

Journeys of Faith: Understanding Pilgrimage

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of pilgrimage and why people choose to undertake these special journeys.

Read the passage below carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

A pilgrimage is a special journey made to a place considered sacred. Many people throughout history have travelled long distances to reach a site that holds deep meaning for their faith. Ellie the elephant often shares stories about these journeys, explaining that a pilgrim is someone who sets off on this quest to feel closer to their beliefs or to find peace.

Some pilgrims travel to ancient cathedrals, while others journey to mountains or rivers that are part of their religious tradition. They might go to say a prayer, to ask for help, or simply to spend time in quiet reflection. For many, the journey itself is just as important as the destination. It is a time to walk, think, and focus on what matters most in their lives. Whether they travel by foot, train, or plane, the goal remains the same: to show devotion and to grow in their understanding of the world. It is a time for people to step away from their busy daily lives and connect with something much larger than themselves.

Word bank: pilgrimage · sacred · destination · devotion · reflection · tradition

1. According to the text, what is the definition of a pilgrimage? (2 marks)

2. Name two types of places that pilgrims might travel to, as mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

3. Why might a person feel that the journey is just as important as the destination? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'step away from their busy daily lives' suggest about how a pilgrim feels during their trip? (2 marks)

5. Do you think going on a pilgrimage would be a helpful experience for someone? Explain why or why not. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a traveller reaching a beautiful, peaceful destination at the end of a long path. Add symbols of peace or nature around the scene.



Extension challenge: Research a famous site of pilgrimage, such as Lourdes, Mecca, or Varanasi. Write three interesting facts about why people visit that specific place.