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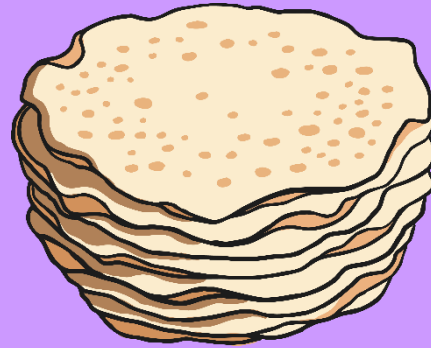
T: Can I show what I understand about
Ash Wednesday?



What do you already know about Ash
Wednesday?



Last Tuesday, you might have celebrated Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday.



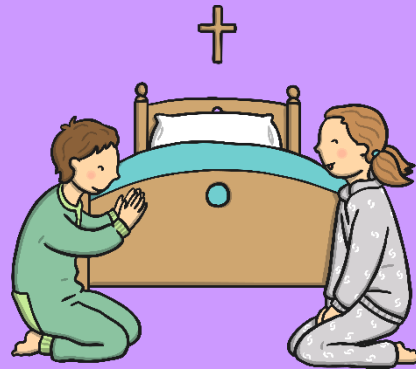
It is called *Shrove* Tuesday because Christians would go to church on that day to be *Shriven*. Shriven is an old word and it means that people had to confess all the things that they knew they had done wrong. The priest would bless the people, then they would go home and make pancakes using all the rich and fatty foods they had at home, ready for...



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is a special time for Christians, as it is the time before Easter when Christians are thinking about how they can improve.

They also think about the things Jesus did for them.



During Lent, Christians often 'give up' things. They do this to remind themselves of the time that Jesus spent in the desert. They could give up luxuries and try to resist temptation, to practise self-discipline. They also make time to pray more and to attend church often (although we know that this is difficult at the moment).



How did Ash Wednesday begin?

In the Bible, it is written that Jesus Christ suffered 40 days in the desert, where he fasted during the day. He was relentlessly tempted by the Devil, who knew Jesus was hungry. He repeatedly asked Jesus to prove he was the Son of God by telling him to turn stones into bread. Jesus resisted. The Devil offered Jesus rule over all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus worshipped him; Jesus refused. Lastly, the Devil taunted Jesus by telling him to throw himself off the highest point of the temple and prove he was the Son of God by asking the angels to save him. Jesus refused once more. No matter how hard he tried, the Devil could not tempt Jesus. The time of Lent, which lasts 40 days, is recognised by many Christians as a time to prepare for Easter and reflect on Jesus' time of temptation in the desert. The first day is Ash Wednesday.

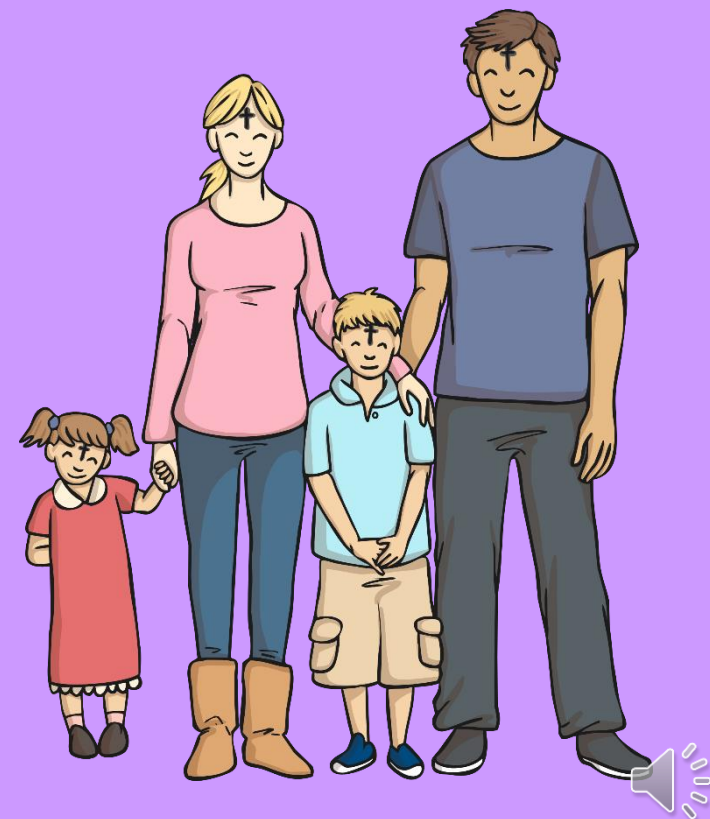


Why Is It Called Ash Wednesday?

Ashes are what is left when the palms from 'Palm Sunday' the year before are burnt.

On Ash Wednesday, Christians go to a special service to repent. This means they go to church to admit the things they have done wrong and to ask God for forgiveness. During the special service, a special cross is drawn on their head using ashes.

Christians believe that the ashes are a symbol of being sorry for things they have done wrong. They also believe that having a cross drawn on their head with ash, shows their commitment to God and Jesus Christ.



Why do you think that Christians think about the things they have done wrong?

Christians think about the things they have done wrong in the past, so that they can try to be better people in the future.



Show what you know about Ash Wednesday by filling in the gaps on the next page, or writing your own paragraph to explain.



Last Tuesday, it was _____.

This was the last day of _____ before the season of _____,
which lasts for _____. This represents the time that Jesus spent in the _____.

The Liturgical colour for Lent is _____.

The day after Shrove Tuesday is called _____ so we usually go to church to a special
mass and receive _____ on our forehead from Father Joseph.

I know that ashes are made from burnt _____ and it symbolises _____
_____.

Word bank

Ash Wednesday

ashes

Ordinary Time

palms

Lent

Shrove Tuesday

purple

desert

Reflection:

During Lent I could...