



### The wonder of nature and how religious people express their thankfulness

- *Which aspects of the natural world do the children find wonderful?*
- *What do Christians and Jews say about how the world was made?*
- *How do Christians show they are thankful for the natural world? Harvest*
- *How do Jews show they are thankful for the natural world? Sukkoth*

#### **Thankfulness for Nature**

1. Awe and wonder
  - Go outside to smell the earth. Look at the sky. Feel the trees.
  - Record how the children feel?
  - Look at natural objects using magnifying glasses.
  - The [Science Photo Library](#) contains a vast range of images from the natural world, many magnified to show great detail
2. Read 'In the Beginning' big book by Steve Turner - (available on loan from Watford Schools Trust) and look at the illustrations.
  - Create a colourful collage portraying the Biblical account of creation.
  - Watch BBC's Pathways to Belief 'Creation' video.
  - Read from the beginning of the Storyteller Bible. Divide class up to invent a class dance to go with the story (e.g. swimming things, flying things, a sun, moon and stars).
3. Look at some corn/wheat ears (or corn for popping will do) - flour - variety of breads from around the world. How/where does wheat grow? Make bread.
4. What is our favourite food? Where do the ingredients come from? How does it get onto our plates/into our lunch boxes? Who should we thank?  
Make a bowl of fruit from brightly coloured paper or tissue - this activity can be linked to literacy using the book 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne (Walker Books, also available in Big Book format).
5. Look at examples of thank you hymns and prayers
6. Read story of the Hebrews in the wilderness 'A Long Journey' page 36 Storyteller Bible. Make a shelter for Sukkoth to eat lunch in.

#### **Festival of Shelters (*Sukkoth*)**

The origins of this week long Jewish festival are described in Leviticus Chapter 23. It is part of the harvest celebrations and is a time for saying thank you to God for all he has provided. Jewish families build temporary shelters of branches and leaves in their gardens to eat and even sleep in. Sleeping under the stars reminds them of the time when God cared for their ancestors for 40 years in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses (in the book of Exodus). Read the story from The Storyteller Bible.