

Journeys of Faith: Understanding Pilgrimage

Learning objective: To identify the reasons why people of faith undertake a pilgrimage and explore the significance of sacred journeys.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world religions to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers. Write in full sentences where possible.

A pilgrimage is a meaningful journey undertaken by a person of faith to a place that they consider sacred or holy. For many, this is a time for reflection, prayer, and feeling closer to the divine. Some pilgrims travel to ask for forgiveness, to give thanks, or to seek guidance during a difficult time in their lives. These journeys often involve visiting ancient sites, temples, churches, or natural landmarks that hold deep historical and spiritual significance for their specific religion.

Word bank: Pilgrimage · Sacred · Devotion · Journey · Reflection · Community · Tradition · Shrine

1. Max the monkey is confused. He thinks a holiday is the same as a pilgrimage. Explain the difference between a holiday and a pilgrimage using your own words. (2 marks)

2. Identify two reasons why a person might feel it is important to visit a sacred site in person, rather than just reading about it in a book. (2 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant remembers that many religions have specific paths for pilgrims to follow. Why might following a traditional route be significant for a pilgrim? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How might the experience of a pilgrimage be different for a person travelling alone compared to someone travelling as part of a large group? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If a person is unable to travel, do you believe they can still experience the benefits of a pilgrimage? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a sacred site became a popular tourist attraction? Discuss the potential impact on the pilgrims who visit for religious reasons. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a pilgrim arriving at a place of significance. Include symbols or items they might carry, such as a map, a journal, or a special token of their journey.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Finn the dolphin. Write a short journal entry (100-150 words) describing the atmosphere of a sacred site you have visited. Use descriptive language to explain how the environment helps a pilgrim feel a sense of peace or connection to their beliefs.