

Journeys of Faith: The Pilgrimage Path

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of pilgrimage and identify why people undertake journeys to places of special significance.

Ellie the elephant has been studying history and faith. She is creating a map of a pilgrimage journey. Read each statement below and decide if it describes a reason for a pilgrimage or a common feature of a pilgrimage. Sort these into the correct column: 'Reasons for a Pilgrimage' or 'Features of a Pilgrimage'.

Word bank: Spiritual growth · Visiting a holy site · Prayer and reflection · Travel to a place of significance · Seeking forgiveness · Meeting other believers · A physical challenge · Showing devotion

1. Choose two items from the word bank that represent a 'Reason for a Pilgrimage' and explain why someone might feel these are important. (2 marks)

2. Choose two items from the word bank that represent a 'Feature of a Pilgrimage' and describe how they might affect a pilgrim's journey. (2 marks)

3. Define what the word 'pilgrimage' means in your own words. (2 marks)

4. Why might a person choose to travel a long distance to a special place rather than just praying at home? (3 marks)

5. If you were planning a journey to a place that is special to you, what items would you pack in your rucksack to help you reflect or remember the experience? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Pilgrim's Rucksack'. Include items that a person might take on a long, reflective journey, such as a journal, a map, a water bottle, or a symbol of their faith.



Extension challenge: Research a famous pilgrimage site, such as Lourdes in France, Varanasi in India, or Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Create a fact file explaining where it is and why people travel there.