

Exploring Sacred Texts

Learning objective: To understand the significance of sacred texts in religious traditions and identify how they guide believers.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

In many religions, specific writings are considered sacred. These books, often called scriptures, are more than just stories; they are viewed as a source of divine wisdom and guidance for everyday life. For example, the Torah, the Bible, the Quran, the Guru Granth Sahib, and the Vedas provide believers with moral codes, prayers, and history. Ellie the elephant explains that these texts are treated with great reverence. In some traditions, they are kept on elevated stands or wrapped in beautiful cloths to show respect.

Sacred texts often contain parables or lessons that teach people how to treat others with kindness and honesty. While some scriptures are thousands of years old, their messages are still studied today to help people make difficult decisions. People might read these books during communal worship or study them quietly at home to reflect on their faith. Whether they are written on ancient scrolls or modern pages, these texts connect generations of believers to their shared history and values, acting as a compass for how to live a good and meaningful life.

Word bank: Sacred · Scripture · Tradition · Guidance · Authority · Reverence

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

2. How do some people show respect for their sacred books? (2 marks)

3. Why might a person choose to read a sacred text when they are facing a difficult decision? (2 marks)

4. What does the author mean when they describe a sacred text as acting like a 'compass'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for communities to preserve ancient texts? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a special book resting on an ornate stand, surrounded by symbols of peace and wisdom, such as a dove or a glowing light.



Extension challenge: Research one sacred text from the list in the passage and find out one specific rule or teaching it provides for its followers.