

Mission & The Church in the Wider World		✓
Denominations	After the death and resurrection of Christ, Christianity spread very quickly. Over the centuries, the Christian Church split into many different groups called denominations.	
The Great Schism	The Great Schism of 1054 marked a great split in the Christian church, creating two denominations - The Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Church. The split occurred because of disagreements over the wording of the Creed, whether or not the church should be centred in Rome, and whether or not the Pope should be head of the church. They also disagreed over the type of bread to be used in Holy Communion, and whether or not priests should be allowed to marry. The Roman Catholic Church said that priests should be celibate, whilst the Orthodox Church said that men who are already married could become priests.	
Roman Catholic Church	Rome in Italy is the centre and headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. The Apostle Peter became known as the Bishop of Rome, and the Roman Emperor Constantine became the first Roman Christian changing the religion of the senate from worshipping the pagan Roman gods to Christianity. Today, the Pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He is based at St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in Rome. Beliefs & Practices: Trinity, veneration of Mary, Holy Communion is called Mass, transubstantiation, confession, rosary beads.	
Orthodox Church	The most well known of the Orthodox churches are the Greek Orthodox and the Russian Orthodox, however there are many more including the Coptic Church and the Armenian Church. The heads of the Orthodox churches are called Patriarchs. Beliefs & Practices: Trinity, veneration of Mary, Holy Communion is called The Divine Liturgy, transubstantiation, icons, incense and bells.	
The Reformation (The Protestant Movement)	The Reformation took place during the sixteenth century when a group of Christians wanted to reform the way the Roman Catholic Church was run. They had not intended to create another split in the church, but events reached crisis point in 1517 when a German monk called Martin Luther posted a list of 95 complaints against the church onto the door of the church in Wittenburg. He accused the church of corruption because they 'sold' forgiveness and salvation in the form of indulgences. Parishioners went to the church during the week and paid for stone or wooden counters called indulgences. They would then hand their indulgences over to the priest in return for forgiveness during confession. The new denomination created out of these protests and the resulting split was called the Protestant Church. The Anglican Church (Church of England) is a Protestant Church.	
Anglican Church (Church of England)	This church was created after the Pope refused to allow Henry VIII to be divorced. When Henry went ahead with the divorce, the Pope excommunicated him from the Roman Catholic Church. In response he created his own church which grew in strength during the reign of Elizabeth I. The head of the Church of England is always the reigning monarch, with the Archbishop of Canterbury being the most senior member of the clergy. Beliefs & Practices: Trinity, less focus on Mary, Holy Communion is called The Eucharist, no confessionals, no transubstantiation.	
Non-Conformist Churches	These are all branches of the Protestant Church and include such denominations as the Quakers, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church and the Salvation Army. These churches are called non-conformist because the structure of their worship does not conform (is different) to that of the 'Established Church' (the Church of England). Beliefs & Practices: Preaching the Gospels is the most important aspect of worship, so many non-conformist churches do not have an altar for Holy Communion. Denominations such as the Methodists and the Salvation Army have also banned the drinking of alcohol.	

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The Ecumenical Movement	This is the name given to a movement which tries to bring together and unite all of these different branches of Christianity. It is not about making all of the different denominations into one big denomination, it is about co-operating and helping one another rather than fighting over the differences. Many cities have organisations called 'Churches Together in' - all of the different denominations work together for the good of the whole community, and at certain points during the year they join together for a service of worship.	
Religious Communities	Ecumenism has also resulted in the creation of Religious Communities such as Taizé, Iona and Corrymeela. These communities welcome Christians from any denomination, who want to retreat for a while and pray together. They receive guests who stay for varying lengths of time from all over the world. Taizé - a Christian community in a small village in France run by monks. Their aim is for reconciliation between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Iona - a holy island off the coast of Scotland. It has been a place of pilgrimage since St Columba went there in 563 CE. Corrymeela - at Ballycastle in Northern Ireland. This community was founded by Protestants and Catholics working together in 1965.	
Evangelism	Evangelism is the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness, with the aim of converting people to Christianity. <i>'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'</i> (Matthew 28:19-20) <i>'Come, follow me...and I will make you fishers of men.'</i> (Matthew 4:19)	
Attitudes to Evangelism	What the denominations say about Evangelism: 'The Church has two purposes: to worship God and to make new disciples.' The Archbishop of Canterbury (The Church of England) The Salvation Army says it exists to: 'save souls, grow saints and serve a suffering humanity.' However, some Christians disagree with Evangelism because say that it's "wrong to share one's personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith."	
Mission/Missionary	A Christian Mission is an organized effort to spread Christianity . Missions often involve sending individuals and groups, called missionaries, across boundaries, most commonly geographical boundaries, for the purpose of proselytism (conversion to Christianity , or from one Christian tradition to another).	
Charity Work	Missionary Work is often combined with charity work because it shows concern for the needs of others and fulfils the second of the two greatest commandments - to love your neighbour. You will research one of the following Christian charity organisations as a homework task: TEAR Fund, Christian Aid and CAFOD.	
The Persecuted Church	Persecution - to be subjected to hostility and ill-treatment, often based on race, political or religious beliefs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Christians have been murdered for their faith in the past century than at any other time. • Persecution includes: death, physical assault, beatings, torture, rape, being denied education. Approx. 100 million Christians face persecution today.	
Evangelism & Persecution	Evangelising and aiming to convert those who have a different religion or no religion can cause offence and lead to conflict and persecution. Despite this, Christians continue to live missionary-driven lives and many people are converting to Christianity where the persecution is at its greatest. e.g. Iran The Barnabus Fund give advice, practical and financial aid to persecuted churches and Christians.	