

Exploring Sacred Spaces with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key features of different places of worship and understand their significance to believers.

Use this sheet to design a place of worship. You can choose to draw a church, a mosque, a synagogue, a mandir, or a gurdwara. Ellie the Elephant wants to see how you incorporate the special features that make these places feel sacred and welcoming to their communities.

Draw: Draw a detailed interior or exterior scene of a place of worship of your choice. Use a landscape orientation. Include architectural details like tall arches, intricate patterns, or bright windows. Add small figures to show how the space is used by people. Use a clear, illustrative style with bold outlines and vibrant colours to show the beauty of the sacred space.



Label words: Altar · Minaret · Bimah · Shrine · Nishan Sahib · Stained glass · Pulpit · Communal space

Steps:

1. Step 1: Choose one religion. List two key features of its place of worship that you will include in your drawing.
2. Step 2: Label your drawing. Use at least four words from the word bank to identify the features you have illustrated.

3. Explain why people might choose to visit a place of worship for quiet reflection rather than praying at home.
4. Compare and contrast two different places of worship. How do their physical designs reflect the beliefs of the people who worship there?
5. Justify why it is important for a place of worship to have a space for the community to gather, not just for prayer.
6. What might happen if a place of worship had no distinctive symbols or features? Would it still hold the same meaning for the community? Explain your reasoning.