

Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand that different religions have diverse beliefs about what happens after death and to reflect on the concept of an afterlife.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world religions to provide thoughtful answers. Think about how these beliefs bring comfort to people.

In Year 4 Religious Education, we explore how people view the end of life. Many religions teach that the physical body ends, but the spirit or soul continues in a different form or place. Christians often believe in Heaven, a place of peace with God. Hindus and Buddhists often believe in reincarnation, where the soul is reborn into a new life. Other people focus on the legacy someone leaves behind, such as the memories they created or the kindness they showed to others.

Word bank: Afterlife · Heaven · Reincarnation · Soul · Legacy · Peace · Spirit · Cycle

1. Ellie the elephant has an incredible memory. Why might remembering a person who has died be an important way to honour them, even if someone does not believe in an afterlife? (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is looking at the 'circle of life'. Explain the difference between the belief in 'Heaven' and the belief in 'Reincarnation'. (3 marks)

3. Why do you think the belief in an afterlife might bring comfort to a person who is feeling sad or worried? (2 marks)

4. Give one example of how a person can leave a positive 'legacy' that lasts after they have passed away. (1 mark)

5. Zara the zebra sees patterns in nature. How does the changing of the seasons (like winter turning into spring) help some people understand the idea of life continuing? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture representing a peaceful place or a beautiful garden that symbolises how different people imagine a state of 'peace' or 'paradise' after life.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem, like Leo the lion, about how the memories we keep of our loved ones help them to stay 'alive' in our hearts and stories.