

Wisdom in Words: Understanding Sacred Texts

Learning objective: To identify what sacred texts are and explain why they are significant to believers.

Read the passage carefully about sacred texts. Use the information provided to answer the questions in full sentences. For the final question, think deeply about the importance of these books in people's lives.

Across the globe, different religions cherish specific books known as sacred texts. These are not ordinary stories; for believers, they are considered holy and full of divine wisdom. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that these texts act as a compass for life. Whether it is the Torah, the Bible, the Quran, the Guru Granth Sahib, or the Vedas, each contains teachings that help people understand their faith, their history, and how to treat others with kindness.

Members of a faith community often show great reverence for these books. They may keep them in special places, cover them with beautiful fabrics, or read them aloud during ceremonies. These texts are more than just ink on paper; they are a link to the past and a guide for the future. When people read them, they find comfort, moral guidance, and answers to big questions about the world. By studying these writings, followers learn how to live lives filled with compassion, justice, and peace. Each tradition holds its own unique library of wisdom, passed down through generations to inspire every new reader.

Word bank: Sacred · Scripture · Tradition · Reverence · Community · Guidance · Interpretation

1. Name three of the sacred texts mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

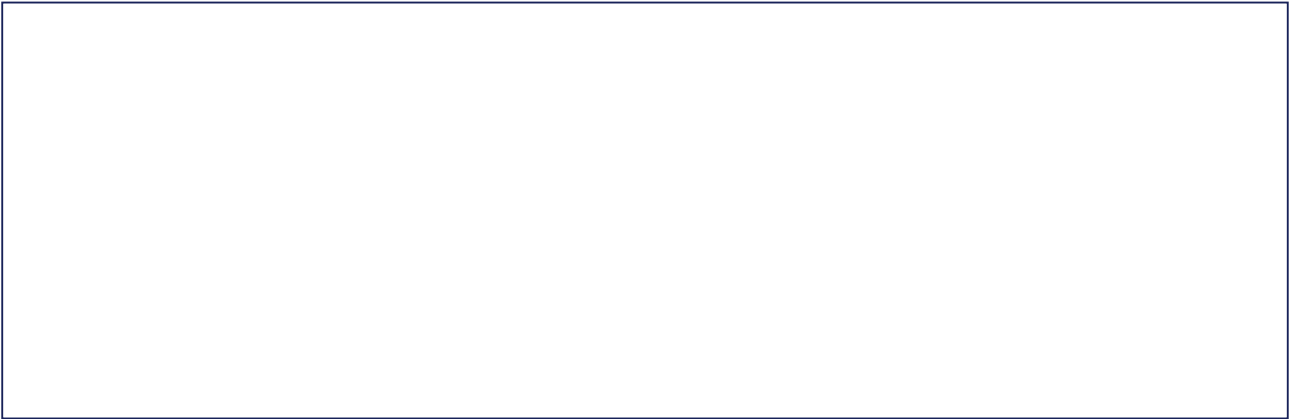
2. How do believers show reverence for their sacred texts according to the text? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe sacred texts as a 'compass for life'? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if a community lost their sacred text? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for a community to have a shared book of wisdom? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, ornate cover for a book that contains important lessons about how to be a kind and helpful person in your community.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast two different sacred texts if you can find information about them. Explain why different cultures feel the need to record their wisdom in writing rather than just telling stories out loud. Justify why writing might be more effective for preserving a religion over hundreds of years.