

7-11s Learning about Mission Aviation Fellowship

A charity with a Christian vision for serving isolated people around the world.



Lesson 4: Serving the whole world: new supporters needed

In these lessons, pupils will learn about a Christian charity that uses small planes to help people who need transport in some of the remotest areas of the world. They will know and understand more about the idea that we all depend upon each other, and will explore how Christians use ideas from the Bible to describe their mission in life, through designing a new supporter poster for MAF.

Keywords: Christian / Bible Scripture / Kingdom of God / Global serving / Faith / Mission work / Communities / Poverty / Impact / Suffering / Human rights / Jesus Christ / Belief & teaching / Worldwide Church / Christian charity / Inclusion / Prayer

Connections to RE syllabuses:

These lesson ideas are provided to help pupils aged 7-11 to learn about the key idea that supporting MAF is not just about giving money but is also about active, practical support, as well as support through prayer. They will learn from MAF about how Christians try to put Jesus’ teaching into action. The learning contributes to the aims of RE for 7-11-year-olds.

To the teacher: Why learn about MAF?

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is an example of a Christian charity. It works in partnership with some 2,000 Christian and relief organisations. MAF enables the swiftest delivery of practical help, emergency relief, medical assistance and spiritual hope to provide help, hope and healing to some of the remotest and most inaccessible communities on earth. Their amazing fleet of over 130 light aircraft can reach places others can’t access, and has grown from small beginnings more than 70 years ago. MAF supports both goals of Christian mission and humanitarian compassion.

RE aims: In line with the outcomes RE seeks for 11-year-olds learning about Christianity, these lessons will enable pupils to work towards the outcomes across the 7-11 age group by:

- ✚ Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of Christianity, including some key ideas from the Bible such as ‘answered prayer’
- ✚ Understanding the impact of the belief of Christians from all over the world, who see themselves as one big ‘fellowship’ or community
- ✚ Applying their knowledge and understanding of Christian belief and ideas through designing a new supporter poster for MAF
- ✚ Making their own connections between what they learn and their own view of life.

RE learning outcomes

Through this work, pupils will:

- ✚ Explore what it means for a Christian to support the work of MAF
- ✚ Think about this question: ‘Why would someone become an MAF supporter?’
- ✚ Consider examples of Bible teaching and relate this to the work of the charity
- ✚ Express their own views about some questions to do with the Christian concept of the ‘Gospel’ or ‘Good News’.

Curriculum connections

Religious Education: Pupils will find out about the Christian idea of global fellowship: the Church is the ‘people of God’ across all boundaries in every nation. They will learn about Jesus’ teaching on loving one’s neighbour and how this can be expressed through generosity. They will be asked to think about how Christianity asks Jesus’ followers to live lives of love and service to others. Pupils will also have the opportunity to think about Christian mission.

RME in Scotland: Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs about God’s love for the whole world, and the values of compassion, patience, love and peace that accompany this. They develop the ability to explain Christian beliefs in relation to biblical concepts and ideas.

British Values: Pupils explore the meanings of values including individual liberty, democracy (‘every person is worth the same as every other’) and respect for all.

Understanding Christianity: Pupils develop their understanding of key Christian concepts including the Gospel/‘Good News’ and the people of God (Christians).

Biblical connections: How do teachings from the Bible connect to the work of MAF?

These lessons will enable pupils to think for themselves about biblical teaching, eg by selecting a Bible verse for their poster that they think has the closest connection to MAF’s mission.

Religious Education learning activities

The four lessons in this series encourage pupils to explore questions about Christian belief and its impact in today's world by asking them to devise a poster for MAF. The structure of the task requires pupils to think about the charity's purpose and the many ways it seeks support from members of the Christian community. By making choices about the poster's style, message and 'ingredients', the pupils will examine and develop their understanding of Bible texts, global Christian fellowship, the idea of a faith community and the needs of the developing countries MAF seeks to serve.

Pupils will learn more about what MAF does through this activity; applying ideas about the Christian Gospel and Christian mission worldwide. They will be able to discuss and consider how to communicate simply some of the core messages the charity might wish to get across. Pupils will learn to think for themselves about how Christians see themselves as the people of God.

Learning activities for this lesson;

1. **Getting ready to seek MAF supporters.** Put the pupils in pairs and show them the MAF promotional video. If they have learned about MAF beforehand, remind them about the charity's work. Ask the pairs what they think MAF could do to get support from Christians. Making a poster is just one of the suggestions likely to emerge. (Ambitious alternatives such as making a video can also be attempted, but it works best if the pupils aren't distracted from their task by thinking too much about technology!)
2. **Outline the poster-making task.** Tell the pupils to imagine they work for a marketing agency, and they are poster and publicity designers. They have been invited to pitch for the work of publicising MAF to its potential supporters. They should make a rough draft of ideas, then take an A3 sheet of paper and develop the ideas in greater depth and detail; discussing carefully the 'ingredients' of a brilliant poster. Tell the pairs of pupils that, when they have finished, they will present their poster idea to a 'star chamber' (other pupils) to see if they have won. (One of them should be ready to explain why the poster is great.) The information on **page 3** will help with planning and **page 4** is a template for a poster, which teachers can copy onto A3 paper. (Some pupils may design their own.) **MAF statistics 2018** is an optional additional PDF handout that offers some interesting statistics and comparisons. The winning poster may go beyond the template and be more original. The pupils may also have time to suggest video adverts, online pop-ups, leaflets or other publicity materials.
3. **Evaluate your work and hear from the different groups.** In a class of 30, where 15 posters have been devised, get 5 pairs to look at each other's posters and agree a 'finalist'. Then get them to decide which of the three 'finalists' best expresses MAF's mission and is most persuasive.



Examples of MAF airstrips

Although landing on tiny airstrips like these can be a challenge, it's often the only way MAF can assist when natural disasters strike, medical emergency flights are needed or people in trouble need help.

MAF can provide your school with a 'Community fundraising' booklet and also has a Bake Off to Take Off kit available, if you are interested. These resources enable schools to run creative events to raise funds for MAF's work. Visit – <https://www.maf-uk.org/get-involved/fundraise>

Create a new MAF poster for supporters

MAF needs more supporters for its work. Supporters are not just people who give money, they also pray and help promote the charity's work. Design a poster which invites people to join in. Make it striking, informative and powerful.

A great MAF poster might have five 'ingredients'. Choose or develop your own ingredients, either selecting one item from each box, or being more original and developing ideas of your own. **Cross out the ones you don't want to use, then think carefully about your poster design.** How will you fit everything in? How will you make it look amazing? How will you persuade people to become MAF supporters? Ask pupils to check the MAF website to see what they're doing about this.

<p>The five ingredients of a great poster</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A slogan to sum up MAF's work 2. An image to grab attention and show the meaning of the charity 3. A Bible text to show why the charity does its work 4. Some keywords about the charity 5. A challenge or invitation to be a supporter. <p>Select one (or maybe more) of the ingredients from the five blue boxes to use in your poster – or come up with a better idea yourself!</p>	<p>An image to grab attention</p> <p>Which images will you use? Keep it strong and simple, but maybe use more than one of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An image of the world • A tiny plane • A symbol for medical help • A symbol for emergency aid • A Christian symbol for spiritual help • A symbol for hope • A symbol for partnership • A symbol for co-operation and teamwork
<p>Slogan. Which of these five do you like best? Can you think of a better one?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'MAF: Small planes making a big difference all over the world.' 2. 'Flying to the rescue: MAF is helping people in trouble everywhere.' 3. 'From you and God to the world: a mission to share hope.' 4. 'Do you need medicine? Emergency food? Bibles? Transport to save life? We fly in!' 5. 'MAF: God's people helping God's people everywhere.' 	<p>A Bible text</p> <p>Can you choose one sentence to say how MAF is inspired by the teaching of the Bible? Where will it go in your poster? Written on the side of a plane? Round the edge in funky script? Unless you have a better idea, you might choose from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' • Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers. They will be called God's children.' • Jesus said, 'I am the vine. You are the branches.' • Saint Paul wrote, 'We are all part of one body. Everyone needs the other parts for the whole body to flourish.'
<p>An invitation to support MAF</p> <p>What would be the best way to say to people that the charity needs their support? Select from the quotes below or come up with something better.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'Would you like to support our mission of hope? We need your prayers, your actions and your money. Contact us.' 2. 'MAF needs new supporters. Some people will pray for us. Some people will give money to support us. Some people will take action to help our charity. What will you do? Contact us.' 3. 'Please consider remembering MAF in your Will, or making a gift of money. Our charity needs to raise £12 million a year to keep our vital work going. Contact us.' 4. 'Do you care about bringing hope to the world in the name of Christ? If so, join our supporters. You'll receive a monthly magazine, and we will value your prayers and your gifts. Contact us.' 	<p>Some keywords to sum up MAF</p> <p>How could you use these in the poster? Would three be enough, or do you want more? Have you got your own ideas?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Partners Good News Fellowship Co-operation Global team Emergency help Flying to the rescue People of God </p>

 <p>The logo for MAF Flying for Life features the letters 'MAF' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below 'MAF' is the tagline 'Flying for Life' in a smaller, blue, italicized sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a white bird in flight, with a red wing and a grey shadow.</p>	<p>Image</p>
<p>Slogan</p>	
<p>Invitation</p>	<p>Bible text</p>
<p>Keywords</p>	

PRIVATE

Optional additional activity if all 4 lessons in this series have been delivered:

Here is a whole class display about the work pupils did (8-9-year-olds) at Nikki Bonnell's school. Notice the way it incorporates different activities from the suite of lessons.



For more information about MAF, visit: www.maf-uk.org

For more stories about the work of MAF, visit: www.maf-uk.org/how-we-help/stories

For more games and other resources to use in schools or with young people visit:

www.maf-uk.org/youth/resources