

THEME 3: OTHER AVENUES TO EXPLORE

The ideas and questions in this section are intended to stimulate further discussion, exploration and expression of issues of identity, inclusion and exclusion. They could be used as springboards into citizenship, philosophy, drama or other creative media.

BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

- **Space**

- ♦ Does space matter?
- ♦ What is private, personal space and what is public?
- ♦ What about virtual space?
- ♦ How does space create tension and relaxation?
- ♦ How do we include or exclude others?

- **Buildings**

- ♦ How does the function of a building create boundaries and barriers?
- ♦ Consider these settings – a shopping centre, school, hospital, police station, café. Who has access to which areas? Who is excluded?
- ♦ Rooms within the home have different functions, who has access to them? Does the degree of access change depending on age, relationships between the residents, between the residents and those outside the home?

- **Barriers**

- ♦ What is a barrier for? Protection, possession, exclusion, inclusion?
- ♦ What is the impact of physical barriers? What outcomes and accommodations are made in relationship to them?
- ♦ Does a barrier need to be physical? What about barriers between generations, between gangs etc.

The impact of the newly built Hadrian's Wall and its associated forts and transport network was immense and traumatic, transforming the lives of those living within the region. It has continued to affect the lives of people living in the Borders throughout the centuries. Today it is a major tourist attraction and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- ♦ Find out more about Hadrian's Wall today. Who owns it? Who looks after it? Who lives by it? What impact does it have on their lives? Does it have any impact on your life?
- ♦ The Great Wall of China is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Does it have similarities with Hadrian's Wall? What was its purpose?
- ♦ Physical walls between groups of people are still being built. What is the impact of their construction e.g. the Israeli West Bank Barrier? What is the impact of their destruction e.g. destruction of the Berlin and the collapse of the communist bloc?

Web links

These sites are very useful for examples of propaganda, image making etc

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/imagelibrary/colonial/default.htm>

<http://www.ltmcollection.org/posters/artist/artist.html?IXartist=Charles+Pears>

<http://www.manchestergalleries.org/the-collections/revealing-histories/propaganda-pride-and-prejudice-posters-from-the-empire-marketing-board/>

CHRISTIANITY, CHRISTMAS & THE ROMAN EMPIRE: TEXT & CONTEXT

- It is an often overlooked fact that the events and writings of the New Testament of the Bible are played out and recorded against the political background of a people under Roman occupation.
- Below are the dates that modern scholars attribute to the earliest New Testament texts; the three gospels were all written during the period of rule by Vespasian and his sons Titus and Domitian.

Letters of Paul	AD 50s
Gospel of Mark	AD 70 approx
Gospel of Mathew)AD 80s
Gospel of Luke) – 90s

- There is an interesting juxtaposition and tension between the Imperial cult and the roles fulfilled by the emperor as a god and those ascribed by the gospel writers to Jesus.

‘America is in the powerful and perilous position of being the empire of our day. ... the stories of the first Christmas are pervasively anti-imperial. ... [they] affirm ... that Jesus is the Son of God (and the emperor is not), that Jesus is the Saviour of the World (and the emperor is not), that Jesus is Lord (and the emperor is not), that Jesus is the way to peace on earth (and the emperor is not), ...’

Marcus J Borg & John Dominic Crossan, *The First Christmas*

Discussion points

- Why were early followers of Christ on a collision course with the authorities?
- Rome was generally tolerant of local religious beliefs, why could Christianity not be accommodated?
- In Britain the Druids were brutally suppressed. Were there similarities in the impact these two religions, one ancient and the other nascent, had on local populations and their response to Roman rule?
- The gospels are written in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Jerusalem. Is this coincidence or response? What other factors could there be?
- Conflicts between those with strongly held beliefs and those in authority are a feature of modern life; persecution is still a reality for many groups. Is there any commonality within all these situations?