

**Topic: Environment - Harvest**

**Phase: Lower KS2**

**Strand: Exploring**

**What should I already know?**

- Find different things in my environment that I think are wonderful.
- Talk about the Christian story of Creation and explain why Christians take care of the world.
- Talk about how Jewish people take care of the world.
- Talk about how Muslims take care of the world.
- Reflect upon the religious stories I have read and remember their meanings.

**At the end of the unit I will be able to:**

- Talk about what Harvest Festival is and why we celebrate it.
- Know that in different countries, people celebrate harvest in different ways.
- Reflect on how lucky I am to have enough to eat, and can show awareness and empathy for those who don't.
- Investigate how people from different countries get their food.
- Understand how peoples' belief in God can affect the way they celebrate the harvest.
- Talk about the book of Genesis and how God created the world and talk about whether I think people still obey God's wishes in taking care of animals and plants.
- Talk about the importance of Sukkot and imagine what it would be like to celebrate Sukkot in a Jewish family.
- Understand that Harvest Festival and other such celebrations thank God for delivering a safe harvest.

**Important things to know...**

During this half term, we will be investigating harvest and what it means for not only Christians, but people of all faiths and none, across the world. We will also be finding out how people in other countries cope when their harvest is affected by drought, disease and pestilence and then finding out how people of faith might be affected when this happens in their land. We will then be exploring the Christian creation story – in particular, the words written in the Bible to show God wanted humans to look after the Earth – and also investigating the festival of Sukkot, where Jewish people remember the hardships of their ancestors.



**We are MANOR!  
As learners we will ...**

**Manners**

Develop a respect and understanding for the views and opinions of other people and share ideas about our own ideas and thoughts in a respectful manner. We will celebrate good work, value others' contributions, and discuss and debate opinions.

**Aspiration**

Learn by being challenged in a series of well-designed and interesting activities designed to deepen our understanding of the world and broaden our horizons. We will be aspirational in developing knowledge and conceptual understanding through practical activities and discussions.

**Nurture**

To recognise that we live in a wonderful world made up of many different people and ways of living. We will develop an appreciation and respect for the diverse world and environment in which we live, showing care and compassion for the people and beliefs around us.

**Open-Mindedness**

We will be open-minded so that we can learn more about others and the way in which they live their lives. We will listen respectfully to each other and not laugh at or make fun of what other people say.

**Resilience**

Engage confidently with the RE curriculum and learn that anything is possible and failure is not something to fear but to learn from. We will support each other to learn new things and share what we know so that we might help others.

## Harvest

In the UK the harvest festival is traditionally celebrated on the Sunday nearest the harvest moon. This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox, which is often between 21-23 September. Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools and in Churches, people bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service. After the service, the food that has been put on display is usually made into parcels and given to people in need throughout the local community and via foodbanks.

## When the harvest fails...

In some countries such as Malawi, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, harvests are sometimes very poor and crops die due to disease and drought. In other countries such as Afghanistan and Lebanon, war has devastated farms, meaning that not enough food can be grown to keep the people fed properly. Some Christians in these countries believe that God is testing them and giving them an opportunity to show their faith by working hard and showing courage. They may offer up special prayers or promises to God in order to improve their harvest next year. For Christians in other countries who have had good harvests or who live in countries not at war, they see it as their Christian duty to help out those in need by organising international aid and food parcels. This aid does not just come from Christians, but people from many faiths and none sometimes try to help out those less fortunate than themselves.



## Genesis 1:28-30

Both the Christian Bible and the Jewish Torah begin with Genesis and The Story of Creation. Part of that story reads:

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Christians and Jews believe that God gave the newly finished Earth to them to look after and protect. This chapter of the Bible affects how many millions of people on the planet view their role in the protection of the environment.



## Sukkot

Sukkot is the Jewish harvest festival. Sukkah was the name for the shelters that Jews lived in after they had left Egypt with Moses during the Exodus. The Jews travelled for 40 years in the desert, living in temporary homes which they built to protect themselves from enemies and wild animals. The shelters were not very strong so the Jews had to rely on God to protect them.

Today, Jews remember that God protected and cared for their ancestors in the desert. Some Jews build sukkah's in their garden with their families. Some help to build one in the local synagogue.



During the festival, Jews walk round the synagogue carrying an etrog, a large citrus fruit, and a lulav, a group of branches including a palm branch. These are waved in six directions; up, down, north, east, west and south to remind them that God is everywhere.

## Vocabulary

Harvest	the process or period of gathering in crops
Festival	a day or period of celebration, typically for religious reasons.
Faith	complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
Belief	an acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof.
Sukkot	A festival which celebrates the harvest and commemorates the period after the Exodus, when the Jews wandered in the wilderness.
Genesis	the first book of the Bible and the Torah
poverty	the state of being extremely poor.
pestilence	a fatal epidemic disease
drought	a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.

## Commitment Quiz

- 1). True or false, in the UK, harvest festival is celebrated in October.
- 2). Name three countries who may be affected by poor harvests and war ravaged farms this year.
- 3). Why did the Jews originally build sukkah's?
- 4). How many different directions might the citrus fruit, the etrog and the lulav be waved in during the festival of Sukkot?
- 5). Where do the collected foods from the harvest festival go after the service in church?