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IRENE

Innovative Religious Education NETwork:  
educating to the religious diversity

KA2 - Agreement Number: 2020-1-RO01-KA204-080071

ERASMUS + PROGRAMME

INNOVATIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NETWORK

IRENE PROJECT

## Enhancing Religious Education Methods in Multicultural Environments

# LESSON PLAN EXAMPLE FOR TEACHING RE4LIGIOUS DIVERSITY

## Guidance for RE Teachers

E-learning material



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### INTELLECTUAL OUTCOME 04

*Objective of the lesson plan:* To introduce students to the concept of religious diversity, promote understanding of different religions, and foster tolerance and respect within a multicultural classroom.

*Grade Level:* Middle School (Grades 6-8)

*Duration:* 45-60 minutes

*Materials:*

- Images of various religious symbols
- World map or globe
- Whiteboard and markers

*Introduction:*

Begin with a thought-provoking question: "Have you ever wondered why people around the world follow different religions?"

Engage students in a brief class discussion about the various religions they know of and any experiences they may have had with different religious practices.

*Activity 1: Exploring Religious Symbols:*

- Show images of different religious symbols on a screen or handouts.
- Ask students to identify the symbols they recognize and share what they know about each religion.
- Discuss the significance of symbols in religion and how they can help us understand the beliefs and practices of different communities.

*Activity 2: Mapping Religious Diversity:*

- Display a world map or globe in the classroom.
- Have students take turns pointing to different countries and naming religions associated with those regions.



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- Discuss how religious diversity varies around the world and how different religions have unique cultural influences.

*Activity 3: Shared Beliefs and Values:*

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Provide each group with a set of statements about common values like kindness, compassion, honesty, and respect.
- Have groups discuss and identify how these values are shared across various religions.
- Each group shares their findings with the class.

*Activity 4: Respectful Discussions:*

- Introduce a scenario where students might encounter a situation involving a different religious practice or belief.
- Guide a class discussion on how to respond respectfully and without prejudice in such situations.
- Emphasize the importance of empathy and understanding, even if we don't share the same beliefs.

*Reflection:*

- Ask students to write a brief reflection on what they've learned about religious diversity and its significance in fostering harmony among diverse communities.
- Allow some students to share their reflections with the class, encouraging open and respectful dialogue.

*Homework/Extension:*

- Encourage students to research one religion they are less familiar with and create a brief presentation to share with the class.
- Have students interview a family member or friend from a different religious background and share their insights in the next class.

*Assessment:*

Assess students' understanding through their class participation, engagement in discussions, and the quality of their reflections. Additionally, review the quality and depth of their presentations or interviews (if applicable).



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*Closure:*

Summarize the importance of understanding and respecting religious diversity in our increasingly interconnected world. Reinforce the idea that by learning about different religions, we can promote a more inclusive and peaceful society.



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