

Exploring Places of Worship with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key features, symbols, and purposes of different places of worship within major world religions.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious buildings and the word bank to help you answer. Remember to explain your reasoning where asked.

Ellie the elephant has travelled across the globe to learn about how different communities express their faith. From the quiet reflection in a cathedral to the community spirit of a shared meal, she has discovered that although buildings look different, they all serve as special places for gathering, prayer, and celebration.

Word bank: Synagogue · Mosque · Mandir · Church · Gurdwara · Altar · Minaret · Bimah · Langar · Shrine

1. Ellie visits a building where the community gathers for a 'Langar' (a free communal meal). Identify this place of worship and explain why sharing a meal is an important part of this faith. (3 marks)

2. Name the place of worship for followers of Judaism and describe one special feature you would expect to see inside. (2 marks)

3. A Mosque often features a tall tower called a minaret. What is the traditional purpose of this tower in a Muslim community? (2 marks)

4. Compare a Church and a Mandir. Identify one similarity they share in how they are used by believers. (2 marks)

5. If a group of people were collecting £500 to help maintain their place of worship, why might they choose to do this? Give one reason related to the upkeep of the building. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a place of worship of your choice. Label at least three important features, such as a place for prayer, a entrance, or a symbolic object.



Extension challenge: Choose one place of worship you have studied today. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of someone visiting it for the first time, describing how the building makes them feel.