

Gathering

Play Fingal's Cave by Mendelssohn as the school community gathers: [Daily Download: Felix Mendelssohn - The Hebrides, 'Fingal's Cave' \(yourclassical.org\)](https://yourclassical.org/daily-download/felix-mendelssohn-the-hebrides-fingals-cave/)

Follow the school's normal gathering routines, using words of liturgy which are familiar to students and adults

or

Light a candle and offer the following prayer: 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you'. Response: *and also with you*. (To support pupil understanding of the Christian belief in God as Trinity here, why not light a single candle which has three wicks, lighting them in turn as each 'person' is acknowledged?)

Engagement

- 1) "I wonder what you thought about listening to that music as we gathered? I wonder how you felt?" Take answers.
- 2) "It was written by a composer called Felix Mendelssohn, in response to seeing a cave called Fingal's cave, which is in the Inner Hebrides. Who knows where this group of Islands is found?" (Scotland). Show picture of cairns in Fuerteventura (on PowerPoint).
- 3) "This picture was taken on a beach on an island called Fuerteventura - who knows where that is?" (Canary Islands, part of Spain but just off west Africa)
- 4) "What you can't see, is that these Cairns are all by the sea, and the sea is very rough - there's a lighthouse behind us, warning ships to avoid the area, which is very rocky and dangerous. The wind always blows, and the beach clearly inspires awe in the people who visit."
- 5) "I wonder if you know why people sometimes build piles of stones, we call them cairns, like the ones in the pictures?" Take answers.
- 6) "People make a cairn in a special place - often by the sea, or on top of a mountain, somewhere where they are moved by the beauty of the place and experience a feeling that we call awe. Who can tell me what 'awe' means?"
- 7) "Who has felt that feeling themselves? Tell your neighbour where you remember that feeling of 'oh my goodness' (or the best answer to the question above) - it may have been looking at the stars, or maybe by the sea, or if you were looking at a tree...lots of things inspire awe."

Response

- 7) "Who has felt that feeling themselves? Tell your neighbour where you remember that feeling of 'oh my goodness' (or the best answer to the question above) - it may have been looking at the stars, or maybe by the sea, or if you were looking at a tree...lots of things inspire awe."

8) "You know what we're talking about. In our reading this week, after Jacob woke up from his dream of God and the angels, what did he do?" (Take answers) "Yes, he built an altar, and we would call that altar a cairn - it was a pile of stones or rocks. So we still build altars - just like Jacob. Let's be quiet, while we listen to the music again, and look at the images, and allow ourselves to feel awe in the wonder of the world that many people believe God created."

9) Play the music, run the images.

10) Prayer: Thank you, God, for enabling us to catch glimpses of your glory through the world that you have made and given to us. Amen

Sending

As we go through today, be aware of the beauty of the world, of things that you see in school and at home, and let's be thankful. You might even like to make a cairn in your home, and use it to help you to pray or reflect.

Play the music as the community leave.