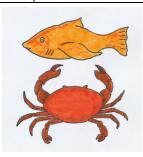


KOSHER



Food laws are found in many religions, and often connected to questions about purity and cleanliness. Sometimes ancient food laws protected animals – but what happens if we have better ways to protect them today? Do the old laws still count?

Which religions and beliefs?

Judaism Islam Hinduism

Clip available here: www.bbc.co.uk/ teach/class-clipsvideo/religiouseducation-ks3-a-z-ofreligion-and-beliefsk-is-for-kosher/ zvtmnrd

Key Questions

- What foods are allowed and forbidden in different religions, and why?
- Is a vegetarian diet more ethical than killing meat to eat?
- Is part of the point of knowing all this to help everyone live – and eat – together respectfully?
- Why has a British court recently recognised that 'ethical veganism' is a worldview, similar to religions? Do you think that is a good idea?
- If everyone went vegan, could it help save the planet?

What's it all about? Religion and food

Although religion might be about the profound meaning of life, it also seems to be about food, and particularly about which animals you're allowed to eat – or not. The clip lists the animals forbidden to Jewish people under the Torah's rules for kosher food. Halal meat – permitted for Muslims – is the opposite of haram meat – forbidden to Muslims (no pork or pig's meat for example). In Hindu tradition, reverence for all life and the belief that all life is one leads to very widespread vegetarianism, and the reverence for some animals, most notably the cow, is a key feature of the faith.

For some people, the importance of knowing what is Kosher or Halal and why being vegetarian matters might be a key spiritual principle. But for everyone it is a matter of politeness and kindness: when you meet people with different religious food rules, you'll want to be kind!

Classroom or homework tasks: Faith in Food

- A> Lists of forbidden food. Watch the clip and make lists: what is forbidden food for the three religions mentioned? What are the similarities and differences?
- B> Plural Party Menu. Picture yourself planning a party. Your friends are all coming to eat at your place. Make a detailed menu plan for them, ensuring that your friends who are Muslim, Jewish and Hindu can all eat everything.
- C> **School kitchen.** Should school kitchens serve kosher, halal or vegetarian / vegan food for all pupils, to make sure all religions are welcome at school lunchtime? Are there arguments on both sides?
- D> Your own ethics: what do you think it is wrong to eat? Why? Are your views just from your culture, or do they apply to everyone? (Dog meat? Squirrel? All meat? Eggs?...)

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of food that is permitted or forbidden under kosher, halal and Hindu rules
- Apply the food laws of different religions to a party menu plan
- Give reasons for their views about provision for religious diets in public places, e.g. in the school dinner menu.

K is for Kosher

What foods do you think it is wrong to eat? Circle your choices from the following list:
Rabbits / Dogs / Fish / Pets / All meat / Eggs /
Food grown by exploited people / Pigs / Food from animals treated cruelly / Baby animals (e.g. lambs or calves) / Endangered species / Luxury food while

Which are the worst examples and why?

others starve.

Vegans are people who believe it is wrong to exploit animals for food, so they do not eat meat, fish, eggs, milk or other animal products. Being vegan is an increasingly popular way of life in the UK at the moment.

 Why has a British court recently recognised that 'ethical veganism' is a worldview, similar to religions? Do you think that is a good idea?

If everyone went vegan, could it help save the planet? From the clip you watched, make accurate notes: What foods are forbidden by:

A. Jewish people,

B. Muslims

C. Hindus?

Plural party menu:

Here are 6 things I would serve to an interfaith party, which could be eaten by people from all the different religions above.