



Crucifixion Comes Alive

Gospel: John 18: 1- 19: 42
Good Friday: Jesus is Crucified

Science Experiment:
Structure, Function, and Information
Processing
Ability Level: 1-5
NGSS Level: 4

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42
Good Friday- Jesus is Crucified

Early in the morning, after Judas had betrayed Jesus and turned Him over to the soldiers, Jesus was brought to Pontius Pilate, the governor. Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” and Jesus replied, “Yes I am.” This upset the chief priests and lots of people because they didn’t believe Jesus and they didn’t think anyone should call himself the ‘King of the Jews’ or ‘Son of God.’ However, after hearing the complaints of the people, Pilate decided that Jesus was a good man and didn’t deserve to die. The people shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate didn’t like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go. But he wanted to please the crowd, so he sent Jesus to die.



The soldiers led Jesus into the palace and made Him put on an old royal robe and a crown made of thorns to make fun of Him for saying he was 'King of the Jews.' The soldiers then made Jesus carry His cross up a hill called Golgotha. Jesus fell down three times because the cross was so heavy and He was so beaten and weak. A man named Simon happened to be near Jesus when He fell the third time, so the soldiers made him carry Jesus' cross the rest of the way. When they reached the top of the hill, they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses: Jesus was in the middle with a criminal on His right and another



criminal on His left. The soldiers still teased Jesus saying, "If you are the Son of God, why don't you save yourself?" Jesus did not listen to these people. He was very weak and in so much pain, but He was able to see to His mother, Mary, and some of His loyal friends. Then, when He couldn't handle the pain any longer, He said, "It is finished," bowed His head, and went to Heaven. Suddenly, a huge curtain that hung at the temple was torn in half from top to bottom. One man who had wanted Jesus to die saw this and realized his mistake. He said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Discussion:

This Good Friday Gospel reading begins the morning after Judas betrayed Jesus and handed him over to Pilate's soldiers. In this reading, Jesus is brought before Pilate and Pilate asks Jesus if he is the King of the Jews. Jesus replies that he is, indeed. The people don't like when Jesus says this, because they don't believe that he is the Son of God. When they hear him claim to be the Son of God, it makes them very angry. When Pilate asks Jesus about his claims, Jesus is honest and takes responsibility even though he knows it will mean he is crucified. Pilate tries to release Jesus, saying he doesn't believe he deserves to die. The people demand that Jesus is crucified. Pilate finally gives in and sentences Jesus to death. Jesus is beaten, teased, forced to carry his own cross up the hill, and finally crucified. Once Jesus died and the curtain at the temple was torn, many people realized what they had done and the mistake they had made.



Science Connection: Structure, Function, and Information Processing

NGSS: 4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.

Materials:

- Toilet paper tube

Methods:

1. Using your right hand, hold the toilet paper tube up to your right eye. Keep both eyes open.
2. Hold your left hand open, facing you against the left side of the tube (about half way down the tube).
3. Keep both eyes open. Observe. What do you see? Describe how this model allows you to receive different types of information through your sense of sight, process the information in your brain, and respond to the information.



Explanation:

When you look through the toilet paper tube, you will see a hole in your left hand. This is an optical illusion caused by your brain as it takes what your right eye sees and puts it together with what your left eye sees to try to create a complete image. This experiment confuses your brain, which is why you will see a hole in your left hand.

Bringing it all together:

Jesus endured great suffering on the day of his death. As he was crucified, nails were hammered through his hands and feet. As we conduct this science experiment and our eyes see a hole in our own hand, let us remember the pain that Jesus endured for us. Let us be grateful to Jesus for his great sacrifice on the first Good Friday. Let us say a silent prayer to Jesus, thanking him for his strength, his forgiveness, and his undying love.



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Explain what you saw when you looked through the paper tube:

In your own words, explain how your brain created the image you saw:

Bonus: If you have extra time, draw a picture of the experiment and/or Gospel story on the back of this page.



K, 1st, 2nd

Name: _____

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Directions: In one box, draw a picture of what you saw when you looked through the paper tube. In the other box, draw a picture of the gospel story. Discuss with a partner why the two pictures are related.
