

Journeys of Faith: The Pilgrim's Path

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of pilgrimage and identify why individuals choose to undertake a journey to a place of special religious significance.

Read the scenarios below about people travelling to sacred sites. For each scenario, decide if it represents a 'Pilgrimage' (a journey for religious or spiritual growth) or a 'General Journey' (a trip for holiday, work, or leisure). Sort the items into the correct category and justify your reasoning using the provided word bank.

Word bank: Sacred · Spiritual · Reflection · Devotion · Tradition · Significant · Penance · Community

1. Scenario 1: A group of friends travels to a historic cathedral to participate in a silent retreat and prayer. Is this a pilgrimage? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: A family travels to a coastal town for a weekend to visit an amusement park and eat ice cream. Is this a pilgrimage? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. Scenario 3: Compare and contrast a holiday to a popular beach resort with a traditional pilgrimage to a place like Santiago de Compostela or Mecca. What are the key differences in the traveller's intentions? (3 marks)

4. Scenario 4: What might happen if a pilgrim arrived at their sacred destination but found it was too noisy and crowded for quiet reflection? How might they adapt their experience? (2 marks)

5. Scenario 5: Explain why many pilgrims choose to walk to their destination on foot, even when faster methods of transport like trains or buses are available. (2 marks)

6. Scenario 6: If you were to plan a personal 'journey of reflection' to a place that is special to you, where would you go, and what internal qualities would you hope to gain by the end of your journey? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic 'pilgrim's staff' or 'journey map' that includes three symbols representing the values of peace, patience, and reflection.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Camino de Santiago'. Create a diary entry from the perspective of a medieval traveller who has spent their last £5 on bread and water for the final leg of their journey. Describe the physical and emotional challenges they face.