



# CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: SYMBOLS

Grade Level 10-11 / 16-17y





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# Catholic Religious Education: Symbols

# **Competences/Learning Outcomes**

Students are able

- To recognize symbols when they see them.
- To know the meanings behind the symbols.
- To raise awareness of the dynamic connection between religion/worldview and symbol.
- To understand and interpret the deeper meaning of symbols and to consider it in personal contexts.
- To identify the symbolism embedded in religious and secular symbols and texts.
- To explore how symbols are used to represent abstract concepts, stories, rituals, and spiritual beliefs and secular worldviews.
- To reflect on their own beliefs, values, and identities.

#### **Grade level**

10-11 /16-17y

#### **Duration**

90 min







#### Preparation

- Bring into the classroom objects such as images, symbol cards, statues, etc. that are appropriate to students' worldviews.
- Ask the students questions to motivate them. Write some questions for students
  to explore the meaning and cultural context of religious symbols and encourage
  them to engage in discussions. A list of question can be found under "materials".
- Copy the KWL Chart for each student.

#### Step-by-step description

- Distribute the KWL Chart (M1) to the students and ask them to fill 'What I Know' and 'What I Wonder' columns. Ask students to keep the charts for the end of the lesson.
- Show the group the objects (M2) and put them up where all students can observe.
- Divide the participants into groups of 4-5 students to work together and present their works.
- Give each group the task of choosing one of the religious symbols and distribute each group the question cards (M3).
- Ask students to answer (in groups) four (4) of the questions on the cards.
- Provide sources (such as books, glossaries, online sources etc) for the students to search for information on the symbols.
- Guide each group to search for information and discuss about the role of the religious symbol in order to provide answers to the questions.
- Ask each group to design a poster to present information about the symbol they have chosen.
- Ask each group (when they finish) to share their work in the plenary classroom within a specific time frame.
- Guide and ask students to reflect on the work of each group with an active discussion.
- Ask students to work on KWL Charts and fill in the 'What I Learned' column by reflecting on the following questions:
  - How did you experience the activity?
  - o Did the group activities help you to understand the symbols?
  - What do you notice about the appearance of the chosen symbols? What do you think about the colors, shapes, or characteristics?





- What emotions or feelings does the symbols evoke in you? Why do you feel this way?
- How can you relate the symbols to your personal experiences? What connections do you find in your own life or culture regarding these symbols?

# **Tips for teachers**

- Select different objects for students to examine different types of symbols.
- Ask students to bring the object themselves.
- Design your own questions for the 'Question Cards'.
- Suggest web pages in your local languages for your students to help them during group work.









#### **Materials**

[M1] KWL Chart

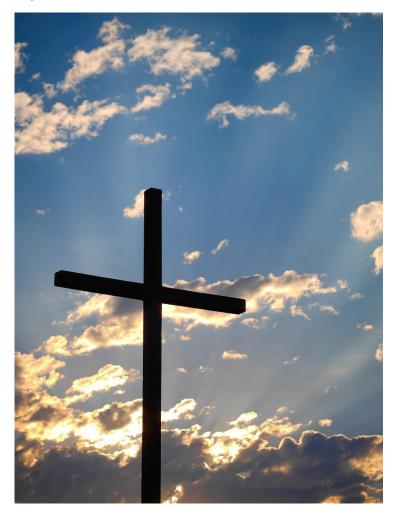
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## [M2] Symbols & Objects

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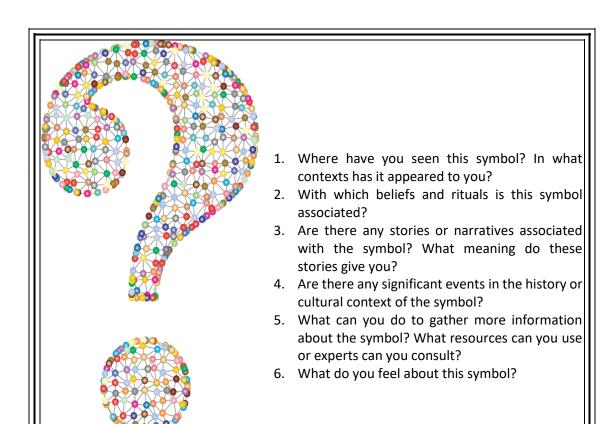








#### [M3] Question Card









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