

<b>Festival: Ascension ~ Horse Chestnuts</b>	<b>Year Group: Year 1</b>	<b>No. of lessons: 2</b>
<b>Links:</b> Cambs: CPE2, CFF1, CFF2, CFF3, P'borough: CRC1, CRC2, CRC3, CPE2, CPE3, N'folk: CP, CKF, CLS		
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ To hear about the story of the Ascension from the Bible or bible story book To find out about some traditions associated with a Christian festival To be able to choose a way of responding to the story of the Ascension To consider ways in which Christians believe that Jesus is like a king</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Questions for reflection:</b></p> <p>Why do people celebrate things that happened a long time ago?          What does the horse chestnut tree have to do with Ascension?          When do people have parades and processions?          I wonder why Christians think that Jesus was like a king?</p>		
<p><b>Activities and experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Revise the story of Easter and talk about the end of Jesus' life on earth, focusing on the Resurrection.</li> <li>◆ Tell the story of the Ascension, and explain that Jesus had told his disciples about it, but that they had not understood and were sad to say 'goodbye'. Think about the message of the angels that is told in the Acts of the Apostles. Can the children think of any other story from the Bible in which angels gave a message? (They might remember Christmas and Easter.)</li> <li>◆ Explain the custom of Ascension candles. As the festival of Ascension takes place in May (40 days after Easter) it is a festival associated with the flowering of horse chestnut tree 'candles' in England, thus leading to 'Chestnut Sunday' sometimes being celebrated on the Sunday before Ascension with a picnic. Ascension processions on Ascension Day, which will always be a Thursday, or on the next Sunday, used to take place along avenues of chestnut trees, notably in Bushey Park in London.              Make your own Ascension candles using two triangles of card and a lolly stick, (<i>download the appropriate Resource Page for further information</i>). You could use these for a pupil led assembly and let the class members process into the hall and explain the significance of this custom. If you take part in a church service on Ascension Day, these 'candles' could be used following the blowing out of the Easter candle, which signifies the end of Jesus' earthly life.</li> <li>◆ Talk about the features of kingship, make crowns and add the characteristics of Jesus as a king around the outside.</li> <li>• Have an Ascensiontide picnic –under the horse chestnut trees if you have them locally!</li> </ul>		