Living

Year: 5 Term: 4

Key question: Green religion?
What do religious and non-religious worldviews teach about caring for the Earth?

- Climate change is a term used by experts when describing the way that both weather and climate systems are changing as a result of mankind's industrial activity across the world. There are a lot of different environmental changes that are happening as a result of climate change. Some are big and some are small.
- The Qur'an says 'It is Allah who has appointed you Guardians in the Earth' (6:135). Green Muslims in the present day think about the meaning of being a guardian: it certainly rules out actions that spoil the earth, which Allah made good. And it suggests a role for Muslims to tackle the negative impacts of climate change on the lives of poor people and the lives of animals.
- Charities such as Operation Noah, Green Christian and A Rocha encouraging people to think about their use of the environment and develop practical ways to care for the planet. Many Christians think of the world as a gift from God, a gift that people have damaged and need to mend and look after better.
- The festival of Tu B'Shevat, a new year for trees, is celebrated by Jewish people. It reminds Jewish people of the importance of the land and how much they rely on it for food. Jewish people often celebrate this festival by planting trees and eating fruit, particularly fruit that grows in Israel such as grapes, figs, pomegranates and dates.
- Bhumi, Ahimsa, Atman and Hindu care for living things . Bhumi is the goddess of the earth, which has implications for how Hindu people care for the planet. Ahimsa is the value of non-violence, harmlessness, that leads Hindu people to be vegetarian and to care for all that lives. Atman, the divine spark that dwells in every living creature. If you believe in atman, and value ahimsa, how does this affect how you live? Many Hindus practise ahimsa, which is not harming any living creatures. As a result of this belief almost all Hindus are vegetarians.

Vocabulary	
sustainability	The idea that humans must interact with the environment in a way that ensures there will be enough resources left for future generations.
climate change	Refers to the long-term changes in global temperatures.
climate justice	Means finding solutions to the climate crisis that not only reduce emissions or protect the natural world, but that do so in a way which creates a fairer, more just and more equal world in the process.
Catholic	Catholics base their beliefs on the Christian Bible. Roman Catholics also believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a very important holy person.
Pope	The pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church.
steward	Someone who takes care of the grounds or animals of a particular place.
Khalifah	A khalifah is a steward – someone who looks after something for someone else.
Bhumi	The goddess of earth in Hinduism.
Tu B'Shevat	Tu B'Shevat is considered the New Year of the Trees, when almond trees begin to bloom in Israel. Today, many people mark this holiday by planting saplings

Key Questions:

- Who does the Earth belong to?
- What do Muslims think and do about caring for the earth?
- What do Christians think and do about caring for the earth?
- What do Hindus think and do about caring for the earth?
- What do Jewish people think and do about caring for the earth?
- What are the different ways to make religions 'greener'?





Pope



Bhumi



Tu B'Shevat