

7-11s Learning about**Mission Aviation Fellowship**

A charity with a Christian vision for serving isolated people around the world.



Learning

RE Today
Services
Lesson 2: The story of Nate Saint: a life given to God

In these lessons, pupils will learn about a Christian aviation charity that uses small planes to help transport people to some of the most isolated communities in the world. Using an example from the 1950s when an MAF pilot and four other missionaries were killed – martyred for their faith – pupils will know and understand more about the idea that we all depend upon each other.

Key Words: Christian / Bible Scripture / Kingdom of God / Global serving / Faith / Mission work / Communities / Poverty / Impact / Suffering / Human rights / Jesus Christ / Belief & teaching / Worldwide Church / Christian charity / Inclusion / Sacrifice / Evangelism / Martyrdom / Forgiveness / Purpose / Peace

Connections to RE syllabuses:

These lesson ideas are provided to help pupils aged 7-11 to learn about key ideas from the Bible, from global Christian communities and from MAF. The learning contributes to the aims of RE for 7-11-year-olds.

RE aims:

In line with the outcomes RE seeks for 11-year-olds learning about Christianity, these lessons will enable pupils to work towards the outcomes across the 7-11 age group by:

- ✚ Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of Christianity, including some key ideas from the Bible and from Christian communities throughout the world
- ✚ Understanding some of the ways Christianity has an impact on people and communities
- ✚ Applying their knowledge and understanding by thinking for themselves and expressing their own ideas about Christian beliefs and values
- ✚ Making their own connections between what they learn and their own view of life

To the teacher: Why learn about MAF?

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is an example of a Christian charity. It works in partnership with some 2,000 Christian and relief organisations. MAF enables the swiftest delivery of practical help, emergency relief, medical assistance and spiritual hope to provide help, hope and healing to some of the remotest and most inaccessible communities on earth. Their amazing fleet of over 130 light aircraft can reach places others can't access, and has grown from small beginnings more than 70 years ago. MAF supports both goals of Christian mission and humanitarian compassion.

RE learning outcomes

Through this work, pupils will:

- ✚ Explore the life story of Nate Saint, a Christian martyr
- ✚ Think about questions to do with the meaning of Christian mission
- ✚ Learn how Nate Saint put his faith into action
- ✚ Consider examples of the teaching and example of Jesus and how these made a difference to Nate Saint
- ✚ Express their own views about questions to do with Christian beliefs and values.

Curriculum connections

Religious Education: Pupils will find out about the Christian idea of mission. They will learn about Jesus' teaching on giving one's life to God. They will be asked to think about Nate Saint's motives and his willingness to sacrifice himself. They will have the opportunity to think about their own commitments in life.

RME in Scotland: Pupils develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and values, developing the ability to explain Christian beliefs in relation to biblical ideas and gaining insight into how beliefs and values affect the lives of Christians.

British Values: Pupils explore the meanings of values including devotion to God, self-sacrifice, individual liberty and respect for all.

Understanding Christianity: Pupils develop their understanding of key Christian concepts including mission, devotion, the people of God, salvation and the Kingdom of God.

Biblical connections: How do teachings from the Bible connect to the work of MAF?

These lessons will enable pupils to think for themselves about biblical teaching, eg Jesus said, 'Greater love has no one than this, that they lay down their life for their friends' (**John 15:13**).

Religious Education learning activities

The four lessons in this series encourage pupils to explore the idea of giving your life for your faith or for other people: martyrdom. This could be a sad or even scary topic, so keep the tone factual, questioning and openminded.

Pupils will learn more about the Christian belief in the Good News of Jesus and the subject of 'evangelism', sharing their Christian faith with others. They will find out about martyrdom through the sad but in some ways hopeful and triumphant story of Nate Saint and the other 'missionary martyrs' who were killed in 1956 while trying to share the Gospel with the 'Auca' people of Ecuador, who were later called the 'Waadani'.

They will be able to discuss and consider some different interpretations of the story and will learn to think for themselves about the idea of 'giving yourself to God'.

Activity 1. Sort 12 story cards

Give each group of 4 pupils an envelope with the story text on **pages 3 and 4** cut up into 12 cards. Ask pupils to lay them in a deck, face downwards, and turn over one at a time, reading it aloud. Tell them it's a true story. As each card is read, put it in order in relation to the others. Can the group piece together the whole story? When the groups have had a good go at this, the teacher can read the story aloud in the correct order.

- Any questions? What do the pupils think?
- Show them these four interpretations of the story.
- Which do they think is the best?

'It is a very sad story, because these five young men did not really need to die.'

'The Auca/Waadani should have been left alone. There was no need to try and share faith in God with them.'

'The story is sad at first, but a triumph in the end, because so many of the Waodani changed their way of life to follow God.'

'I think God was at work in this story, bringing forgiveness and victory out of defeat.'

Activity 3. Which questions matter?

Use **page 6**, blown up onto A3 paper for pupils in groups to write about key questions of their choice. Ask the groups to think about the following ten questions, and decide which three they think are the best, or matter the most.

1. Were Nate Saint and his friends sensible to go and stay on 'Palm Beach'?
2. What made these young men heroes to some people?
3. Why were the 'Aucas' so savage?
4. Is this story a disaster, or a triumph?
5. Would it have been better to leave the 'Aucas' completely alone?
6. Why did the young missionaries need their plane?
7. Did the young men waste their lives?
8. Why did the 'Aucas' become Christians after several years?
9. Why did Nate Saint's son become friends with one of the people who killed his dad?
10. Are forgiveness and love more powerful than savagery and killing?

Activity 2. Six headlines to retell the story

Use **page 5** below (banner planes). Ask pupils to use the 12-part story they have been learning and turn it into 6 short headline messages. The aim of the activity is to enable them to pick out the key ideas from the story. Some pupils may benefit from having six starters on their version of the sheet:

1. Who were the 'Aucas'?
2. Nate and his friends wanted to...
3. Sharing the news about Jesus...
4. A plane landing on a river bank...
5. A terrible day...
6. But later on...

Activity 4. Design a memorial to Nate and his friends

The 'Auca' tribe is no longer savage. They are called 'Waadani' now. Hundreds of them have become Christians, giving up murder and learning to forgive. Imagine you have been asked to design a sculpture or statue to go in the Waodani village, to be a reminder of Nate Saint and his friends. Work out your plans for the design. Will it include words from the Bible? Images? A symbol of forgiveness and peace? A plane? What else?

- Draw/paint or create your monument.
- Write a short piece about it, saying what you wanted to express. Will you use a Bible quote?
- What did it mean for these young men to give themselves to God?


Activity 5. Photos from the story of Nate Saint. See **page 7** and PowerPoint **slide 17**

The MAF website has excellent materials on the story of Nate Saint: www.maf-uk.org/story/how-five-martyrs-transformed-the-waadani-people-of-ecuador

Martyrs: people who are willing to give their lives for their faith in God

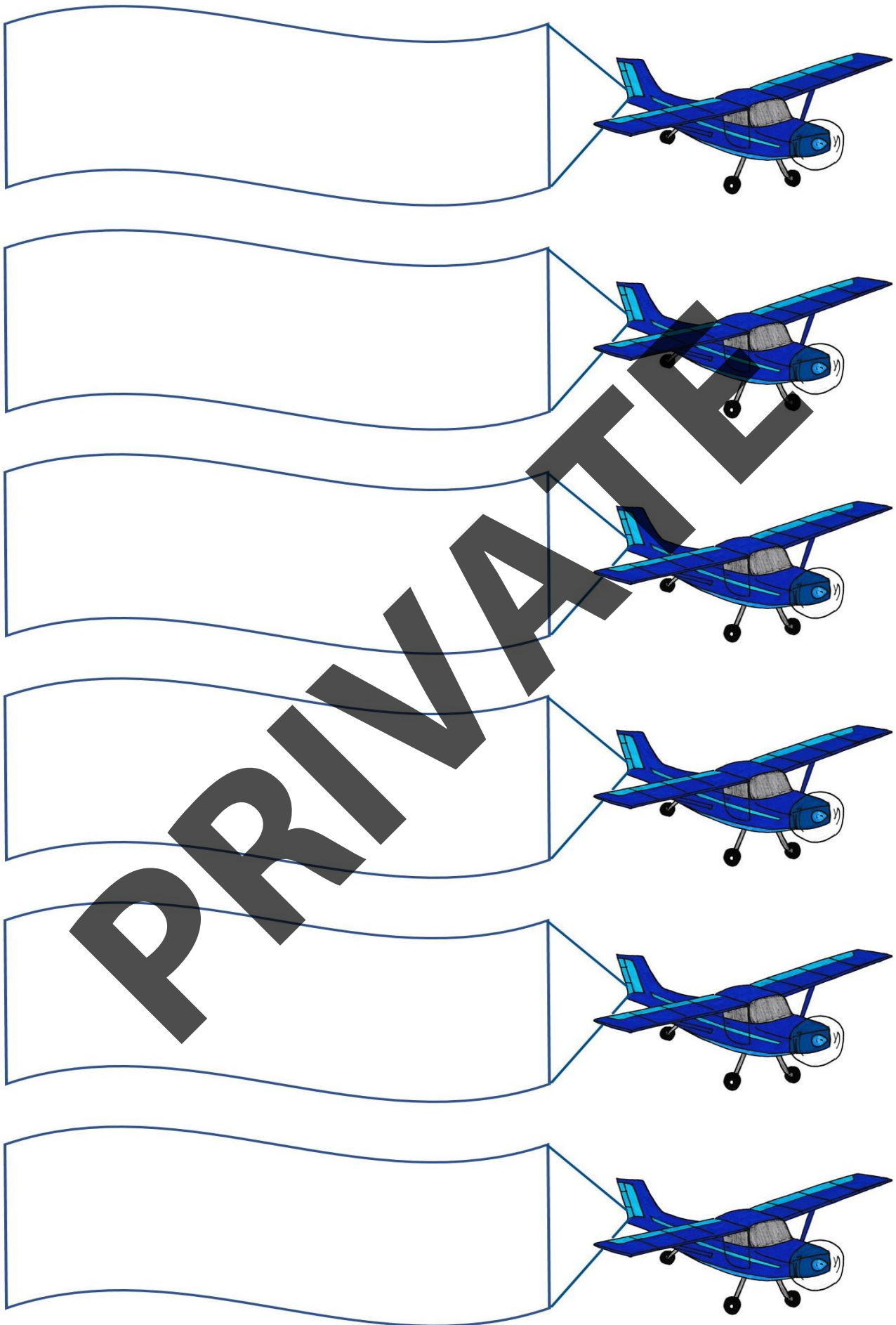
This true story of Nate Saint is told in 12 parts. Can you fit the parts of the story together in the right order?

 <p>Jesus said, ‘No one has greater love than this, that they are willing to give their lives for their friends’ (John 15:13)</p>	 <p>In the 1950s, more than 60 years ago, there was a group of people, a tribe, in Ecuador, South America. They were completely isolated from the rest of the world. Other tribes called them the ‘Auca’. (‘Auca’ means ‘savage’.) They were known to be violent and to kill outsiders as well as members of their own tribe.</p>	 <p>Christians often want to share their faith with people. They want to tell others about the love of Jesus. They offer people the chance to choose to become Christians themselves. This is called ‘evangelism’ – sharing the Good News. A person who takes the Christian message to a new group of people is often called a ‘missionary’.</p>
 <p>MAF Pilot Nate Saint was one of five young missionaries from the USA who wanted to share their Christian faith with the ‘Auca’, whose way of life was violent and savage. Nate and his friends felt sure that Jesus’ message could bring peace to the people. Because there were no roads, Nate used a small plane to fly over their isolated jungle villages and begin to make friends.</p>	 <p>Clever flying of their small plane in small circles meant that Nate and his missionary friends could lower a bucket of gifts down to the ‘Auca’. They spent many weeks sharing gifts. One day, the Auca put some presents for Nate and his companions into the bucket. The missionaries felt they were beginning to make friends with the people others called ‘savages’.</p>	 <p>MAF Pilot Nate and his four friends felt they were ready to meet the ‘Auca’. On 3rd January 1956, they landed their small plane on a sand bar near the ‘Auca’ village. They called it ‘Palm Beach’, and flew back and forth with supplies. They made a little tree house and settled down to see if anyone would come. Would the people some called ‘savages’ be willing to make friends?</p>

 <p>On the morning of 8th January 1956, two women and a man stepped out of the jungle and were welcomed to the riverside camp by the five missionaries. They spoke the Huaorani language which Nate and his friends had started to learn. They made friends. Nate even took the 'Auca' man for a flight over his village. It was very exciting. He waved wildly!</p>	 <p>After several friendly hours, the young man and the younger woman left 'Palm Beach' together. On the way back to their village they met ten 'Auca' men heading for 'Palm Beach'. The ten men got the (wrong) idea that the missionaries had attacked the villagers. Instead of being friendly, they went to 'Palm Beach' in an angry mood.</p>	 <p>About 3pm on 8th January 1956, the ten angry 'Auca' men arrived at the 'Palm Beach' camp. They attacked the five missionaries with their spears, and Nate and his four companions were killed. Then the spearmen returned to their village. They thought they'd be attacked in retaliation for killing the missionaries, so they burned their village to the ground and hid in the forest.</p>
 <p>But although they were really sad, Nate's wife and the other men's families didn't want to punish them. Over the next three years, the women tried to befriend and evangelise the 'Auca', who they called by their tribal name 'Waadani'. It took time, but they eventually became friends. Some even went to live with the Waadani; offering forgiveness.</p>	 <p>Within ten years of the deaths of the five young missionaries, many hundreds of Waadani became Christians, and their murderous way of life changed. One of the converts to Christianity was a spearman who had helped kill Nate and his friends. He made friends with Nate's son and the two worked together as missionaries.</p>	 <p>Jim Elliot, one of the young martyrs, once said, 'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.' He meant that he hoped to live forever with God in heaven and was willing to give his life on earth for Christ. Jesus said, about those who crucified Him, 'Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing.'</p>

Can you retell the story in 12 short sentences?

Think about making this story into a film. What would make it a good movie? How would it begin? How would it end? Start making a storyboard for your film.



Cross out all but three of these questions. Save the ones you think are best.

1. Were Nate Saint and his friends sensible to go and stay on 'Palm Beach'?
2. What made these young men heroes to some people?
3. Why were the 'Aucas' so savage?
4. Is this story a disaster, or a triumph?
5. Would it have been better to leave the 'Aucas' completely alone?
6. Why did the young missionaries need their plane?
7. Did the young men waste their lives?
8. Why did the 'Aucas' become Christians after several years?
9. Why did Nate Saint's son become friends with one of the people who killed his dad?
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Answer the three you think are best in the boxes.

Photos from the story of Nate Saint. Can you describe what's happening in each photo?

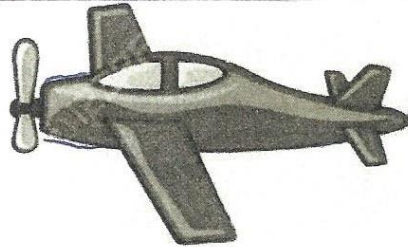


Create five captions for the five pictures:

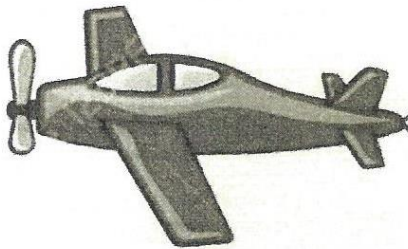


Rachel's 9-10-year-olds write the story of Nate Saint for themselves. In this version, Sam has emphasised the power of forgiveness.

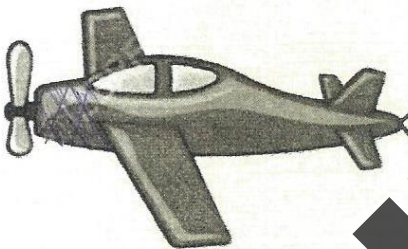
Q: How do Christians put their faith into actions? The story of Nate Saint



Nate Saint is a missionary to the Aucas in a plane.



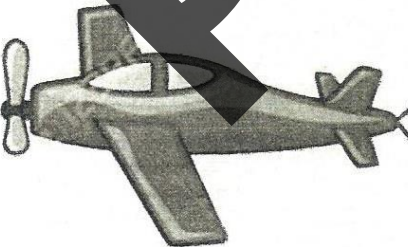
They lower gifts and then make a camp on a beach to see if Aucas will visit.



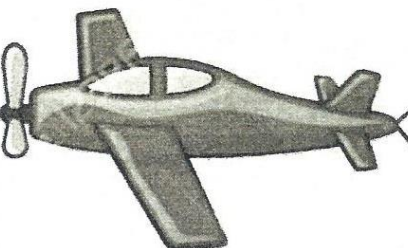
Two young women and a man from the tribe came and made friends. They gave them a ride in the helicopter.



One young man and one woman went back but the other realised that one woman had not come back and thought it was murder.

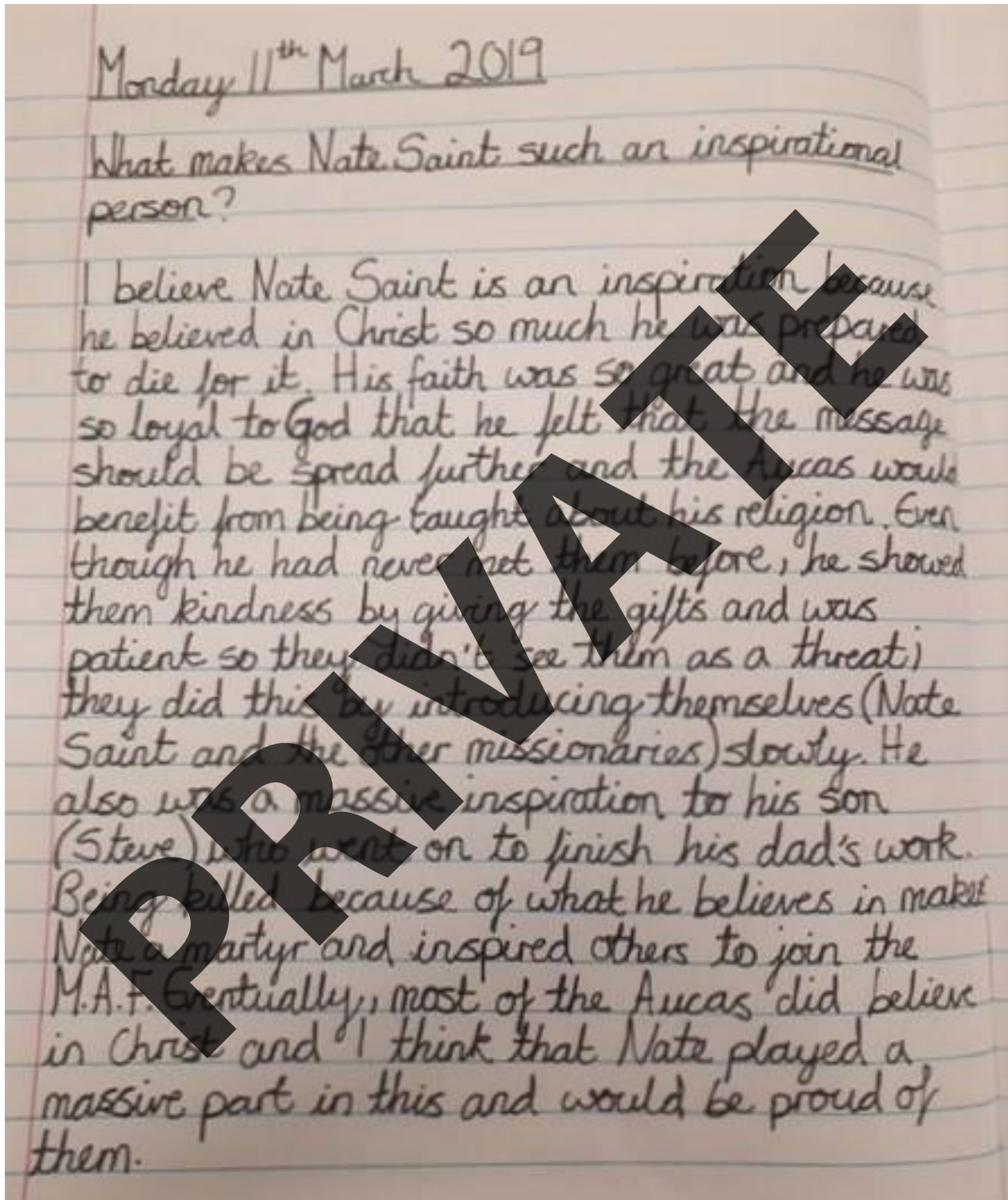


They launched an attack on the missionaries and killed them. They then burnt their village to the ground and hid in the forest for fear of retaliation.



Being true Christians the missionaries families chose to forgive and converted the Aucas to Christianity. Always choose to forgive.

In this reflective and thoughtful piece of writing, by a 10-year-old pupil, Nate Saint's life is considered as an inspiration. Concepts of faith, belief, martyrdom and religion are used to develop a reasoned explanation of Nate's impact on others. This work meets learning outcomes in both English and RE to a standard beyond that expected of a pupil of this age.



For more information about MAF, visit: www.maf-uk.org

For more stories about the work of MAF, visit: www.maf-uk.org/how-we-help/stories

For more games and other resources to use in schools or with young people visit:
www.maf-uk.org/youth/resources