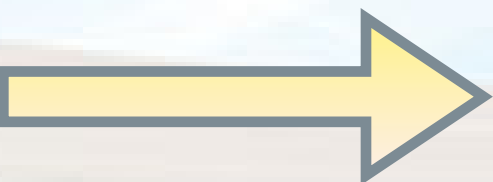


Christian Rites of Passage

Learning Objective:

To understand what happens at a baptism ceremony.



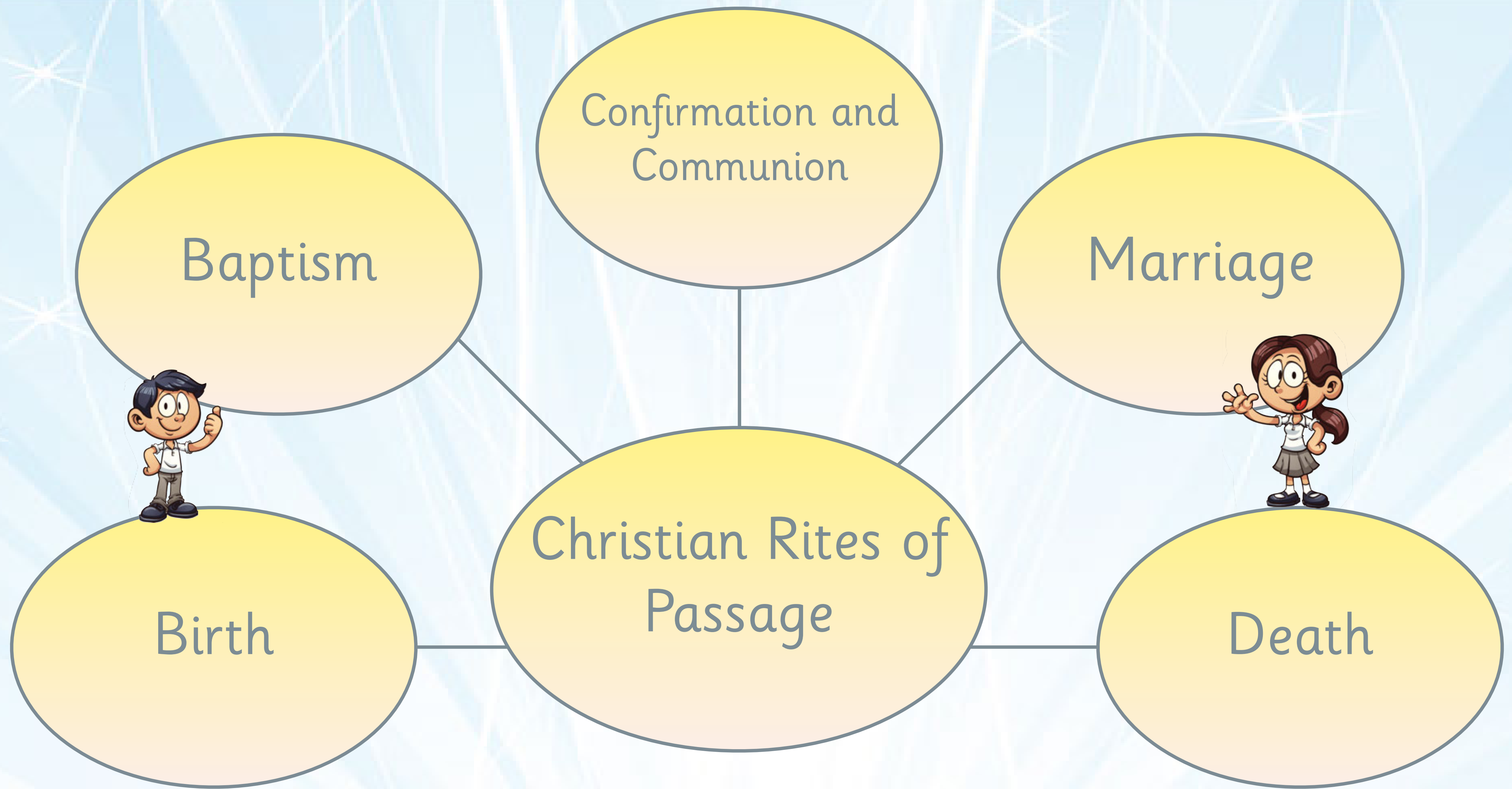
Can you
remember what a
rite of passage is?





Did you know that
Christians celebrate five
major rites of passage!

Do you know what they
are?





Do you know
what Baptism
means?

Most Christian families will baptise their new baby. This is sometimes called a christening. A baptism is a ceremony welcoming the new baby into the Christian church.



Most Christians baptise their new baby to welcome them into the church and because Jesus Christ was baptised.

After he was baptised he requested that all Christians be baptised.

Let's read a brief story about Jesus' baptism.



There was once a man called John the Baptist. He lived a simple life and felt that having a house and food was not important.

John travelled the desert telling others about how God was good to him and how he could be good to others too. God was the only thing important to John.

When people knew John was in their area they would go to him to be baptised.



When the people asked to be baptised it showed they believed in God. They wanted to live their life the way God wanted.



One day Jesus came to John to be baptised. John was shocked because Jesus was a very important man. Jesus said he wanted to be baptised to set an example for others and show his devotion to God.

So, John laid Jesus down into the water until he was covered and then brought him back up again.

When Jesus sat up in the water the sky opened and a white dove came and sat on his shoulder. A voice said, “This is my son, I love him and I am pleased with him.”



A voice said
something at the end
of this story!
Whose voice was
it?



Christians
believe it was God
speaking.
Most Christians are
now baptised.



Christian baptisms are held in churches and families celebrate this day as a rite of passage.



Children are dressed in white clothes and taken to the church on a Sunday. The white clothes symbolise new life and purity.

Parents are asked to bring their child forward to be baptised. Parents say to the church, they believe in God and they will ensure they follow Jesus' wishes.

The priest or vicar then draws a cross on the child's forehead with chrism oil.



The oil symbolises the sealing of the Holy Spirit in the child.



The priest or vicar then pours water over the child's head. It washes the child and prepares them for a new life with God.

Water symbolises life and death.



To end the baptism, a candle is lit, reminding the family and church that the light of Jesus has come into the child's life.

The candle symbolises a light that can never be destroyed.



Remember, white clothing, water, chrism oil, candles and the church are all symbols used in a baptism.



chrism oil



candle



church



white clothes



water

Plenary

church, priest, rose, vicar, cross

white, clean, new, sad, pure

Jesus, Sally, John, God, baptise

Can you circle the odd word out in each box?



Plenary

church, priest, **rose**, vicar, cross

white, clean, new, **sad**, pure

Jesus, **Sally**, John, God, baptise

Did you pick the correct word?

