

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE GOD EXISTS?

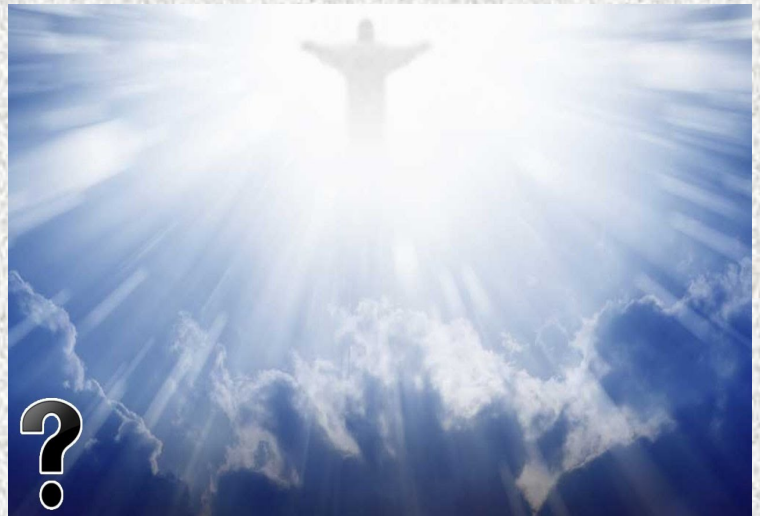
Curriculum Subject - RE

Summary

You will learn in depth from different religious and non-religious groups about belief in God.

You will question the nature and existence of God, focussing on Christian ideas about God.

You will consider why people do or don't believe in God and the impact that might have on the way they live their everyday lives.



Facts

1. The four most widely followed religions in the world are Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism, although Buddhism and Sikhism have many followers too and there are many other religions with lesser numbers of followers.
2. A person who believes in God is a **Theist**. A person who does not believe in the existence of God is an **Atheist**. Someone who might not have made a decision about their beliefs about God is known as an **Agnostic**. A large proportion of the world population classes themselves as Atheist or Agnostic.
3. Christians use the bible as a point of reference for their belief in God. There are many metaphors and similies about God in the bible, which depict him as - Father, Creator, Rock, Shepherd, Fortress, Light, Spirit, Eternal, Everywhere, Almighty...
4. It is hard to distinguish facts, beliefs and opinions when discussing God. How we interpret apparent 'facts' can affect how we view them.
5. People may not believe in God for a variety of reasons - their home background, negative religious experiences, they believe a God would not allow suffering in the world, they believe that only a scientific explanation can explain phenomena such as the existence of the universe and life.
6. Some people believe that evolution and the Big Bang Theory are not consistent with God creating the world. Christians have differing opinions - some take the Creation story from the bible literally, whilst others see it as telling a truth about human nature.
7. Christians see God as creator and designer of the natural world. It is a belief shared with Sikhs, Muslims and Jews but not with Atheists.

Questions We Will Ask

1. How many people believe in God?
2. Is God real? What do Christians think?
3. How do we know what is true? Why do people believe or not believe in God?
4. What do Christians believe about how the world began? Do they all share the same idea?
5. Is God real? Why do some people believe God exists? Why do some people believe God doesn't exist?

Key Vocabulary

Theist Believes in the existence of God(s)
Atheist Does not believe in the existence of God(s)
Agnostic Not committed to the existence or non-existence of God(s)
Evolution the process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth