

Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand that different religions and worldviews have varied beliefs about what happens after a person dies.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how different perspectives shape how people live their lives today.

Across the world, people hold diverse beliefs about what happens when life ends. Many religions teach that death is not the final chapter, but rather a transition to an afterlife. For example, some traditions believe that the soul journeys to a place of peace, often described as heaven. Others hold the concept of reincarnation, suggesting that the spirit returns to the world in a new form to continue its journey of learning. These beliefs often bring comfort to those who are grieving, helping them feel connected to their loved ones. However, not everyone believes in an afterlife. Some people focus on the legacy a person leaves behind through their kindness, their art, or the memories they created with others. For these individuals, living a meaningful life in the present is the most important way to be remembered. Whether a person anticipates a future existence or focuses on the impact they have made on Earth, these perspectives influence how people celebrate life, honour the past, and support one another through difficult times. Understanding these views helps us show empathy and respect to those around us, even when our own beliefs are different.

Word bank: afterlife · reincarnation · belief · soul · legacy · tradition

1. According to the text, what is one example of a belief about what happens to the soul after death? (2 marks)

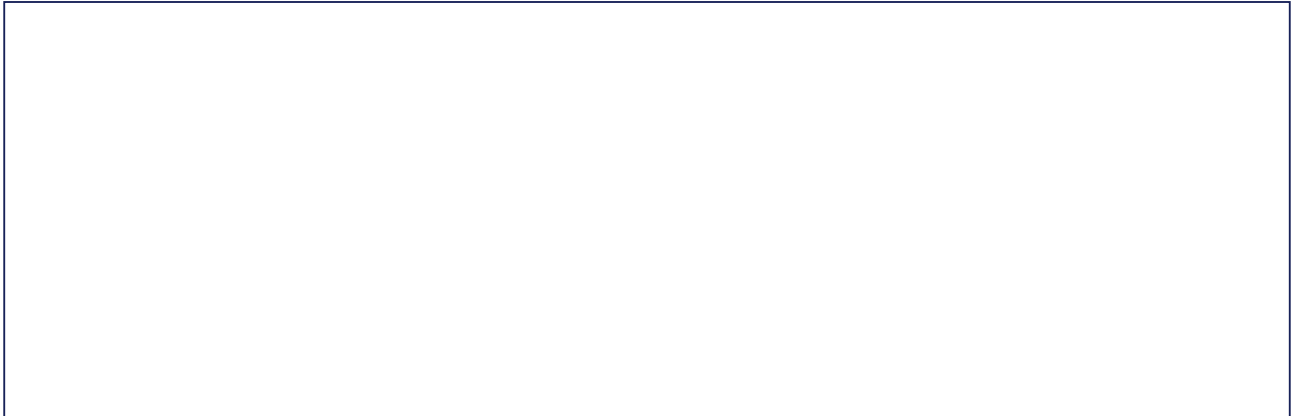
2. What do some people focus on if they do not believe in an afterlife? (2 marks)

3. Why might believing in an afterlife bring comfort to someone who is grieving? (3 marks)

4. How does the author suggest that understanding different beliefs affects our behaviour toward others? (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for people to discuss their different beliefs about death? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of a 'legacy'. Think about how someone's kindness or actions might continue to grow like a tree even after they are gone.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the idea of reincarnation with the idea of leaving a legacy. Explain why someone might find one idea more comforting than the other. If you were writing a story about a character like Ellie the elephant, how might she use her incredible memory to honour the legacy of a friend who has passed away?