

PLACES OF FAITH

LINKS TO OTHER PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

Founders and Leaders
Festivals and Celebrations/Customs/Practices/Lifestyles
Holy Books

CONTENTS

Holy buildings, their features and use.

ACTIVITIES

1. Descriptions of:

Buildings and key features of these buildings

eg Church - altar, font, lectern, pulpit
Mosque - dome, minaret, arabesque, calligraphy, minbar, mihrab
Gurdwara - nishan-sahib, palki, takht, langar.
2. Services in the buildings

eg Holy Communion
Wudu, times and position for prayer, mat, compass, beads.
Langar, Karah Parshad.
3. Types of Prayer

Lords Prayer, Mool Mantra, Shema
Confession, Thanks, Petition, Intercession
Praise
4. Special Places

Mecca, Lourdes, Jerusalem, Benares, Amritsar.

RESOURCES

1. Folens "Specials" - all faiths covered.
2. Words and Pictures Series.
3. Folens - Places of Worship.
4. Worksheets - see following pages.

The Church

COPY THE FOLLOWING WRITING INTO YOUR BOOKS AND FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS, THE WORDS YOU NEED ARE MIXED UP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE. CROSS THEM OFF AS YOU USE THEM.

A church is often the shape of a _____ . This reminds Christians that _____ died on a cross. In the Church you can find an altar, pulpit, a lectern and a font. _____
These are the most important items.

DRAW THE ALTAR

The altar is a _____ . On the altar there is a _____ , a _____ and some _____ . It is at the _____ end of the church and reminds Christians of the Last _____ .

DRAW THE PULPIT

The pulpit is a _____ box with steps leading up. From here the _____ speaks to the people.

DRAW THE FONT

The Font is a stone stand with _____ in the top. This is used to _____ people which means they join the Christian family and have their _____ washed away.

DRAW THE LECTERN

The lectern is a stand for the _____ .

MISSING WORDS

water	sins	Bible	table
Supper	baptise	cross	east
wooden	candles	vicar	Jesus
cross	cloth		

Praying

Every relationship needs good communication. We get to know people by spending time with them, talking together. The Christian life is based on a relationship with God. Prayer is the way Christians communicate with God. As one Christian put it: “He is the best friend you’ll ever have, and He loves a good chat!”.



Questions

- ❖ (a) What is the girl doing?
- ❖ (b) How do you know?

- ❖ What feelings do you associate with this photograph?

- ❖ What questions would you want to ask the girl?

Christians believe that prayer is an essential part of life. Just as daily food is needed to build a strong and healthy body, so Christians believe that daily prayer helps to feed the spirit.

In the Gospels, Jesus is often described as praying to God. One day when Jesus had finished praying, one of the disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray”. Jesus said to the, “When you pray, say this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

This prayer, the Lord’s Prayer, has been prayed by Christians ever since.

Questions:

- ❖ Write out the Lord’s Prayer.
- ❖ Which words do you think mean “God is great”?
- ❖ Which words ask for forgiveness?
- ❖ What is asked for in the prayer? What do you think this means?
- ❖ Write your own prayer.

Prayer

COPY THESE SENTENCES INTO YOUR EXERCISE BOOKS, FILLING IN THE MISSING WORDS.

1. People pray in order to get in touch with _____ .
2. Prayer is both speaking and _____ .
3. Christians get to know God by _____ words out loud or in their head. They may also _____ or dance or just _____ quietly about God.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

4. Describe what most Christians do when they pray.
5. Why do you think Christians pray with their eyes closed and hands together?
6. Why do Christians often kneel to pray?

COPY THE SENTENCES INTO YOUR BOOK, FILLING IN THE MISSING WORDS

7. When Christians pray they use five different types of prayer:

Confession is when people say _____ .

Thanksgiving is when people say _____ to God.

Praise is when people say how _____ God is.

Intercession is when we pray for _____ .

Petition is when we pray for something for _____ .

LOOK AT THE LAST FIVE SENTENCES YOU HAVE WRITTEN. WRITE YOUR OWN PRAYER FOR EACH TYPE THAT YOU HAVE EXPLAINED.

8. Do you think God answers prayers? Give a reason for your answer.

The Gurdwara

TASK 1

Draw the Sikh flag, and copy out the following, filling in the missing words:

Outside a g _____ you would see a flag called the N _____ S _____. This flag is y _____, with a b _____ or b _____ k _____ printed on it. This Sikh symbol is made up of three parts:

1. Two k _____. These are short swords carried by members of the Sikh community. They symbolise r _____ to e _____.
2. A c _____ or circle.
3. The k _____. This is a double-edged s _____ which represents both p _____ and d _____.

sword	Nishan Sahib	gurdwara	khanda	yellow	black	divinity
khanda	power	kirpans	evil	blue	resistance	chakkar

TASK 2

What three things must a person do before entering a gurdwara?

TASK 3

Fill in the missing words:

In a gurdwara there are no s _____. People sit cross-legged on the f _____.
For what reasons do they do this?

TASK 4

What is the name of the Sikh Holy Scriptures?
What is the platform they are placed on called? What does this mean?
What happens to the Holy Scriptures when they are not being read?

Features Outside a Mosque



1.

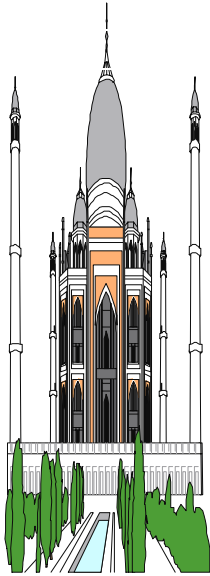
The c_____ moon and star. These symbols are used because Muslims believe that Islam g_____ people, like s_____ guide and l_____ the way, like the m_____ gives light in the d_____.



2.

The D_____ M_____ believe that this symbolizes the h_____ and the w_____ which A_____ created and rules over.

3.



The M_____ This is used by the M_____ when he calls people to p_____. Most minarets have a b_____ and the muezzin walks slowly around this, calling the people to prayer. In this way, his voice would be heard in all d_____. So, the call to prayer (the A_____) calls the Muslims to the mosque, just as Church b_____ call Christians to their Church.

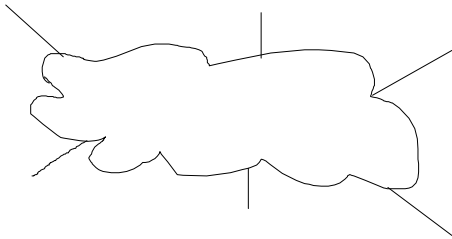
prayer	moon	bells	Muslims	guides	Adhan	Minaret	Dome
crescent	Muezzin	stars	directions	light	balcony		
Allah	darkness	world	heavens				

Special Places

A Answer the following questions:

1. What place which you have visited is special to you?
2. Why was the place special to you?

B 1. Draw a spider gram to show some places where lots of people visit:



Special Places

2. Choose 2 of the places from your spider gram and explain why people like to go to these places.

C Copy out and fill in the following table:

Journey	Place	Why Special?
1. To visit relatives or friends.	Their home.	
2. To visit a loved one's grave.		
3. To go to a football match or cricket game.		
4. To go to see your favourite pop group play.		

D Are you a fan of a particular football team, or pop group? In what ways do you show your loyalty to those in whom you are most interested? How much support are you prepared to give?

E Write a story (at least a page long) about a special place that you have visited.

Muslim Pilgrimage : The Hajj

The name given to the Islamic pilgrimage is the **Hajj**. “Hajj” means, “to set out for a definite purpose”. The main place of pilgrimage for Muslims is Mecca, in Saudi Arabia. Islam lays out five acts of worship which all Muslims must perform. These are called “Five Pillars of Islam”. The last of these five pillars is the Hajj, so it is a Muslim’s duty or obligation to go on the Hajj at least once in their lifetime, as long as they can afford it. There are two main purposes of the Hajj:

1. To show obedience to Allah.
2. A way of worshipping Allah.

Exercise 1

Answer the following questions:

- (a) What is the name of the Islamic pilgrimage?
- (b) What does this word mean?
- (c) To which city does the pilgrim go?
- (d) What are the two main purposes of Hajj?

- (a) For Muslims, Mecca is the holiest city in the world.
- (b) Many people believe that Islam was founded, or started by the prophet Muhammad, and that Mecca became a holy city because he made it a religious centre.
- (c) However, Muslims believe that he was continuing the work which other men had started long before him.
- (d) They believe that Muhammad was the last in a long line of prophets.

Exercise 2

Unjumble the following sentences. To help you, look out for capital letters, showing words which start the sentence, and full-stops, which will be the last word in the sentence.

- (a) in holiest For city Muslims world. the Mecca the is
- (b) Islam Muhammad. lot that A the believe was prophet of founded people by
- (c) work Muslims continuing him. that other started believe was the men long Muhammad which had before
- (d) believed Muhammad long to prophets. is last a of be in line the



Hindu Pilgrimage



- 1. Benares
- 2. Kashi
- 3. Ayohya
- 4. Mathura
- 5. Ujjan
- 6. Narik-Tryambak
- 7. Tirupati
- 8. Kanchipurum
- 9. Rameswaran
- 10. Dwarka
- 11. Gaya

The Holy Places of India

A pilgrimage is a journey with a special purpose which usually has something to do with religion. Many religions talk of life itself being a pilgrimage and this is especially true of the Hindu religion in which it is believed that the purpose of the journey of life is to find MOKSHA; the release from being reborn and becoming 'one' with God.

During life the Hindu has three ways to prepare or strive for this release; studying the holy books, doing good deeds and showing devotion to God. The last is the most popular way of finding moksha.

Making a pilgrimage to a holy place, is regarded as an important way of showing devotion to God. Each place of pilgrimage has it's own story, reminding pilgrims of how they should live their lives. These places may be, for example, mountains, rivers, local shrines or famous temples.

HOLY RIVERS



In India, the home of Hinduism, rivers and also many lakes are regarded as holy and are often places of pilgrimage. Behind the idea of a river being sacred is the fact that water is essential for all life. As a source of life it is important in Hinduism because it is believed that the worshipper must be in a state of cleanliness to appear before God to worship.

THE GANGES

The holiest river in India is the Ganges. All Hindus wish to bathe in it at least once in their lifetime; many will also hope that after death their ashes will be scattered on its waters. This is believed to bring about moksha. The river is sacred because it is thought of as the goddess Ganga who came to earth from the Gods and therefore has the power to wash away sins.

There are many holy places on its banks, and pilgrims come from all over India to bring offerings and bathe in the waters.

Some who make the difficult journey to the source of the Ganges and dip in the ice-cold water. Others go to Sargar Island where the Ganges meets the ocean.

BENARES

The holiest city in all of India is Benares, also known as Varanasi. Benares lies on the banks of the river Ganges, and many pilgrims journey here for they believe they will achieve moksha by bathing in the river. Many come here to die for they believe that this too will bring about release - freedom from rebirth.

The whole city is dedicated to the God Shiva, the God who creates and destroys. Destruction is necessary as without it there can be no new life.

Ghats, or steps, lead down to the water to make it easier for pilgrims to bathe in the river. Each ghat has its own name and is used in a particular way, and each has its own priests to help worshippers carry out their devotions.



HINDU PILGRIMAGE QUESTIONS

Answer these questions in full sentences in your books.

1. Copy the map of India and mark on the holy places.
2. What is the purpose of the journey of life for Hindus?
3. What are the three ways a Hindu can prepare for release or moksha?
4. What is behind the idea that rivers are holy?
5. Can you think of an example from another religion where water is used?
6. Which goddess do some Hindus believe is the Ganges?
7. Why do Hindus hope to have their ashes scattered in the Ganges?
8. Where is the source of the Ganges?
9. Where does the Ganges merge with the ocean?
10. Which is the holiest river for Hindus?
11. To which God is Benares dedicated?
12. What is a Ghat?
13. Why are there priests at the ghats?
14. Hindus believe that to go on a pilgrimage is a way of showing devotion to God. The harder the journey the better because it shows more devotion.

In our everyday lives we often feel more pleased with ourselves after completing a difficult task than an easy one. Write about a time when you have felt like this, or make up a story which illustrates this feeling. (This should be ½ - 1 page at least.)



SHIVA

Shiva - the destroyer. Hindus who worship Shiva are interested in learning and self-control. They believe only new things can come if the old are destroyed.

Pilgrimage - Sikhism

There are important places which are connected with the origin and development of the faith which many Sikhs will try to visit but pilgrimage is not essential.

The Guru Granth Sahib says:-

1. *True pilgrimage consists of the contemplation of the name of God and the cultivation of inner knowledge.*

Adi Granth 687
2. *There is no place of pilgrimage equal to the Guru's. The Guru alone is the pool of contentment. The Guru is the river from which pure water is obtained, by which the dirt of evil understanding is washed away.*

Adi Granth 1,328
3. *If someone goes to bathe at a place of pilgrimage with the mind of a crook and the body of a thief then his outside will have been washed but his inside will be dirty twice over The saints are good even without such washing. The thief remains a thief even if they bathe at a place of pilgrimage.*

Adi Granth 789

The most important building for a Sikh is the Golden Temple. This is in Amritsar and so Amritsar is an important place of pilgrimage for Sikhs. Pilgrims take part in celebrations, but may also spend time in private prayer, inspired by being in such a holy place.

At the time of the Gurus their followers gathered wherever the Guru happened to be, or where he told them he would be for a particular period. They gathered together to hear his teaching and to learn more about putting it into practice in their daily lives. However, many of them were used to places of pilgrimage, particularly those associated with water and cleansing, since many of the Gurus' early followers were from Hindu backgrounds. Following the teachings of their Gurus, Sikhs reject the idea of ceremonial bathing and pilgrimage bringing about cleansing or reward.

There are places which have become important symbols of the faith for many Sikhs and places to which some Sikhs will go in a spirit of devotion to God. Guru Amar Das had a deep well constructed at Goindwal.

THINGS TO DO

1. Explain in your own words what the Guru Granth Sahib says about pilgrimage.
2. One of the Gurus said "inner pilgrimages were better than journeys to special places". What does this mean?
3. From your own research, write a description of the Golden Temple, remembering to explain the symbolism of the building.

TITLE OF UNIT: _____

KEY STAGE: _____ **AIMS:** _____

YEAR: _____

Programme of Study	Key Questions	Key Words	Activities	Resources	AT

An Outline of Basic Beliefs and Practices of Major Religions

	PLACES OF WORSHIP	SPECIAL DAY	NAME(S) OF GOD	PROPHETS	FESTIVALS	HOLY BOOK
CHRISTIANITY	Church	Sunday	GOD - The Father; The Son (Jesus); The Holy Spirit	Old Testament Prophets + John the Baptist	Easter - New Life Christmas - Light Whitsun - Holy Spirit Harvest	Bible - Old Testament New Testament
HINDUISM	Manhir (Temple)	No special day Prayers in temple every day	One God in many forms eg Brahma Vishnu, Shiva etc	No Prophets but recognises religious teachers/gurus as providing guidance to people	Diwali - Light; Good Evil; New Year Navaratri - Mother Earth Holl - Spring Raksha Bandhan - Brother/Sister	Vedas Upanishads Mahabharata (which includes the Bhagavadgta)
ISLAM	Mosque	Friday - Day of Special Prayer	Allah	Old Testament; Prophets; Jesus; Muhammad	Ramadan - Fasting Eid-UI-Fltr - End of Fasting Haji - Pilgrimage	Gu'ran
JUDAISM	Synagogue	Friday evening to Saturday evening	Yhwh (Yahweh)	Old Testament Prophets (Moses most important)	Passover (Pesach) - Deliverance Succot - Harvest Rosh Hashanah - New Year Yom Kippur - Atonement Chanukkah - Light Purim - Story of Esther	Torah (First 5 books of Old Testament) Talmud (interpretations)
SIKHISM	Gurdwara	Sunday in Britain but variable elsewhere	One God (Sat Naam - Truth)	10 Gurus Guru-Nanak; Angad; Amar Das; Ram Das; Arjan; Hargobind Singh; Har Rai; Tegh Bahadur; Gobind Singh	Valsakhi - New year Diswal - As Hindu + release of Hargobind Singh from prison Holl - Spring	Guru Granth Sahib
BUDDISM	Temple			Buddah		Vedas