

A Journey to Places of Worship

Learning objective: To understand the significance and features of different places of worship.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Across the world, people gather in special places of worship to connect with their faith and their community. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that these buildings are more than just bricks and mortar; they are spaces filled with stories and tradition. In a church, a high altar and stained-glass windows often draw the eye upwards, creating a sense of peace. In a mosque, intricate geometric patterns decorate the walls, reflecting the beauty of the natural world. Meanwhile, a synagogue might feature a beautiful cabinet called an Ark, which holds sacred scrolls. Each building is designed with care to help people feel focused and calm. Whether it is the quiet atmosphere of a temple or the rhythmic chanting heard in a gurdwara, these sites provide a sanctuary from the busy world outside. When a congregation meets, they share prayers, songs, and moments of reflection together. By visiting these places, we learn about the values that guide different groups of people and the history that has shaped our local neighbourhoods for many centuries.

Word bank: sanctuary · congregation · reverence · tradition · architecture · community

1. According to the text, what is kept inside the Ark in a synagogue? (1 mark)

2. Name two features mentioned in the text that might be found in a church or mosque. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe these buildings as a 'sanctuary'? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'more than just bricks and mortar' suggest about how people feel towards their place of worship? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for a community to have a shared place of worship? Explain your reason. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a place of worship of your choice. Include at least three special features you have learnt about, such as stained-glass windows, geometric patterns, or a peaceful garden.



Extension challenge: Research a place of worship in your local area. Find out its name, the religion it serves, and one interesting fact about its history or architecture.