

# World Red Cross Day

## Objectives

- To recognise the work done by this charity, helping people throughout the world.

## Resources

A large cardboard box containing a bottle of water, energy biscuits, chocolate, a blanket, a first aid kit, a small pair of scissors, socks, gloves, a hat, a scarf, soap, a towel, a toothbrush and toothpaste; recent pictures of Red Cross work (these can be viewed on their website [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)).

## Links

- This links with Religious Education Unit 1C 'Why do Christians give gifts at Christmas?', in which the children decide what is precious and special. Ask the children to suggest why water is so precious to some of the people in the pictures.

## Assembly type

- Teacher-led whole key-stage assembly.
- Presentation and discussion.

## Background

In this assembly, the children will consider what they would put into a box to send to someone in need. This will encourage them to understand the difference between essentials and treats, as they consider the importance of each item added to the box.

Some children may have issues at home that will relate to parts of this assembly, and this needs to be handled sensitively.

The assembly can be carried out as part of Red Cross Week.

## Introduction

- Tell the children about the Red Cross organisation. Tell them that it responds to disasters such as war and poverty.
- Explain that the Red Cross sends out parcels and gives support to those in need all around the world, especially in areas that are suffering from war, disaster or poverty.

## Main assembly

- Tell the children that you have put together a parcel. It contains some of the everyday things you think people will need if they have lost everything in a war or in a disaster. Ask the children to guess what is in the box.
- Encourage the children to think, for example, about what they need to keep clean, warm and comfortable throughout the day.
- Accept all of their suggestions, each time asking them to say why they think this may be in the box.
- After about ten suggestions, invite children to come out one at a time to take something out of the box. Ask the rest of the children to say why they think you have put this item into your box. How will it help? Is it an essential item or a treat?
- Look at the Red Cross pictures and invite the children to reflect on how the people in the pictures may be feeling. Talk about this together, making sure that no one gets upset. Explain that these people have already received help from the Red Cross.
- Finally, ask the children to say how they could help those in other countries. Make sure they realise that people all over the world need help every day.

## Closing thought or prayer

Ask the children to think about what they have learned in this assembly. Some people in the world are much worse off than we are. Ask them to think about all children who are unhappy in some way, children who do not live with their families, or have enough to eat or a warm place to sleep.

Dear God, We thank you for our happy lives. Please help all the unhappy people in the world. (Amen)