

Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand and compare different perspectives on life after death within various world religions and philosophical viewpoints.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious teachings to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned responses. Remember to use formal vocabulary.

In Year 4, we explore how different communities perceive the journey of life. Many religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, often teach about a belief in an afterlife where the soul finds peace. Conversely, traditions like Hinduism and Buddhism often speak of reincarnation, where the soul begins a new life in a different form. Some people focus on the idea of 'living on' through the memories and positive impact we leave behind for others.

Word bank: Reincarnation · Heaven · Afterlife · Soul · Legacy · Karma · Spirituality · Existence

1. Explain why many religions teach that the soul continues to exist after the physical body dies. Refer to the concept of the afterlife in your answer. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the idea of 'Heaven' with the concept of 'Reincarnation'. How do these two beliefs differ in how they view the soul's journey? (4 marks)

3. Max the monkey believes that leaving a positive legacy is just as important as believing in an afterlife. Justify his perspective. Why might someone find comfort in this idea? (3 marks)

4. What might happen if a person believes that their actions in this life directly affect their experience in the next life? Use the concept of 'Karma' or 'accountability' in your explanation. (3 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant is curious about why humans have always asked questions about what happens after death. Why do you think this is a universal human enquiry? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of Life' representing how a person's positive actions and memories can continue to grow and affect the world even after they are gone.



Extension challenge: Write a short, reflective poem in the style of Leo the lion. Your poem should explore the idea of hope and the mystery of the unknown, using at least four words from the word bank.