



Assembly

## Sacrifice

### Aim:

- To encourage pupils to consider how much they are prepared to sacrifice in order that good might prevail

"To bring freedom it is worth the death not only of this son but of my other sons and my own life itself."

### Looking Deeper

#### How much sacrifice?

It's unlikely that we'll ever be required to put our life in danger for the sake of something we believe in. Yet day by day we are faced with choices about what to do, what to say and what to avoid. We may be faced with the decision whether or not to speak up in defence of someone, risking unpopularity. We may be faced with the decision whether or not to intervene in a bullying incident, risking a black eye. We may be faced with the decision whether or not to spend an evening with a lonely friend, sacrificing the opportunity to go out to a club or party. We may be faced with the decision whether or not to give some money to buy a copy of The Big Issue or go in for a coffee. It's all about sacrifice.



Sacrifice is about whether or not the gain we make is significant enough to outweigh the loss we assume we will experience. Political freedom for a whole country is clearly something worth the effort.

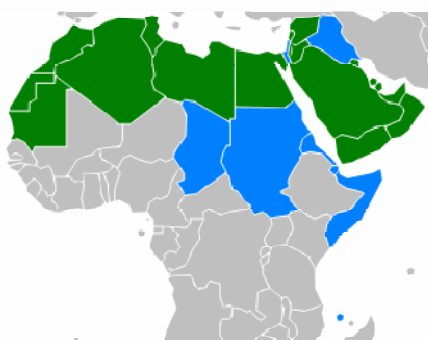
Your grandparents will have been faced with a similar choice when many of them fought during the Second World War. Some say that the freedom we enjoy today exists because of their sacrifice. These are big principles. Yet truth, justice and freedom in all their forms are significant also. Lies, gossip, cheating, persecution and rejection all cause damage to individuals and to society as a whole.

### Introduction

#### Revolution

There's a revolution taking place within a number of Arab countries, particularly in North Africa. Popular uprisings have occurred in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain and elsewhere, challenging the power of authoritarian regimes that have ruled for many years.

(You may wish to update this information in the light of changing events)



Distribution of Arabic as sole official language (green) and one of several official or national languages (blue). <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

During political change on this scale there is inevitable bloodshed. In some countries dozens of people, in others hundreds, have been wounded or killed in the riots and protests. When interviewed on TV, the father of one protester who had died was asked whether the cause was worth the death of his son. His reply was immediate:





# Current Affairs Assembly

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Christians believe that God gave us a model of a sacrificial way to live in the life of Jesus. God allowed his son to die so that ordinary people like you and me might live in freedom. Jesus in his own life showed what it meant to reach out to those who were the outcasts. He stood out against hypocrisy and corruption, refusing to flinch from the threats and pressure. Today the choice lies with us. What's at stake? The kind of society we live in.

## Reflection

What choices lie before me today?

What are my options?

What is the self-centred option?

What is the sacrificial option?

How much courage do I have?

## Prayer

Thank you for the freedom of choice that faces me in my everyday life.  
Give me a clear view of all the implications that face me.  
May I be generous, thinking of others in the decisions I come to.  
Amen

## Keywords

Revolution

Arabic States

Sacrifice

Generosity

Choices