God's Omnipotence

The Bible speaks of God's power in many ways. One of the most spectacular is the dramatic story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt, led by Moses and his brother Aaron, as told in the Old Testament book of Exodus.

To do...

✎ Draw or sketch one symbol in each frame to represent the events of the story.

Moses asks Pharaoh to release his people from slavery. He describes them as the 'Israelites', as they hope to reach the land of Israel. Pharaoh refuses to let them go.		God tells Moses to place his staff in the River Nile. The Nile water turns to blood, as does all the water in Egypt.	
God sends frogs, biting insects and flies in great swarms over all Egypt.		God causes all the Egyptians' cattle, horses, sheep and goats to die, but spares the Israelites' animals.	
The people of Egypt are afflicted with boils covering their bodies, followed by a ferocious hail storm.		The Egyptians' crops are destroyed by swarms of locusts, then a great darkness covers the land.	
God tells the Israelites to paint their doors with lamb's blood. That night the angel of death visits Egypt, but passes over the Israelites' houses.		The angel of death kills every firstborn child in Egypt. The Israelites' children are unhurt.	
Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt, but Pharaoh pursues with his army. Moses places his staff into the Sea of Reeds and the waters part.		The Israelites escape to the other side, guided by the angel of God and protected by a pillar of cloud. Pharaoh's army is engulfed by the sea.	

Christians see this story as evidence of God's 'omnipotence', which means that he is 'all powerful'.

To do...

✏️ In both of these passages, highlight the examples of God issuing commands or causing events to happen.

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to take his stick and hold it out over all the rivers, canals and pools in Egypt. The water will become blood, and all over the land there will be blood, even in the wooden tubs and stone jars."

Then Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. In the presence of the king and his officers, Aaron raised his stick and struck the surface of the river, and all the water in it was turned into blood. The fish in the river died, and it smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink from it. There was blood everywhere in Egypt.

Exodus chapter 7 verses 19-21

The Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out for help? Tell the people to move forward. Lift up your stick and hold it out over the sea. The water will divide, and the Israelites will be able to walk through the sea on dry ground. I will make the Egyptians so stubborn that they will go in after them, and I will gain honour by my victory over the king, his army, his chariots, and his drivers. When I defeat them, the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."

The angel of God, who had been in front of the army of Israel, moved and went to the rear. The pillar of cloud also moved until it was between the Egyptians and the Israelites. The cloud made it dark for the Egyptians, but gave light to the people of Israel, and so the armies could not come near each other all night.

Moses held out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind. It blew all night and turned the sea into dry land. The water was divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides.

Exodus chapter 14 verses 15-22

To do...

✏️ What is God like in this story? Circle three words below, and there is space for you to add some of your own:

fierce   **loyal**   **vengeful**   **powerful**   ………………………

persistent   **kind**   **forgiving**   **creative**   ………………………

To do...

✏️ What messages can a Christian take from the Exodus story? Circle one and/or add your own:

God is all-powerful   ……………………………………………………………

God cares about the Israelites   **God will intervene on behalf of the Israelites**