

How to show that you care

You are going to think about some of your favourite things in nature and how to look after the world.

You will also learn about why Christians care for the earth.

With special thanks to Grace and her guinea pigs!

A Christian Hymn

- When Christians sing hymns to God, they like to give thanks for all the beautiful things in nature.
- Here is the verse of one of their hymns:

All things bright and beautiful,

All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful,

The Lord God made them all.

- There is a picture story which starts on the next slide. Read it out loud to somebody at home, or ask them to read it to you.



Andrew was really pleased that Sam lived next door, because they were best friends. They weren't in the same class at school because Sam was a bit older, but they went to the same Church. When he went into Sam's garden to play, Andrew sometimes felt jealous because of Sam's guinea pigs.



There were two of them. One had smooth dark grey hair, and the other had patches of white and toffee coloured fur. Andrew asked 'What are they called?' 'Toffee and Liquorice' said Sam. 'I bet you can't guess which one is which.' They laughed.

Liquorice and Toffee lived in a wooden hutch on the grass, and they could come out to play in a run, which had a little door to close at night. Andrew was interested when the guinea pigs came out. They would eat a dandelion leaf from your hand, or sit on your lap, which made you feel special.





‘Please can we have some guinea pigs?’ Andrew asked his mum. But she always said ‘You’re too young to take care of them. It would end up me having to look after them.’ Dad said the same. It seemed to Andrew as if they were ganging up on him to stop him from having a pet of his own. He was cross.



At the end of term, it was the summer holiday. Sam and his mum and dad were going away for a week. They asked Andrew if he would care for Toffee and Liquorice. Andrew was quite excited.



Mum went with him every day, but he did it all himself. He gave the guinea pigs some leaves. He poured water in their little bottle. He put fresh food in their bowl. He opened the door for them to run out onto the grass. He put fresh straw in their bedding box.

He even had to brush out the little brown poos the guinea pigs had done, and put them in the dustbin. It was a bit smelly. Mum watched him, smiling.





The best bit was picking up the two little creatures and petting them for a few minutes. They liked to be held, and talked to. They would eat some grass or leaves from his fingers.

But on Thursday morning, when he was taking them out of the hutch, naughty Toffee hopped out of his hands and scampered away. Andrew felt scared and in a panic! 'Mum, help!' he shouted. That made the guinea pig run under the hutch.

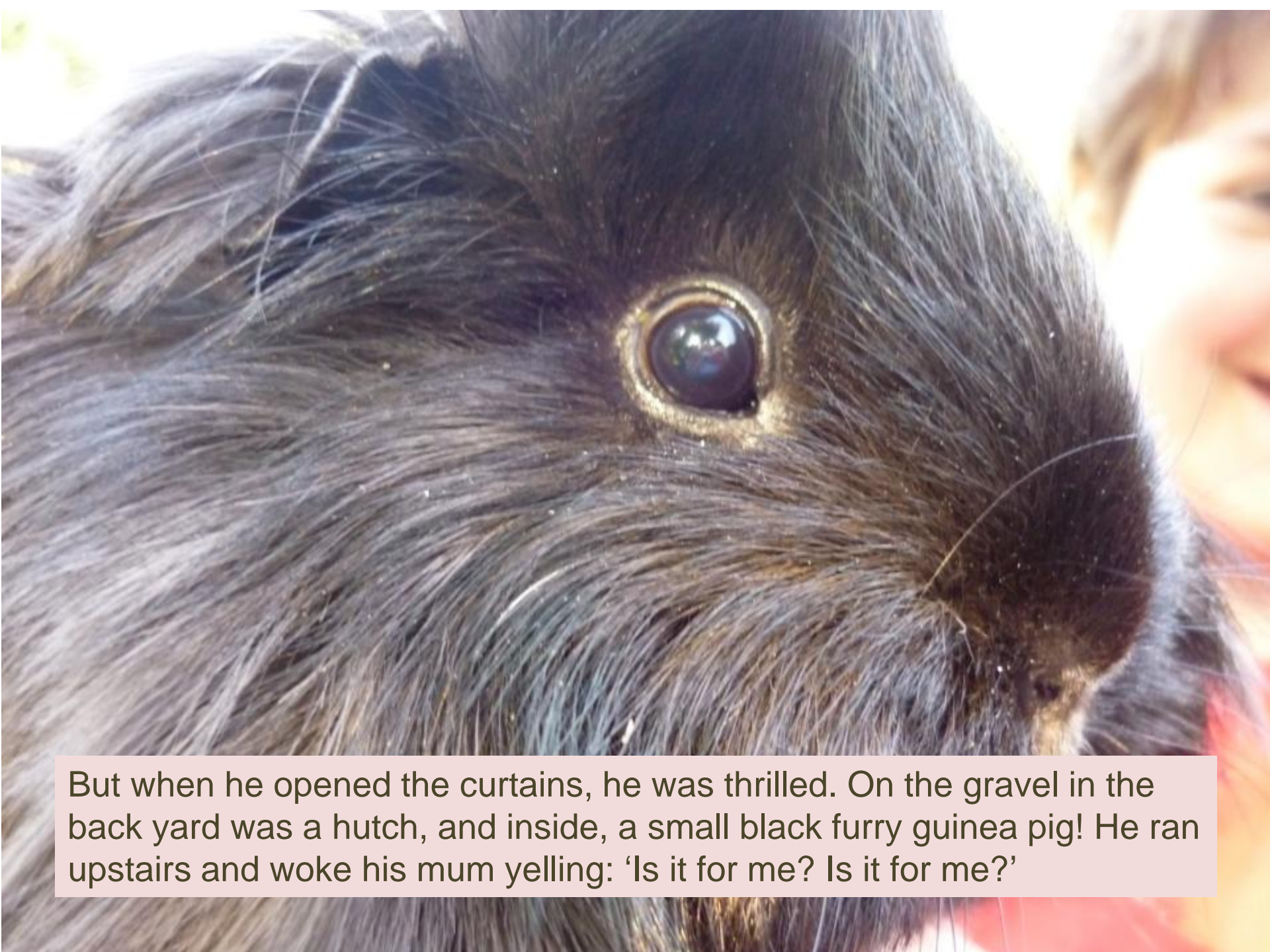




Mum got a leaf, and held it out gently to Toffee. When the little creature began to nibble the leaf, she scooped him up and put him back in the hutch. Andrew was so relieved.



When Sam got back after his week's holiday, he came round and said thanks to Andrew. Sam brought him a bag of sweets, and they went to play football. Andrew invited Sam to his birthday party because it was nearly August 12th. August 12th was Andrew's big day: his 7th birthday. He woke up early, and he was a bit puzzled when he went downstairs, because there was no sign of a present from his mum and dad.



But when he opened the curtains, he was thrilled. On the gravel in the back yard was a hutch, and inside, a small black furry guinea pig! He ran upstairs and woke his mum yelling: 'Is it for me? Is it for me?'



She laughed and laughed as they went downstairs to see the guinea pig together. 'I'm going to call him Fluff' said Andrew. 'I wonder why' replied mum. 'I wonder why you bought me a guinea pig' Andrew said.

‘Well’ Mum said:
‘Toffee and Liquorice
need food and water,
leaves and fresh straw
every day. You have to
do a lot of things to
show you care if you
have a pet. The pet
needs you to do these
things. I know now that
you can care for a
creature properly. So
we bought you Fluff.’





When Sam was away, you showed me that you are able to care for a creature in so many different ways.’
They took Fluff out of his hutch, being careful not to let him scamper off. He was the best present! Andrew felt proud.

Some questions to think and talk about:

- What did Andrew like about the guinea pigs?
- Why do children often really want pets?
- Can you think of 6 ways the guinea pigs needed to be cared for?
- Can you think of 6 things you do to show you care for people, animals and nature?

On the next slide is an activity about your favourite animals and things from nature. Have pencils and paper ready.

All things bright and beautiful: Which of these beautiful things do you like best, and why? Choose one from each group, and draw it. Say why you like it.

Great creatures: elephants, bears, camels, tigers

Small creatures: cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs,

Flowers: daffodils, tulips, roses, daisies,

Birds: blackbirds, parrots, sparrows, ducks,

Sights: mountains, rivers, sunsets, rainbows,

Weather: windy, sunny, rainy, lightning,

Fruits: strawberry, apples, bananas, oranges

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing
colours,
He made their tiny wings.
The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;
The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one:

Listen to the song by some children here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT_oDqOEGpc

Or if you like a different kind of version, this is a classic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVSf5QISmA8>

When Christians sing this song, what beliefs are they showing?

How should they behave if this is what they believe?

Print the next slide and fill it in for the next part of your RE lesson.

Here, draw your favourite things from the world of nature.

Here make a picture that shows something you do to show you care.

Colour the globe and surround it with words that say how we can care for the Earth.



The Christian Bible teaches people this idea: 'Give all your cares to God, because God cares for you.' What do you think about this idea?

The Christian Bible teaches people this idea: 'The Earth is the Lord's, and everything that moves on the Earth.' What do you think about this idea?

Can you think of a good reason to care for the Earth and all the creatures of the world? Write it here.