Christian Denominations: Eastern Orthodox

Learning Objectives:
All (L8-L4): will know what is meant by the Eastern Orthodox Church
Most (L8-L5): will be able to explain some things about the Eastern Orthodox Church
Some (L8-L6): will be able to analyse and evaluate aspects of the Eastern Orthodox Church

Key words
• Denomination
• Orthodox
• Constantinople / Byzantium / Istanbul
• Schism
• Divine Liturgy
• Patriarch

Copy these key words into your books
Starter:

- The Eastern Orthodox Church had its origins in Constantinople which was later called Byzantium.
- This city is now called Istanbul.
- Look at the map which shows the eastern Mediterranean as it was in the first century CE.
- What modern-day country is Istanbul in?
History

• At first the Eastern and Western Christians shared exactly the same faith.
• They began to split following a Ecumenical Council (meeting) at Nicaea in 787 CE.
• They finally split in the Great Schism (split) of 1054.

History

• The split happened for two reasons:
  • The Pope had claimed supreme authority over all Christians
  • The two Churches had disagreed over some words in the Nicene Creed
    • – the Eastern Church said ‘I believe ... in the Holy Spirit who comes from the Father
    • – the Western Church said ‘I believe ... in the Holy Spirit who comes from the Father and the Son.
With a partner

• Can you think of an occasion when you were really angry with someone because they said something that you did not agree with?
• How did it make you feel?
• Do you think that you were right to be angry?

Marketplace Activity

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Eastern Orthodox Chant

- Eastern Orthodox Chant from Mount Athos

Plenary

- Write down three things that you learnt about the Eastern Orthodox Church in today's lesson and say why you think they are important.