

‘Learn Jainism’ Teachers’ Notes

Unit 7E – What are we doing to the environment?

Jainism and the Environment

Jains have a great respect for all living things and for the environment in which they live. This is shown not only in the teachings of the Mahavira (one of the most important figures in Jainism) but also in the way that Jains worship and live their lives. This is especially true of Jain monks and nuns.

Your pupils can find out more about how Jains view their relationship with the environment in pages 10 and 11 and pages 22 and 23 of ‘Discover Jainism’.

Classroom Activities

If you look in the ‘Picture Bank’ section of the ‘Learn Jainism’ website you will find some images that show how Jains support the environment. Your pupils can freely use these images for their own work on Jains and the environment.

There is also an online crossword puzzle on Jainism and the Environment in the ‘Fun and Games’ section of the website. Pupils can either go this as a whole class activity using an interactive whiteboard or in smaller groups/ICT pairs.

Ask your pupils to think about the most important environmental issues facing us today. These could be fair trade, organic foods, climate change, animal welfare, resource depletion or pollution. Ask your pupils to look through the pages of ‘Discover Jainism’ mentioned above and see if they can come up with a Jain approach to these issues.

Further Resources

There is one book on Jainism and the Environment. It is edited by Christopher Chapple and is called ‘Jainism and Ecology: Nonviolence in This Web of Life’ (Harvard University Press, 2002). This book is not suitable for Key Stage 3 pupils and is more useful as background reading for teachers.

If you or your pupils would like some more information on Jainism and the Environment then visit the Alliance of Religions and Conservation website at <http://www.arcworld.org/>. Then click on ‘Faiths and Ecology’ and then ‘Jainism’.



<http://www.learnjainism.org>