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| What did Jesus look like?  | KS2 | No. of lessons: 4 |
| <b>Learning objectives:</b> to consider unfamiliar images of Christ from around the world and wonder about their cultural significance.  |     |                   |
| <b>Questions for reflection:</b> Who does Jesus belong to?   |     |                   |
| <p><b>Activities and experiences:</b><br/> <i>For this scheme you will need a variety of images of Jesus from different races and cultures – see Resources for recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Without preamble, ask pupils to sketch what they think Jesus looked like. Discuss their different interpretations and where they have “inherited” their image from. Consider the representations against photographs of present day inhabitants of Palestine and pictures which genuinely seek to recreate first century Jews (see RE:Jesus website).</li> <li>◆ Look together at traditional Western images of Jesus. These almost invariably show Jesus as European, sometimes as Anglo-Saxon (blonde, blue eyes). (Your local church may be a very good source of such images. ) Discuss why Jesus is portrayed in this way (e.g. notions of beauty, wanting to think of Jesus as being like yourself, familiarity). Depending on the art available to you, look at the symbolic content of some of the paintings (<i>see notes page on Art and Christianity</i>)).</li> <li>◆ Distribute a selection of images of Jesus from different cultures. In small groups investigate the paintings and decide which part of the world it comes from, and which part of Jesus’ story it represents. Is there anything which surprises you about the picture? What questions do you want to ask about it? What do you like or dislike about it (<i>you don’t have to like it</i>) and why?</li> <li>◆ Discuss whether it is most important that Jesus is shown “accurately” in art, or portrayed in a way people can understand. How do you think Christians would feel in a country such as Africa or India when every picture they are shown of Jesus looks like a white European? Would they think that Christianity is “not for them”?</li> <li>◆ Does it matter to Christians what Jesus looked like? What about Jesus is important for Christians? Interrogate some Christian volunteers, and record your findings.</li> </ul> |     |                   |
| <p><b>Resources:</b> For images of Jesus from other cultures the best resources is the photopack <b>The Christ we share</b> – top tip - the images can now be purchased on CD-Rom for only £5 <a href="http://www.cms-shop.co.uk">www.cms-shop.co.uk</a> See also <b>Jesus through Art</b>. Margaret Cooling RMEP ISBN185175119X .<br/> <b>Born Among Us</b> (Nativity materials from other countries) <a href="http://www.uspg.org.uk">www.uspg.org.uk</a> and <b>Picturing Jesus</b> Lat Blaylock CEM ISBN 1851001425<br/> <b>Websites:</b> <a href="http://www.rejesus.co.uk/expressions/">http://www.rejesus.co.uk/expressions/</a> for a variety of faces of Jesus, including a forensic reconstruction of a first century Jewish skull, and the oldest painting of Jesus (A.D. 375). Old masters paintings of Jesus on-line include: <a href="http://www.abcgallery.com/D/duccio/duccio66.html">www.abcgallery.com/D/duccio/duccio66.html</a><br/> <a href="http://www.triplov.com/zoo_ilogico/penas/pages/piero_della_francesca.htm">http://www.triplov.com/zoo_ilogico/penas/pages/piero_della_francesca.htm</a><br/> <a href="http://www.beloit.edu/~classics/main/courses/fyi2000/museum/1600-1900/">http://www.beloit.edu/~classics/main/courses/fyi2000/museum/1600-1900/</a> For some more modern but very Western (and somewhat sentimental) images look at <a href="http://www.yasso3-7ai.org/Pictures/Jesus/Jesus_Pictures_VII/images/">http://www.yasso3-7ai.org/Pictures/Jesus/Jesus_Pictures_VII/images/</a> There are Kenyan pictures of Jesus at <a href="http://www.wischik.com/irene/cross/">http://www.wischik.com/irene/cross/</a></p>  |     |                   |