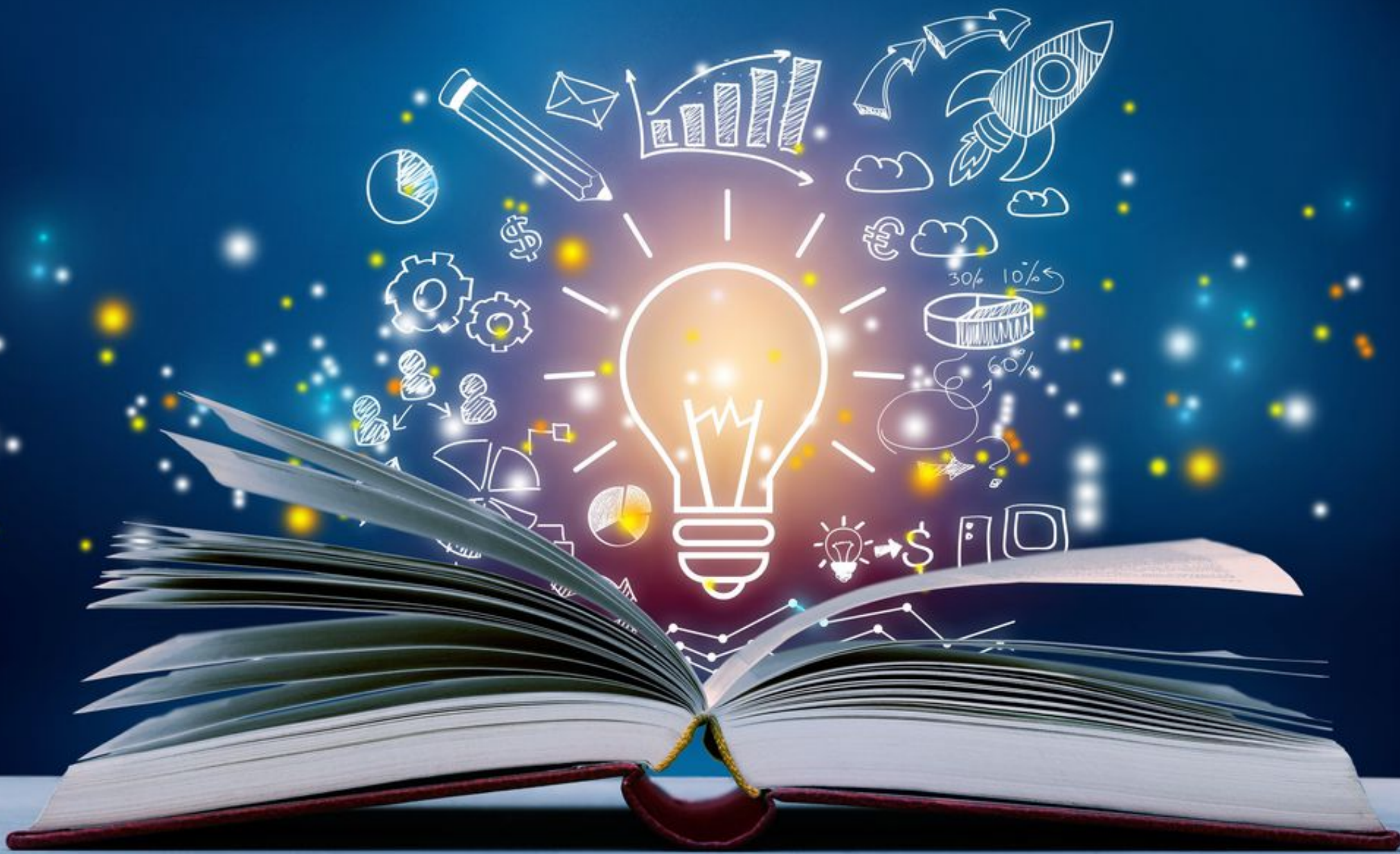


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Sacred writings - Hinduism

Hindu holy texts include:

The Vedas - a collection of hymns praising the Vedic gods. Veda means 'knowledge'.

The Ramayana - long epic poems about Rama and Sita.

The Mahabharata - which includes the Bhagavad Gita.

The Puranas - a collection of stories about the different incarnations and the lives of saints.



Hinduism

Central to Hinduism is the belief in a supreme God **Brahman**. Brahman is present everywhere and there is a part of Brahman in everyone.

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It began about 5000 years ago, linked to the people who lived near to the Indus River in about 2500 BC.

Hinduism has no single founder or prophet. The Hindu faith draws on a number of sacred texts and there is no standard set of beliefs, so it is a religion, which is followed in different ways by different groups of people.

Vedas	Vedas means Knowledge. This forms one of the main parts of the Hindu's holy texts. The Vedas is a collection of hymns praising the Vedic gods. Veda means 'knowledge'.
The Ramayana	This is the story of Rama and Sita (which is celebrated during Diwali). It was also written as a poem. Rama is seen as an example of dharma - the 'right way to live one's life'.
The Mahabharata	The Mahabharata - which includes the Bhagavad Gita. This is the longest known poem ever written. It is an epic story about the Kurekshetra War for the throne of the Hastinapura Kingdom.
The Puranas	The Puranas - a collection of stories about the different incarnations and the lives of saints.
The Samhitas	The Samhitas are the most ancient part of the Vedas, consisting of hymns of praise to God.
The Upanishads	The Upanishads consist of the mystical and philosophical teachings of Hinduism.
Dharmashastras	These texts are about the duties, rights, laws, behaviour and how to live life in the right way for Hindus.
Puranas	These texts contain myths and legends relating to the major Hindu deities.
Krishna	Krishna is a major deity in Hinduism. He is worshipped as the eighth avatar of the God Vishnu and also as the supreme God in his own right. He is the God of compassion, tenderness, and love in Hinduism, and is one of the most popular and widely worshipped among Indian divinities.
Rama and Sita	Rama and Sita is one of the main stories from Hinduism. It is about Rama rescuing Sita from a demon King Ravana with the help of Hanuman and his monkey army.
Diwali	The story of Rama and Sita shows them that good won over the evil one. Since then people light lamps at Diwali to remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil.

An inspirational leader: Archbishop Desmond Tutu

He has done many, many kind and caring things. He has always shown great bravery and courage in standing up for what he knew was right, even when he was the only person to do so. He wanted to make life fairer for people who had black skin and bring peace to his country where there was lots of fighting. Desmond Tutu has continued to work hard to bring peace and fairness to people who have found life unfair, perhaps because they were sick or poor. Those people could not speak out for themselves, but he spoke for them. Desmond Tutu has said some very wise things that we can learn from .i.e. *In God's family, there are no outsiders, no enemies.*



An inspirational leader: Pope Francis II

The pope himself is the bishop of Rome, Italy. He rules Vatican City, which lies within Rome's borders but is a separate country. Throughout his life, both as an individual and a religious leader, he has been known for his humility, his concern for the poor, and his commitment to dialogue as a way to build bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths. He was elected on 2013 to be the Pope, at the age of 76. He chose the name Pope Francis in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Inspirational	Someone that makes someone else want to do something or that gives someone guidance on what to do/how to behave in a positive or reassuring way.
Apartheid	Apartheid means "separation" or literally "apartness". When people are treated differently because of things like race, religion and gender.
Pope	The pope is the head of the <u>Roman Catholic church</u> (a branch of Christianity).
Injustice	Lack of justice or fairness. Not everyone is treated equally.
Preach	To deliver a sermon or gospel.
Sermon	A sermon is a religious discourse delivered in public usually by a member of the clergy as a part of a worship service.
Saint Francis of Assisi	Saint Francis of Assisi gave up all material goods to live a simple life of poverty. He preached to people about the life of Jesus and was also known for his love of nature. It is thought that he could tame wild animals.
Pilgrims	Someone who has travelled to a holy place to show their devotion.
Coat of arms	A coat of arms is a <u>unique design painted</u> on a <u>shield</u> . Each <u>symbol</u> on the coat of arms will <u>represent something</u> that has an <u>important meaning</u> to that person, country or company.

Taking Part

How do religions and charities encourage us to take part and support those that are in need?

Many religions have charity and helping others at their very heart. A number of religions make donations to the church and charities. Some even donate a percentage of their earnings (if they can afford to) to those that are less fortunate than themselves. People of faith are encouraged to promote a positive community ethos, support others and take part in selfless acts.



Think about it...
How has religion encouraged us to take part as a school?

- We have donated for harvest collections.
- We have held special days to raise money for charity.
- We have visited and sang for local care homes at the church.
- We have donated to the Christian run shoebox appeal at Christmas.
- Can you think of anymore?

Think about it...
How have you taken part to support others?

- Donated for non-uniform days.
- Purchased cakes for, cake sales.
- Dressed up for awareness.
- Donated food.
- Donated toys.
- Spent time supporting others.
- Can you think of anymore?

Church	A church building or church house, often simply called a church , is a building used for Christian religious activities, particularly for Christian worship services.
Buddhist temple	A Buddhist temple, or Buddhist monastery is the place of worship for Buddhists, the followers of Buddhism. They include the structures called vihara, chaitya, stupa, wat, and pagoda in different regions and languages.
Mandir	A Hindu temple is a symbolic house, seat and body of divinity. It is a structure designed to bring human beings and gods together, using symbolism to express the ideas and beliefs of Hinduism.
Gurdwara	A Gurdwara is a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. Sikhs also refer to Gurdwaras as Gurdwara Sahib.
Mosque	A mosque is a place of worship for Muslims. Any act of worship that follows the Islamic rules of prayer can be said to create a mosque, whether or not it takes place in a special building.
Christian aid	Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency of 41 Christian churches in the UK and Ireland, and works to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief.
Oxfam	Oxfam is a global movement of millions of people who share the belief that, in a world rich in resources, poverty isn't inevitable. This is just some of what they do.
World vision charity	World Vision believes that by working together with children, their communities, and our supporters and partners, the lives of the world's most vulnerable children can be transformed.
The good Samaritan	A Christian story, is a story of a good Samaritan from the Bible.

Questions we will explore:

- 1) How do places of worship encourage people to take part in supporting the community?
- 2) How do religions support and encourage others to take part?

The good Samaritan - Christianity

The story of the **Good Samaritan**, as told by Jesus in one of the gospels of the New Testament. The **moral of the Good Samaritan** is that everyone, even those normally considered an enemy, is your neighbour.

Belief in action

How can people's beliefs change how they act?

- In Christianity they have the 10 commandments – how do you think this may impact on the behaviour of Christians?
- Buddhists are vegan and dedicate a lot of their lives to meditation – how is this different to other religions?
- In a number of religions, the can only eat certain foods.
- In a number of religions, the have to give a portion of their wage to charity or to support others.
- In some religions, the job they choose may be affected by their religion i.e. Buddhists could not be a butcher as this would involve harming an animal.
- Can you think of anymore?

Shabbat

- Jewish celebration.
- Jewish weekly day of rest. Starts on Friday at sunset and ends Saturday at nightfall.
- It is a day of worship, celebration and family.
- They have a blessing over a cup of wine and some bread.
- It is a regular reminder that God created the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh.

Sabbath

- Christian celebration.
- Takes place on a Sunday.
- Again, this is a reminder that God made the world in 6 days and rested on the seventh day.
- Christians rest from working and this is a time where they spend extra time with family, in prayer and meditation.



Blessing	A favour or gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness. the invoking of God's favour upon a person.
Recreation	Something done for fun and relaxation.
Bible	The Christian holy text.
Sacred	Devoted to God or religion, like to religion or used for religious purposes.
Torah	The Jewish holy text.
Commandment	A rule given by God for his followers to follow.

Questions we will explore:

- 1) Should shops be open on the Sabbath or during Shabbat?
- 2) Why are these days special?
- 3) Debate - would opening shops on these days go against their beliefs?



Buddhist places of worship

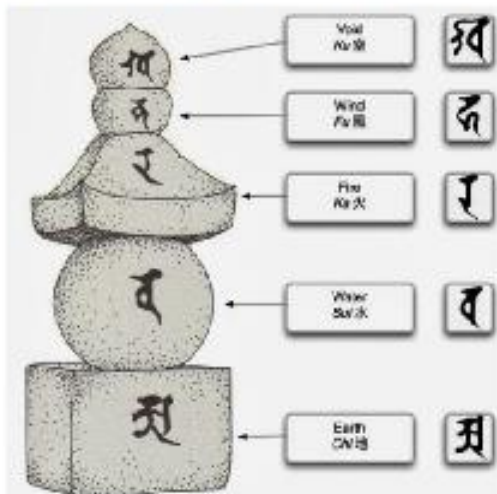
- Do you know anything about Buddhism?
- What do you know about the Buddhist place of worship?
- Can you think of any similarities between a Buddhist place of worship and a church?



Buddhism Features of a temple:

The great elements of the world are represented in the Buddhist temple.

- A square base to the temple represents the Earth.
- A pinnacle at the top of the temple represents wisdom.
- The spires represent fire.
- The crescent of the temple represents the air.
- A dome to the temple represents the water.



Wheel of Dharma (8-fold path)	Each of the 8 spokes stand for one of the Buddhist teaching of the means of attaining Nirvana through rightness of belief, resolve, speech, action, livelihood, effort, thought, and meditation.
Incense	This reminds people that, like the smell, Buddha is all around them and that something so small can make a big difference.
Nirvana Day	Celebrates the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana. Buddhists spend Nirvana day meditating and visiting temple.
Impermanence	Not permanent or does not last forever.
Shrine	A place where people go to worship linked with their place of worship. Here they can make offerings and say prayers.
Mantra	Sacred words and phrases that are usually sung. They can be said continuously to create a chant.
Prayer Wheel	Buddhists place prayers/prayer scrolls within the wheel and then spin it whilst chanting. Doing this allows them to pray for a number of things at once.

Questions we will explore:

1. Who is Gautama Buddha?
2. What were his main teachings?
3. Can you see any similarities and differences between Buddhism and any other religions?
4. What are the 4 noble truths?
5. What is the 8-fold path?
6. Gautama Buddha would be happy with how things are in the world today – debate for and against this statement.

Wesak – an important festival.

Wesak is the most important Buddhist festival. It is celebrated on the night of the full moon in April or May, when Buddhists remember the Buddha's birthday and his Enlightenment and is also known as Buddha Day. People decorate their homes with flowers or streamers, meditate, and make offerings.



- Do religious believers feel more obligated to look after the future of the planet than atheists? – Debate...



What are we doing to the planet?

- Many believe that God created the Earth for us and we should be looking after it.
- Even none believers feel they should be looking after the planet for their children.
- Some people wonder why God is not helping us...but why should God have to clean up the mess we have made?
- Others believe God has given us free will – so we have chosen to treat the Earth the way we have.



Torah	The Torah includes passages where it refers to Gods creation of the world needing to be looked after.
Buddhism/teachings	Buddhist teaching revolves around teaching people to be responsible for their actions. To look after the planet and all living things.
Hinduism	They believe certain parts of the planet are sacred and should be looked after. They believe the world has enough for everyone but not for everyone's greed.
Judaism	Within the Jewish scriptures where there are statements promoting them to look after the Earth. They have set up charities to improve the Earth for future generations.
Muslims/Qur'an	Believe it is their duty to look after the planet (khalifa). Allah will judge you when he sees you in heaven by how you have behaved or treated the Earth.
Sikhs	Believe the world God gave us everything we needed, that we should only take what we need and not take more than we need.
Religions working together	The Worldwide fund for nature (sacred Earth) meets to talk about problems facing the planet. The 8 main religions met to open people's eyes to what we are doing to the planet.

Questions we will explore:

- How do Buddhists look after the planet?
- How do Christians look after the planet?
- How do Jewish believers look after the planet?
- How do Sikh's look after the planet?
- How do Muslims look after the planet?

What do religions do to look after the planet?

The Worldwide fund for nature (sacred Earth).



"I feel that we, as humans, it is our duty to protect wildlife and treat them as other creatures that God has created. I am appealing not only to Muslims but humanity to really look after the animals, the wildlife, the plants. All these are for us to use, but at the same time protect them. And in the long run, by doing so, we are protecting ourselves, our existence."

Prof. Abdulghafur El-Busaidy

National Chairman of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims

Beliefs and practices

How do the beliefs of Sikh's affect their actions?

Throughout this topic, you will be looking at the beliefs and practices of the Sikh believers. I want you to explore how their beliefs may change how they act or treat others.



The 5 Ks taken together symbolise that the Sikh who wears them has dedicated themselves to a life of devotion and submission to the Guru.

Kesh	Uncut hair is a symbol of holiness and strength. Hair is a part of God's creation and keeping it uncut shows a willingness to accept God.
Kara	A steel bracelet symbolising the unbroken bond with God, restraint and gentleness.
Kanga	The wooden comb symbolises clean mind and body, it keeps the hair neat and tidy.
Kachha	Special underwear was worn by the Sikh warriors and were suitable for warfare – they are also a symbol of chastity.
Kirpan	A ceremonial sword, which is kept in a sheath. It symbolises a defence of their religion, a fight against injustice, defence of the good and spirituality.
Guru	A Guru is a spiritual teacher chosen to deliver the word of God to humans.
Mool Mantar	This is the opening verse of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji (the Sikh holy texts) which summarises the Sikhs main beliefs. It is taught to young children and often used in prayer.

The Mool mantar

There is One God
Whose Name is True
The Creator
Without fear
Without hate
Immortal
Beyond the cycle of birth and death
Self-revealing
As Grace

10 Gurus –

In Sikhism, there are ten Gurus. Sikhs believe that these Gurus were at one with God. They were the link between God and Humans. The Gurus were chosen to deliver God's messages. All the Gurus lived their lives as an example to all Sikhs.



The ten Gurus were in human form but the eleventh and final Guru is considered to be the holy book – the Guru Granth Sahib (which contains the messages of all the Gurus).

Sikh place of worship - Gurdwara

What makes a Gurdwara special to Sikhs?



Langar, is the term used in Sikhism for the community kitchen in a Gurdwara where a free meal is served to all the visitors, without distinction of religion, caste, gender, economic status or ethnicity.

Guru Granth Sahib	Sikh holy book – treated with the same respect as they would give a human the book is placed high as a mark of respect. It is covered with a cloth to keep it clean.
Chaur	A fan which is waved over the holy text as a mark of respect.
Langar	A free communal kitchen that feeds not only Sikhs but anyone that needs a meal free of charge. It is run by the community using donations.
Nishan Sahib	A flag that is seen outside of special places of worship. The flag shows the traditional symbol for Sikhism.
Four doors	A Gurdwara will have 4 doors; this shows that people are welcome wherever they are from.
Sermon	A service with singing and hymns is followed by religious talk or readings called a sermon.
Guru Nanak	Guru Nanak started the Sikh faith and was the first Guru.



Inside the Gurdwara

