

Roman Lead Shrine

Segedunum



KS3 Religious Education

A study of worship forms part of all the Agreed Syllabuses we have researched.

Learning Objectives

Pupils will learn about common features of personal worship by employing higher order learning skills.

Resources

Videos: 'BuddhistShrine.mp4'; 'Christian Shrine.mp4'; 'What We Have Found.mp4' Anotated photos: 'Labelled Buddhist Home Shrine.pdf'; 'Labelled Anglo-Catholic HomeShrine.pdf'
Lesson requires pupils to have internet access.

Suggested Classroom Activity

These resources can be used as stand-alones in the context of units on Christianity or Buddhism, but probably can best be deployed together in an enquiry-style approach. The following suggestion is quite teacher-led, but could easily be adapted to a less prescriptive method.

Show the pupils the still image of the lead shrine to Mercury, and tell them that very little is known about how the shrine would have been used in a home context. Ask the pupils how we could gain an insight into its use from studying living faiths.

After a short discussion, set them the task of working in pairs to test the idea that we could look at the common features of home shrine use in living faiths.

Give them the links to the videos in which Buddhist and Christian practitioners are asked the same **four questions** about their use of home shrines. Ask them to list what they consider to be the most important differences and similarities between the interviewees' responses. The total length of the four answers is seven minutes for the Buddhist and x minutes for the Christian, so the whole exercise should take the pupils twenty to thirty minutes. Finish with a group discussion of what they have learned.

Questions put to interviewees

Can you describe what we are looking at.
How do you pay respect to the objects?
How do you use the shrine?
What benefits do you think you gain from this practice?

Development Activity

In units on Hinduism or Sikhism, this lesson could be used as a way in to studying how home worship functions in those faiths (some Sikhs may perform Parkash at home - see below). Contacting your local SACRE you may find a faith member willing to be interviewed or even filmed answering the above questions from their perspective.

Notes and Links

'Parkash' - waking Sri Guru Granth Sahib filmed in a Gurdwara context is available at www.cleo.net.uk/resource/parkash.

The shrine was found in the quarters of a decurion – an officer in charge of 30 cavalry soldiers. At any one time there would only have been around 120 men of this rank in the entire empire. Excavations in a decurion's house in Hungary also seem to have identified a shrine to Mercury.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mithraeum_of_Victorinus and an image of Mercury appears in a a bas-relief made for a decurion found in Eisenburg, Germany.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosmerta#cite_note-7

One of the cavalry's main roles was to act as messengers on the battlefield. And Mercury was the messenger of the Gods...