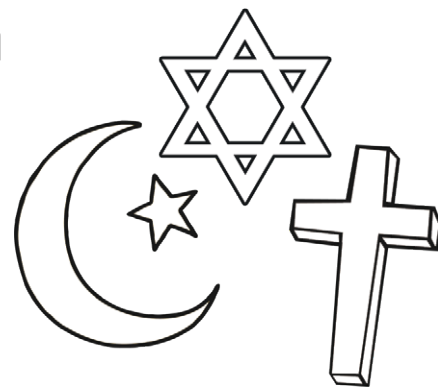


Religious and Moral Education

Glossary



Christianity

A faith that is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Altar

Often found in a church, this is a table usually placed at the front of a church where the bread and wine for communion is laid out.

Ascension

The name given to Jesus' return to heaven in front of his disciples, after the resurrection.

Baptism

One of the sacraments, baptism is a special ceremony where a person of any age is either sprinkled with water or immersed into water to symbolise their welcoming into God's family.

Bible

The holy text in Christianity, split into the Old and New Testament.

Church

Name for a building in which a group of Christians gather to learn more about God and Jesus and to sing and pray together.

Communion/Lord's Supper

One of the sacraments, communion is an act of remembrance for Christians. They share bread and wine in order to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection. They also remember that because of Jesus they now have peace with God. Jesus commanded his disciples to do this just before he died.

Congregation

A term used to describe the group of people who gather together to worship God.

Cross

The symbol of Christianity. Crucifixion was the cruellest form of punishment known in the Roman world, it caused a slow and very painful death. It is important to Christians that Jesus was crucified on a cross because they believe that this was so people could be forgiven for their sins.

Easter

Important Christian celebration to remember Jesus' death and resurrection as they believe that through this they can be forgiven and accepted by God.

Grace

This is the belief that God freely grants people forgiveness for their wrongdoings if they ask for it. This is a unique concept among all the world religions.

Jesus

Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They believe that he became a human man so as to live the perfect life and teach people the truth about God. Christians believe that Jesus died so that they could be forgiven for their sins.

Minister

A leader of a church. See also pastor.

Miracles

An event that can only have come about because of a divine intervention.

New Testament

One of the two main sections of the Bible, records the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and then the start, growth and spread of the church and the Christian message.

Old Testament

The first of the two main section of the Bible, records the creation of the world by God and the beginning and history of the Israelites, God's chosen people. Throughout the Old Testament there are many prophecies that God was going to send a Saviour to save all people from all of the wrong in the world; Christians believe that person is Jesus.

Parables

A story used to teach and explain an idea. Jesus often taught in parables which are recorded in the New Testament.

Pastor

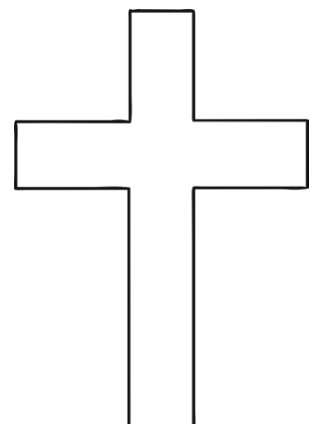
A leader of a church. See also minister.

Sin

To act in a way that is displeasing to God.

Transfiguration

A special event in Jesus' life and ministry when he was with three of his disciples. He was transfigured, his face became as bright as the sun and his clothes turned dazzling white. Moses and Elijah, two important prophets from the Old Testament also appeared beside Jesus and spoke to him.



Islam

A religion which believes in one God, Allah, and who follows the teachings about Allah that were given to his prophet, Mohammad.

Allah

The Arabic name for God.

Burka

A long, loose garment that covers the whole head and body, worn by some Muslim women.

Eid al-Fitr/Eid ul-Fitr

A Muslim festival. This celebrates the end of the fasting of Ramadan and thanking Allah for everything.

Five Pillars

These are the five most important practices of Islam. The Five Pillars are: Shahadah, Salat, Sawm, Hajj and Zakat.

Hijab

A headscarf worn by Muslim women that covers the head and neck.

Imam

A leader in Islam. They often lead a mosque.

Kaaba

A small building that sits in the middle of the Great Mosque in Mecca. Muslims pray facing this point and often make a pilgrimage there.

Mecca

This is the location of the holiest place in Islam, it is a city in Saudi Arabia. The prophet Mohammed declared it as a place of pilgrimage.

Mohammed

The prophet of Allah.

Mosque

The building Muslims gather together in to pray and listen to teachings from the Qu'ran together.

Muslim

A follower of the Islamic religion.

Qur'an

The holy text of Islam.

Salat/Salah

One of the Five Pillars of Islam. This is the practice of praying five times a day.

Sawm

One of the Five Pillars of Islam. This is the practice of fasting during the month of Ramadan.

Shahadah

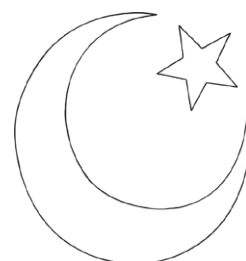
This is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is the basic statement of faith which is "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger."

Wudu

This is the ritual washing that Muslims perform to get ready for prayer and worship.

Zakat

This is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. This is the practice of giving to those in need.



Hinduism

The majority religion in India and Nepal. It has no single founder, no one holy text and no widely agreed teachings.

Aum

The sound which is believed to have been the first in all creation. It is a sacred symbol and represents the Hindu god of creation, Brahma.

Brahma/Brahman

First of the three most important gods in Hinduism, he is the creator of the universe.

Caste

These are divisions in Hindu culture and are believed to have been put in place by Brahma. They are a hierarchy based on the good deeds the different castes carry out. Priests and teachers are called Brahmins and are seen to be in highest caste. Those who are labourers are in the lowest caste and are called Shudras. Outside of the caste system and therefore seen as the lowest of the low are the Dalits.

Conch

Also known as shankh, this is a shell used as an instrument. The noise it makes is believed to be sacred and symbolises brilliance, purity and favour.

Dharma

This is the power in the universe that underpins everything. It is seen as a universal force which also operates at a personal level to help people find out what they are meant to do in their lives.

Diva Lamp

These lamps are lit on the occasion of Diwali in the hope that Lakshmi will visit them and bring wealth and purity.

Diwali

The festival of lights and probably the most well known of the Hindu festivals. It celebrates the overcoming of evil with good and lasts for five days. Celebrations include fireworks, lights and sweets. Hindus will put on new clothes and clean their houses meticulously in honour of this important festival.

Ganesh

Another of the Hindu gods, he is often shown as having an elephant's head on a human body. Hindus will often pray to him to ask for his help in a new venture as he is believed to be the god of removing obstacles.

Garland

Wreath of flowers, each of the Hindu gods are shown with a specific garland around their neck.

Hindu

Follower of the Hindu religion.

Karma

Belief that every action causes a reaction either immediately or in the future and the goodness or badness of the reactions are dependent on the goodness or badness of the actions.

Krishna

Human form of the god, Vishnu.

Lakshmi

One of the many Hindu goddesses. She is the goddess of riches and purity.

Lotus

Important symbol in the Hindu religion, the flower is an important offering in rituals and also plays an important part in many Hindu stories about their gods.

Mandir

| Hindu temple.

Manjeera

| Set of small cymbals.

Meditate

| Taking time to sit still and to empty the mind.

Moksha

| The escape from the process of death and reincarnation.

Pooja

| Ritual of prayer carried out by Hindus in devotion to one of their gods.

Rangoli

| Form of art which uses repeating colourful patterns and shapes. They are often created using coloured sand, the petals from flowers, coloured rice or flour. They are sometimes created on the floor so as to create a special welcoming space for Hindu gods and they are said to bring good luck.

Samsara

| The process of reincarnation. This is the belief that when someone dies, they come back either as a human, animal or god, depending on their actions in their previous lives. Eventually, Hindus hope to escape this process, this is called moksha.

Shiva

| Third god in the three important gods in Hinduism, Shiva is believed to be the destroyer of the universe, however, Hindus believe that he only destroys so as to rebuild and make better.

Shrine

| Place where there is one of more images of Hindu gods. Hindus often have these in their homes as well as having them within Hindus temples.

Temple

| Place of Hindu worship.

Vishnu

| Second god in Hinduism. Linked with the gods of Brahma and Shiva who between them share the responsibility for the creation, maintenance and destruction of the world. Vishnu is the god who upholds the universe. In Hindu art, Vishnu is shown in human form, with blue skin and four arms.



Buddhism

World religion which follows the teachings of the Buddha.

Alms/Begging Bowl

Used by Buddhist monks to collect money or food from members of the Buddhist community.

Buddha

Principal human figure in Buddhism. His name was Siddhartha Gautama and he was born into a life of luxury but later came face to face with poverty, death and sickness. Siddhartha wrestled with the meaning of life for a long time before eventually achieving Enlightenment and so became the Buddha.

Butter Lamp

These lamps run on yak butter and are placed on Buddhist altars as an offering as a symbol of an awakened mind.

Dharma Wheel

A truth wheel and represents the cycle of life and rebirth. It follows the Eightfold Path and has eight spokes representing each one of the eight laws.

Mandala

Picture which represents the universe.

Monk

A follower of Buddhism who has given up a worldly life. They are only allowed minimal possessions and must beg for the food they need day to day. They generally have their heads and faces shaved and wear orange robes.

Shrine

Place where there is one or more images of the Buddha. Buddhists often have these in their homes as well as having them within Buddhist temples.

Thangka

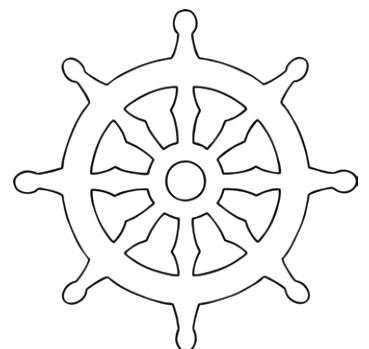
Painting of a Buddhist scene or god on a scroll.

Tripitaka

Buddhist scriptures.

Vihara

A Buddhist monastery which is also available as a place for all Buddhists to worship, meditate or study.



Sikhism

A religion which believes in one God and was founded by Guru Nanak.

Gurdwara

| Sikh place of worship.

Guru Granth Sahib

| Sikh scriptures.

Kaccha

| One of the five Ks, this is the cotton underwear a member of the Khalsa should wear.

Kanga

| One of the five Ks, this is a wooden comb used by members of the Khalsa.

Kara

| One of the five Ks, this is a steel bracelet worn by a member of the Khalsa.

Kesh

| One of the five Ks, this is the practice of keeping hair uncut.

Khalsa

| A special group of believers. The five Ks are adopted by those who want to be part of the Khalsa, they are – Kesh, Kara, Kanga, Kaccha and Kirpan.

Kirpan

| One of the five Ks this is a steel sword carried by a member of the Khalsa.

Vaisakhi

| Celebration of Sikh New Year on either April 13 or 14 each year. It marked the first Sikhs joining the Khalsa (also known as Baisakhi).



Judaism

An ancient religion, which believes in one God and whose followers are called Jews.

Celery

Eaten at Passover as part of the karpas (vegetables), celery is dipped in salt water at the start of the meal.

Dreidel

Jewish gambling toy with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet on each side meaning "a great miracle happened there."

Etrog

Yellow citrus fruit used during the week-long holiday of Sukkot.

Hanukkah

Jewish festival of lights, traditionally celebrated in November or December.

Horseradish

Eaten at Passover, this is a bitter herb to remind Jews of the bitterness of slavery endured by their ancestors while they lived in Egypt.

Ketuvim

The third part of Jewish scriptures. This part is made up of books of poetry, scrolls, prophecy and history.

Lamb

Eaten during Passover to remember the sacrifice made the night the ancient Hebrews fled Egypt. They were instructed by God to smear the blood of the lambs on their doorframes so that the angel of death would pass over them and that their eldest sons would be spared from God's judgement.

Matzos

Taken during Passover, this is a cracker type of bread made without yeast. It was created when Jews had to flee from Egypt.

Menorah

Nine branched candle lit during the eight-day holiday of Hanukah.

Nevi'im

Part of the Jewish scriptures, these are the writings from prophets, God's chosen servants such as Samuel and Isaiah.

Passover

A celebration of the Jewish people's freedom from slavery in ancient Egypt. They were led out of Egypt by Moses.

Rabbi

Teacher of Jewish Law.

Roasted Egg

Eaten at Passover as a symbol of the sacrificial offering performed in the days of the Second Temple.

Sabbath/Shabbat

Jewish holy day, Saturday. In the Jewish week, this is the seventh day and is a day of rest and prayer.

Seder Plate

Plate on which the symbolic foods of the seder are placed. These include lamb, bitter herbs, roasted egg and horseradish.

Skull Cap

Cap that covers the head, during prayer, eating and studying (also known as kippah and kippot).

Star of David

Known as the shield of David, this is a well-known symbol of Judaism. David is one of the most prominent historical Kings of the nation of Israel.

Sukkot

Festival marking the end of harvest time, it helps Jews remember and celebrate the way the people of Israel were protected by God following their leaving of Egypt.

Synagogue

Jewish place of worship, prayer, a place of study and sometimes a community centre.

Talit

Worn on top of clothing in the synagogue, especially during Sabbath.

Tanakh

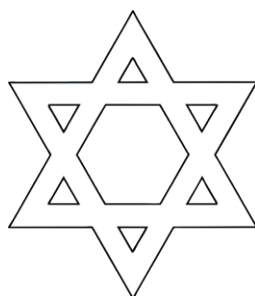
All of the Jewish scriptures. It contains the Torah, the Nevi'im and the Ketuvim.

Torah

The five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement and the most holy day in the year for Jews. Jews will fast for 25 hours and ask God's forgiveness for their sins. It is used as an opportunity to reflect back over the year. In order to get ready for this festivals Jews will make amends with others.



Non-Religious Terms

Agnostic

Someone who believes in a higher power but does not believe that the higher power can be known.

Atheist

Someone who believes that there is no higher power.

Humanist

Someone who believes in the chief importance of humans rather than a god or other divine power.

