

# CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND PRACTICES: INCARNATION

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

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To gain an understanding of why Christians believe in the incarnation

In this project we are going to explore the concept of incarnation. We will examine the evidence of Jesus' life to find out the answer to the big questions...

**Why do Christians believe in the incarnation of Jesus?**

**Was Jesus human or God?**

(Or, indeed, both?)

# LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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## **BY THE END OF THIS PROJECT:**

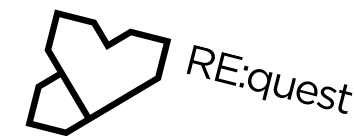
All of you will describe incarnation. You will make some reference to evidence for the incarnation of Jesus.

Most of you will understand incarnation. You will link evidence from the Bible to explain Christian belief in the incarnation of Christ.

Some of you will analyse in detail the different evidence for incarnation, giving a detailed explanation about how this evidence links to Christian belief in the incarnation of Christ.

You will need some writing materials or you could use the specially created PDF file. This will help you record the fascinating facts that you are about to discover...

IT LOOKS A  
BIT LIKE THIS



RE:quest

### WHAT IS INCARNATION? WHY DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN THE INCARNATION OF JESUS?

RE:quest is full of amazing resources, all prepared to help you get a better understanding of Christianity. In this project we are going to find out what incarnation is. We'll also see if there is proof that Jesus was a real person, before reading some verses from the Bible to see why Christians believe that He was both human and God.

Use the PDF presentation to guide you through the task and this sheet to write your answers on.

**STARTER:** Being Human

**What makes us human? Create a list in the box below:**

The things that make us human are:

How do we know Jesus was a real man?

**Explain what the Bible tells us about Jesus' life.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus...

It also shows us that Jesus...

# WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

Christians believe that Jesus was human. A real man who was born and lived in Israel over 2,000 years ago. He walked and talked and did everything that every other human has ever done.

They also believe that He was God in human form, sent to earth to save us from our sins.

This is known as INCARNATION.





# INCARNATION:

the belief that Jesus was God in human form

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How do we know that Jesus existed?

Why do people think He was human?

Why do people think He was God?

Is there enough evidence to show that  
Jesus was both human and God?

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# RE:QUEST INVESTIGATORS INC

Calling all detectives...

Your mission is to examine the evidence for Jesus' existence and to work out why Christians believe He was both human and God.

Having examined all the evidence you will then write a report for your supervisor (aka your teacher), evaluating this evidence, explaining why Christians believe in the incarnation of Jesus.



# STARTER: BEING HUMAN

What makes us human?

**Make a list of your ideas.**

# HOW DO WE KNOW JESUS EXISTED?

There is a tremendous amount of historical evidence that Jesus was a real man who lived in Israel.

The first place to look is the Bible...

[Click here](#) to find out a bit more.

**TASK: Explain what the Bible tells us about Jesus' life**



The second place to look for evidence of Jesus' existence is within contemporary historical accounts.

Within a few decades of His lifetime, Jesus is mentioned by Jewish and Roman historians, as well as by dozens of Christian writings.

Read through the PDF: 'Historical Accounts of Jesus'

**TASK: Do you think this historical evidence proves that Jesus existed? Why/why not? Refer to the evidence in your answer.**

Extension: Read about more historical evidence [here](#).

## WHY DO CHRISTIANS THINK JESUS WAS HUMAN?

Much of what we know about Jesus comes from the first 4 books of the New Testament, i.e. the Gospels.

**‘THE WORD BECAME A HUMAN BEING AND, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH, LIVED AMONG US.’ JOHN 1:14**

The Bible says that Jesus (The Word) became human and lived on earth.

We’re going to spend some time now digging into the Bible to find evidence for Jesus being a human being...

(Note down the answers as we move along – on the PDF resource sheet or paper)



**‘SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST SON,  
WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS AND LAID HIM IN A  
MANGER—THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM  
TO STAY IN THE INN.’**

**LUKE 2:7**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?

**AS THEY WERE SAILING, JESUS FELL ASLEEP. SUDDENLY A STRONG WIND BLEW DOWN ON THE LAKE, AND THE BOAT BEGAN TO FILL WITH WATER, SO THAT THEY WERE ALL IN GREAT DANGER. ' LUKE 8:23**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?



**‘AFTER SPENDING FORTY DAYS AND NIGHTS  
WITHOUT FOOD, JESUS WAS HUNGRY.’**

**MATTHEW 4:2**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?

**‘AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN APPEARED TO HIM  
AND STRENGTHENED HIM. IN GREAT ANGUISH  
HE PRAYED EVEN MORE FERVENTLY; HIS  
SWEAT WAS LIKE DROPS OF BLOOD FALLING  
TO THE GROUND.’ LUKE 22:43-44**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?



**‘ONE OF THE SOLDIERS PLUNGED HIS SPEAR  
INTO JESUS’ SIDE, AND AT ONCE BLOOD AND  
WATER POURED OUT.’**

**JOHN 19:34**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?

**‘I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS SO THAT MY JOY  
MAY BE IN YOU AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE  
COMPLETE.’**

**JOHN 15:11**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?



**‘JESUS WAS ANGRY AS HE LOOKED AROUND AT THEM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE FELT SORRY FOR THEM, BECAUSE THEY WERE SO STUBBORN AND WRONG...’ MARK 3:5**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?

**‘THEN JESUS WENT WITH HIS DISCIPLES TO A PLACE CALLED GETHSEMANE, AND HE SAID TO THEM, “SIT HERE WHILE I GO OVER THERE AND PRAY.” HE TOOK WITH HIM PETER AND THE TWO SONS OF ZEBEDEE. GRIEF AND ANGUISH CAME OVER HIM, AND HE SAID TO THEM, “THE SORROW IN MY HEART IS SO GREAT THAT IT ALMOST CRUSHES ME. STAY HERE AND KEEP WATCH WITH ME.’ MATTHEW 26: 36-38**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was human?



# WHY DO CHRISTIANS THINK JESUS WAS GOD?

So, we've found loads of evidence for Jesus being human. But what about the God part?

**We're now going to check out the Bible for evidence that He was God. Move along now, there's plenty to see...**

An angel (to Mary):

**‘...THEREFORE THE CHILD TO BE BORN WILL  
BE CALLED HOLY—THE SON OF GOD.’ LUKE 1:35**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?

You can watch a video to find out more [here](#).

At Jesus' baptism:

**THEN A VOICE SAID FROM HEAVEN, "THIS IS MY OWN DEAR SON, WITH WHOM I AM PLEASED." MATTHEW 3:17**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?



Jesus spoke about it:

**‘AGAIN THE HIGH PRIEST ASKED HIM, ‘ARE YOU THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD?’ AND JESUS SAID, ‘I AM, AND YOU WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MIGHTY ONE, AND COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.’ MARK 14:61-62**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?

Jesus performs miracles:

**‘JESUS TOOK THE BLIND MAN BY THE HAND AND LED HIM OUT OF THE VILLAGE. AFTER SPITTING ON THE MAN’S EYES, JESUS PLACED HIS HANDS ON HIM AND ASKED HIM, “CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?” THE MAN LOOKED UP AND SAID, “YES, I CAN SEE PEOPLE, BUT THEY LOOK LIKE TREES WALKING AROUND.” JESUS AGAIN PLACED HIS HANDS ON THE MAN’S EYES. THIS TIME THE MAN LOOKED INTENTLY, HIS EYESIGHT RETURNED, AND HE SAW EVERYTHING CLEARLY.’ MARK 8: 23-25**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?

You can watch a video to find out more [here](#).

Jesus rose from the dead:

**THE ANGEL SPOKE TO THE WOMEN. “YOU MUST NOT BE AFRAID,” HE SAID. “I KNOW YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS BEEN RAISED, JUST AS HE SAID. COME HERE AND SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS LYING. GO QUICKLY NOW, AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES, ‘HE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM DEATH, AND NOW HE IS GOING TO GALILEE AHEAD OF YOU; THERE YOU WILL SEE HIM!’ REMEMBER WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU.” MATTHEW 28: 5-7**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?

You can watch a video to find out more [here](#).



Others: John the Baptist

**‘AND I HAVE SEEN AND HAVE BORNE WITNESS  
THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD.’ JOHN 1:34**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?

Others: the disciples

**AND THOSE IN THE BOAT WORSHIPPED HIM, SAYING,  
‘TRULY YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD.’ MATTHEW 14:33**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?

Others: Paul

**HE WAS DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD  
IN POWER, ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT OF  
HOLINESS BY HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE  
DEAD, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.’ ROMANS 1:4**

How does this Bible verse show us Jesus was God?



# FULFILMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

In the Old Testament there are many prophecies. They tell of a man who will come to save the Jewish people. This man was known as the Messiah.

Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah. You can read more about this [here](#).

**DEFINITION ALERT: A prophecy is a message from God, sometimes a prediction of something that will happen.**

# FULFILMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

The book of Isaiah was written around 700 years before Jesus was born.

It contains many prophecies about the Messiah – how he would be born of a virgin, that he would be rejected by many and would die a horrible death.

One of the most famous sections is Chapter 53

Read it [here](#).

# FULFILMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

The psalms were also written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Furthermore, Psalm 22 was written hundreds of years before the Romans used crucifixion as a form of execution.

And yet, Psalm 22 reads suspiciously like a description of Jesus' death...

# GO COMPARE...

## **TASK:**

Read the PDF 'Matthew 27 vs Psalm 22'.

Compare the two texts. Highlight any sections which match.

Select and explain 4 ways in which these texts match.

Do you think the prophecies from Isaiah and Psalm 22 provide evidence that Jesus was God? Why/why not? Refer to Isaiah, Psalm 22 and Matthew 27 in your answer.



# EXPANDED READING:

## **EXTENSION TASK:**

Read about the Old Testament prophecies which Jesus is believed to have fulfilled within the 'Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled by Christ' PDF.

# RE:QUEST INVESTIGATORS INC

OK detectives, it's time to write up the report for your supervisor.

Why do Christians believe in the incarnation of Jesus? Was Jesus human or God? Or was He, as Christians believe, both?

Over to you...

# SUCCESS CRITERIA

## **TO DO THIS WELL YOU SHOULD:**

Include a section with evidence for Jesus' existence

Include a section with evidence for Jesus being human

Include a section with evidence for Jesus being God

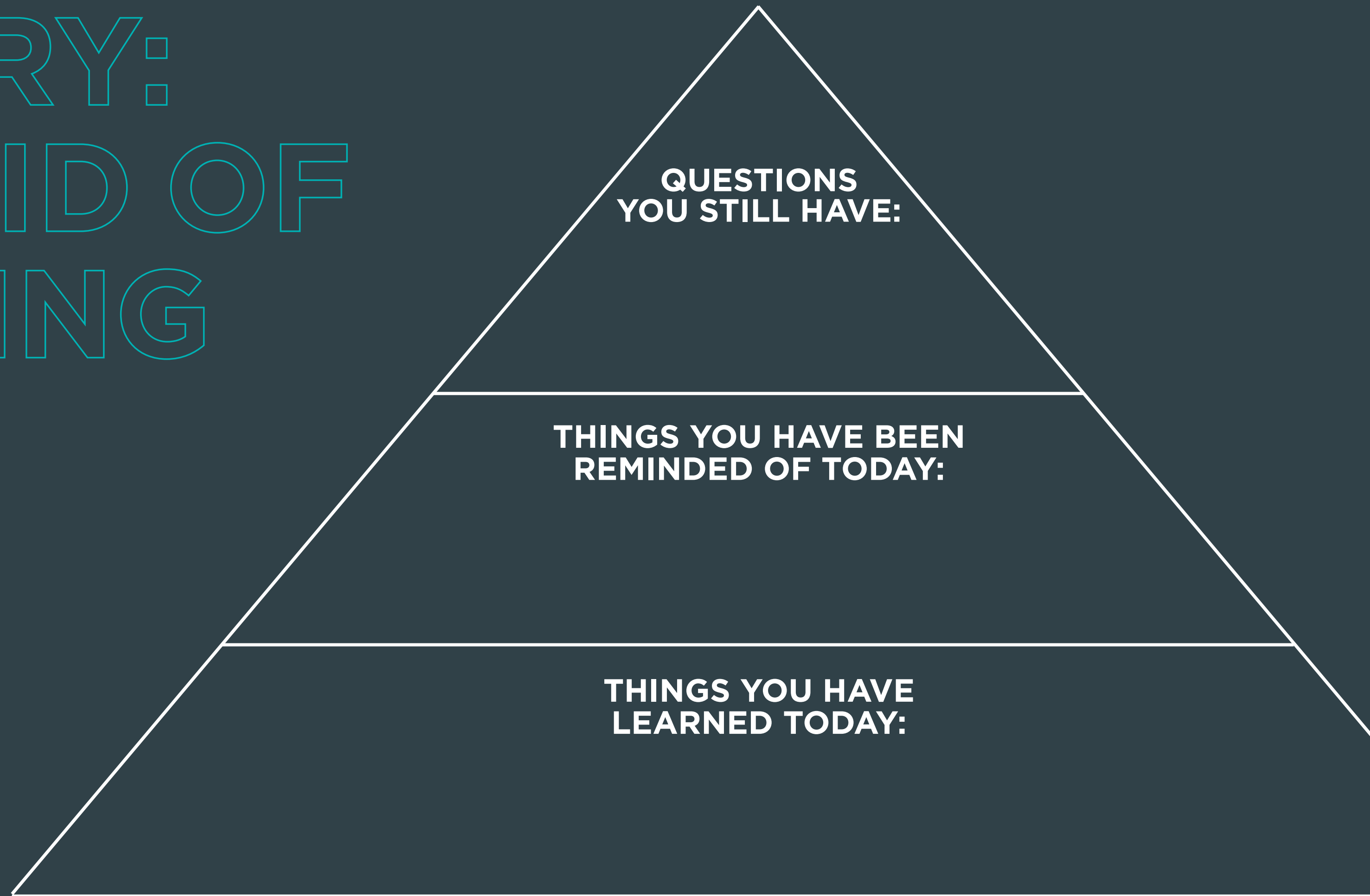
Include a section with evidence from the Old Testament prophecies

Write a conclusion, explaining your viewpoint on the key question

**IS THERE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT JESUS WAS BOTH HUMAN AND GOD; GOD INCARNATE?**

TOP TIP: Use the keyword INCARNATION wherever appropriate!

# PLENARY: PYRAMID OF LEARNING





# EXTENSION ACTIVITY: INCARNATION EXPANDED

Read about incarnation in more detail [here](#).

Why did Jesus come to earth to live as a human?

What difference does Jesus coming to earth, living as a human being, make to Christians?



A person with their face and hair covered in vibrant, multi-colored powders (red, blue, yellow, green) is shown from the chest up. They are wearing a dark jacket. A large, dense cloud of bright red powder is being released from the left side of the frame, partially obscuring the person's face. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

# YOU'VE COMPLETED YOUR MISSION!

**SEND IT TO YOUR TEACHER**

and sit back with the satisfaction  
of knowing you did a great job!