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 4\textsuperscript{th} 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
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.