

Christian Denominations: Introduction

Learning Objectives:

All (L8-L4): will know what is meant by a denomination in Christianity

Most (L8-L5): will be able to explain some things about Christian denominations

Some (L8-L6): will be able to analyse and evaluate aspects of the growth of Christian denominations



Key words

- Denomination
- Roman Catholic
- Orthodox
- Anglican
- Non-conformist
- Pentecostal

Copy these key words into your books



Starter

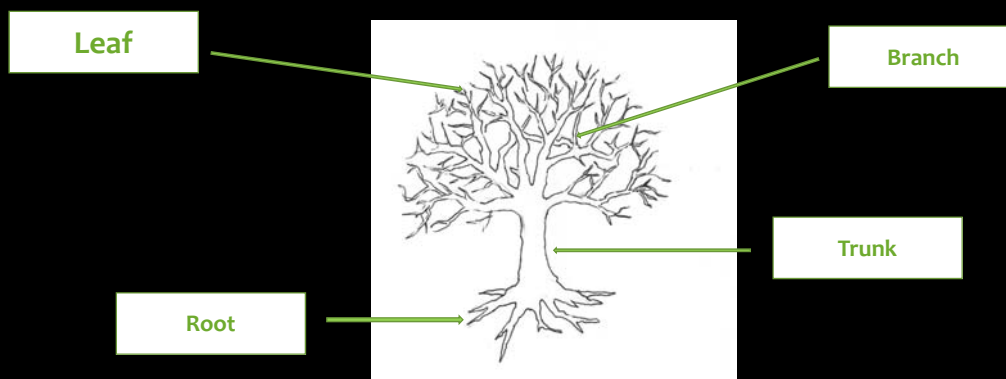
- Create a timeline of your own life
- Example:
 - Born 4th January 2001
 - Started at Primary School ...



- After you have completed your timeline compare it with a partner and highlight the key differences.

Task One

- This is what your picture should look like.
- Looking at the arrows, write down the importance of each part.





The Christian Church

- Sometimes the different denominations (parts) of the Christian Church are represented as being parts of a tree.
- After the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers at Pentecost, they started to worship together in Jerusalem – this became the first Christian Church.
- As the news about Christianity spread across the countries around the Mediterranean, more and more Churches were formed.
- At first they looked to Jesus' twelve disciples and St Paul for guidance.
- Later the Church began to develop a structure of deacons, priests and bishops.
- It was the bishops who made decisions for the local churches in their area.

Spread of Christianity in the 1st century CE



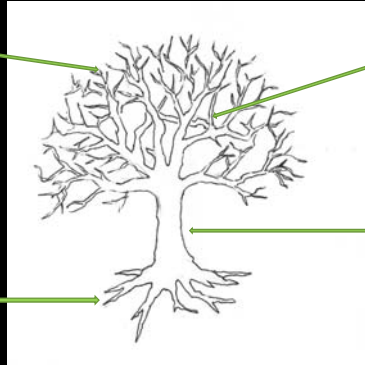
Jerusalem

Task Two – part a



Leaf: represents the smaller Christian Churches which have formed

Roots: the basis of the Christian Church is Judaism



Branch: represents the main denominations of the Christian Church today

Trunk: this represents Jesus, his disciples and the early Christian Church

Task Two – part b



- In groups, list as many different Christian denominations and Churches as you can think of.





Task Three

- Answer the following questions in your books:
 1. Why do you think there are so many different denominations (parts) of Christianity?
 2. Do you think that all the different denominations of Christianity have the same beliefs and / or practices?
 3. Do you think that all the different denominations agree with one another? Why?
 4. Do you think that Christianity, as a religion, should have so many different denominations? Why?



Plenary

- Write a paragraph explaining the example of a tree and how it can be used to represent Christian denominations.

