available from Christian bookshops and publishers and banner/poster making companies, for example, www.mccrimmons.com does Christian posters and banners for schools.

Introducing the activity

Ideally visit a church (on your own or with the class) to see their posters or banners and photograph them. Banners and posters can often be borrowed from local churches.

Use the following questions while looking at the banners and/or posters:

- What message are they giving?
- What symbols are being used?
- How were they made?
- Would they be displayed all year, or during specific seasons? Which seasons?
- Why are banners used in churches?

If your local church has a banner making group they may be willing to come and talk about their banners and be interviewed by the pupils.

* Activity 1: Banners

Pupils can design, and then possibly make, banners to reflect part of the church year, a festival, a symbol or a text. Their banners can be a mixture of text and image, or just text, or just

image. Banners are often fabric but can be paper. Before designing a banner the pupils should be clear about what they want to convey and why they want to convey it. The design can be done on paper or the computer. Pupils can explore creative ways of adding text and images using different textures and media. Text can flow round images or overlay them. Designs can be transferred to fabric. Small paper banners can be made and hung on a drinking straw. Younger pupils can select from ready-made images and words to arrange on a banner. The following should be borne in mind:

- How is texture and colour used?
- Do the words and images work together to make one whole design?
- Is the layout and composition simple and clear or confusing?
- Does it have impact?
- Is the message of the banner clear?

*Activity 2: Posters

Posters are generally made from paper. The same design criteria apply as for making banners (see above). Posters are generally strong on message. www.mccrimmons.com/products/177 has examples of Christian posters. The pupils can take photographs and incorporate them into posters or images and words can be drawn, written or stuck on. Ready made posters can be used as part of RE; this includes interactive posters, see www.crickweb.co.uk and 'Paperless Christmas' www.brf.org.uk/paperlesschristmas (this is in poster form but is an interactive Advent calendar). Pupils can explore ready-made posters and evaluate them.

Drawing things together

Create a gallery of the pupils' work. Give pupils time to view the gallery and then respond. Their response can be written or spoken. Select from their responses to display alongside the posters or banners.