

**Enquiry:** Does belief in the Trinity help Christians make better sense of God as a whole?

**Theme:** Trinity.

**Learning Intention:** I can explain what other sources might help a Christian learn about the Trinity

I can apply this knowledge to the enquiry question

**Bridge concept:** Aspects of the same person

**Resources:**

Auberon owl

Slides

Resources from the slide show printed out with enough copies so that children can choose one and put into their books. Whilst we have provided a selection here, the teacher can increase the variety and choice for the children by sourcing more from the internet. (These should be a similar size to the ones provided as they may be chosen by the children to stick in their books).

The teacher may also like to play a sung rendition of Holy Holy Holy from slide 3 from the internet whilst the children follow the words on the screen. Some versions on YouTube show the words at the same time.

**Key Vocabulary:**

aspects  
belief  
characteristics  
consubstantial  
denominations  
difference  
scholar  
source  
substance  
version



**Teaching and Learning**

**Jigsaw Charter**

(Slide 1) Remind children of the Jigsaw Charter (displayed on wall)

**Connect our learning**

Revisit learning with a low stakes quiz on whiteboards:

1. What is the long word that Auberon Owl taught us which means things that are made from the same substance as the other or exist together as one? (Consubstantial)
2. Name the 3 persons in the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit/Ghost)
3. Who might a Christian believe created man and the world? (God)
4. What appeared as a dove at Jesus' Baptism? (Holy Spirit)
5. What is the special name given to the text which summarises the Christian beliefs about the Trinity (Creed).

**Open my mind**

Share learning intention (Slide 2)

A hymn book, some stained-glass depictions of the Trinity, art work

Ask the children to think about what sources they can see here.

**Ask me this...**

Do you remember these facts from previous pieces?

### **Tell me or show me**

Explain that today, having studied the Bible and Christian texts, we are going to use a wider variety of sources to find out what Christians might believe about the Trinity. These can be varied, and we must remember that they might be what the author or artist feels, but they can still show us that somebody has thought about or researched aspects of the Trinity and then used that knowledge to create a hymn (a Christian song of worship), or a piece of art.

Teacher to show the variety given on slides but can also add to these for Let Me Learn by printing out others sourced from internet.

**Slide 3:** These are the words to a very old Christian Hymn. It was written in 1826. Why do you think the author has used the word “Holy” three times every verse? Explain that as this is a very old hymn, some of the words might be unfamiliar to us. (Teacher to play music from internet if available) but Christians might still feel that it matches what they believe about the Trinity.

**Slide 4:** Rublev’s Icon of the Trinity. Ask the children to look closely at the picture. What do they notice? Draw out that every character in the picture has the same face and this is the way the artist wants to portray it is three consubstantial people. This is even older than the hymn as it was made in 1425. The theory is that God the Father is on the left, as the other two are looking towards him, Jesus is in the middle because there is a tree behind him which might symbolise the wood of the cross, and the Holy Spirit is on the right. There is a chalice in the middle of the table, like one that might be used to hold communion wine in a church. What do the children feel about this picture? What might it show a Christian about the artist’s understanding of the Trinity?

**Slide 5:** Luca Rossetti da Orta, *The Holy Trinity*, fresco, 1738–9, St. Gaudenzio Church at Ivrea (Torino), Italy

This is a fresco (a painting done rapidly in watercolour on wet plaster on a wall or ceiling, so that the colours penetrate the plaster and become fixed as it dries) from a church in Italy. It shows God as an older man with a beard, Jesus as his son sitting next to him and the Holy Spirit as a dove. Where else have we seen the Holy Spirit as a dove? (Jesus’ baptism). What do the children feel about this picture? What might it show a Christian about the artist’s understanding of the Trinity?

**Slide 6:** Stained glass window showing a depiction of the Trinity. Stained glass windows are found in many churches and many are based on Bible texts. Some Christians find it helpful to look at them when they are praying or worshipping as they can make the light very beautiful. What do the children feel about this picture? What might it show a Christian about the artist’s understanding of the Trinity?

### **Pause Point**

Have a Pause Point by holding up the owl with wings aloft (and/or by using Slide 7)

Invite children to take 3 deep breaths, in through the nose and out through the mouth

Ask: Think about how these are all slightly different interpretations yet are describing Christian beliefs in the Trinity. Remember how important diversity might be to different Christians.

### **Let me learn**

Put a selection of pictures out on each table (You may wish to print several of each so that children’s choices aren’t limited and add more variety of sources from the internet).

Children choose a picture, take ideas from it to add to their lists and then stick it in their Jigsaw Journals. Write around or under the picture why you have chosen it. What did you like about it and what do you think it shows a Christians about the Trinity.

Children can repeat this as many times as time allows.

Why has he repeated the words 3 times? What might it tell a Christian about the Trinity?

What does this source tell you? What aspects or characteristics of God do you think a Christian would learn from it?

What does your chosen source tell you? What aspects or characteristics of God do you think a Christian would learn from it?

**Help me reflect**

Using the owl, support the children in sitting quietly and take a few breaths to calm and consider their reflection.

I would like you to sit comfortably, close your eyes and take 3 deep breaths.

Think about how diversity allows us to understand how different people may depict the same belief.

Today's Learning sheet (slide 8)

Explain and invite children to complete the 'Today's Learning' self-assessment activity by colouring the appropriate owl. Stick sheet in Jigsaw RE Journal.