Use your word knowledge to help you read the following information.

St. Andrew was born in the first century and he was the brother of Simon Peter, who later became St. Peter. They lived by the Sea of Galilee and they were both fishermen. One day when they were fishing they met Jesus, who invited them to become two of his disciples.

The Bible tells us that Andrew was with Jesus at many important events such as the Feeding of the Five Thousand, the Last Supper and at the Mount of Olives when the disciples went to ask Jesus for the signs of his return.

After Jesus died, Andrew travelled the world, telling people about the word of God. He became known as a ‘fisher of men’ as he was trying to catch people, not fish! Unfortunately, the Romans caught up with him and crucified him at Patras in Greece. The cross was a different shape to the one Jesus was crucified on. Andrew’s cross was an ‘x’ shape and it is called a ‘saltire’.

His body was moved several times and to different places. Legend has it that a monk called Regulus was told by an angel in a dream to take some of the bones to a safe place ‘at the ends of the earth’. So, he took a tooth, a kneecap, an arm and some finger bones on a boat and sailed to the east coast in Scotland. Where he landed is now called St. Andrews.

In 832 AD Andrew appeared in a dream to a Pictish King who was about to go into battle with the Angles in Northumbria. On the morning of the battle a saltire ‘x’ shaped cross of white clouds appeared in the blue sky and the Picts won their battle. The white cross on a blue background is now the national flag of Scotland.

Andrew became the official patron saint of Scotland in 1320. St. Andrew’s Day is 30th November because this is his feast day. It is celebrated across Scotland and marks the beginning of the winter festivals.

St. Andrew is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece and Russia, along with fishmongers, singers, women wanting to become mothers and sore throats!
St Andrew’s Day comprehension

St Andrew’s Day comprehension questions
Read the following questions carefully. Write your answers in full sentences. Go back and read the information again if you are not sure of the answers.

1. Where did St. Andrew live and what was his job?
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2. Who was St. Andrew’s brother?
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3. How did St. Andrew know Jesus?
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4. What did St. Andrew do after the death of Jesus and what was he called?
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5. What is a saltire?
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6. Why did Regulus take some of St. Andrew’s bones to Scotland?
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7. Why did the saltire become the national flag of Scotland?
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8. On which day is St. Andrew celebrated and why?
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9. In which three other countries is St. Andrew the patron saint?
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10. What does St. Andrew’s Day mark the start of in Scotland?
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The fishing game

This simple game is inspired by St. Andrew being both a fisherman and a ‘fisher of men’. You could use the printed cards, or extend the game by creating your own class cards.

You will need:

- Wooden rods or dowelling, approximately 30cms in length.
- String, cut into 40cms lengths
- Self-adhesive magnetic discs
- Large paper clips
- A set of fish cards (see below), printed and laminated
- Sticky tape
- Box to put the fish cards in to act as a dipping pool
- Magazine/paper/tissue offcuts in blues and white
- Pictures of fish or fish that the children have drawn

Making instructions:

1. Print and cut out the set of fish game cards (see below) and then laminate them.

2. Place the cards printed side down and attach a self-adhesive magnetic disc on the back of each card. You could also use small magnets sticky-taped to the card. Alternatively, if you don’t have enough magnets you can attach paperclips to the fish cards and use magnets on the fishing rods.

3. Cut enough lengths of string, approximately 40cms long, one for each rod.

4. Tie the string to the end of each rod. Roll a piece of sticky tape around the end to secure the string.

5. On the other end of each piece of string, tie on a large paper clip. Alternatively if you are using paperclips on the fish cards, tie magnets to the ends of the strings.

6. Decorate both the inside and outside of the box with blue and white collage paper and fish pictures to create a dipping pool.

7. Place the cards in the pool and use the rods to fish for the cards!

8. As each card is caught ask the children to discuss what the words mean to them.
Fishing Game

St. Andrew  fishing net  bones

saltire  disciple  word of God

patron saint  ends of the earth  30th November

travels  boats  dreams
St Andrew’s Day comprehension answers

1. He lived by the Sea of Galilee and he was a fisherman.

2. St. Andrew’s brother was Simon Peter or St. Peter.

3. St. Andrew met Jesus when he was fishing on day and Jesus asked him to become a disciple.

4. St. Andrew went travelling around the world telling people about the word of God.

5. A saltire is an ‘x’ shaped cross.

6. An angel came to Regulus in a dream and told him to take St. Andrew's bones to the ‘ends of the earth’.

7. The saltire became the national flag of Scotland after a Pictish king saw the cross in the sky before a battle which they later won.

8. St. Andrew’s Day is the 30th November because it is the saint’s feast day.

9. St. Andrew is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece and Russia.

10. St. Andrew’s Day marks the start of the winter festivals in Scotland.