

Exploring Sacred Spaces with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify and describe key features and purposes of different places of worship, including churches, mosques, synagogues, gurdwaras, and mandirs.

Ellie the Elephant has been travelling to learn about different religions. Use the word bank to correctly match each feature to the place of worship where it is found. Then, explain why these spaces are important to the people who visit them.

Word bank: Altar · Mihrab · Aron Kodesh · Guru Granth Sahib · Murti

1. 1. In a mosque, the _____ indicates the direction of Makkah. Why do you think having a specific direction for prayer is important for worshippers? (2 marks)

2. 2. The _____ is the holy scripture of Sikhism, placed on a raised platform in the gurdwara. How is this book treated with respect by the community? (2 marks)

3. 3. In a synagogue, the _____ houses the Torah scrolls. Why is this considered the most sacred part of the building? (2 marks)

4. 4. A _____ is a symbolic statue or image of a deity found in a Hindu mandir. What do these help worshippers focus on during their prayers? (2 marks)

5. 5. In a Christian church, the _____ is a table used during the celebration of Holy Communion. What does this shared meal represent to the congregation? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a place of worship you have studied. Include at least three key features from the word bank and label them clearly.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a new community space for people of all faiths. List three features you would include to make it welcoming for everyone, and explain your choices.