

Religious Education: Journeys of Faith and Pilgrimage

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the purpose, significance, and practices associated with pilgrimage across different world religions.

Read each question carefully before writing your response. Use full sentences where appropriate. Ensure your answers reflect your knowledge of why people undertake spiritual journeys.

A pilgrimage is a journey undertaken for religious or spiritual reasons. Often, believers travel to a place they consider sacred. This journey is not merely a holiday; it is an act of devotion, a chance to seek forgiveness, or a way to feel closer to the Divine. Along the way, pilgrims may encounter challenges, meet people from different backgrounds, and find time for deep reflection. Whether visiting a temple, a cathedral, or a historic site, the destination often holds a special meaning that helps a believer renew their commitment to their faith.

Word bank: Pilgrimage · Sacred · Devotion · Reflection · Community · Hajj · Jerusalem · Varanasi · Shrine · Spiritual

1. Define the term 'pilgrimage' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. Identify two reasons why a person might choose to go on a pilgrimage rather than simply praying at home. (2 marks)

3. Explain why a pilgrim might find the journey itself to be as important as reaching the destination. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a pilgrimage to a place of religious significance with a visit to a historical museum. What makes the pilgrimage 'sacred'? (4 marks)

5. Justify why some religious traditions place such high importance on visiting a specific city or site, even if it is very expensive or difficult to travel to. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who loves history and stories. You have been asked to write a journal entry about a famous pilgrimage site. Describe the atmosphere of the location and explain why a pilgrim would feel a sense of peace or connection when arriving there. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Path of Reflection'. Include symbols or items that a pilgrim might carry to remind them of their faith or their journey, and label the items to explain their significance.



Extension challenge: Consider the following: What might happen if a person was physically unable to travel to a sacred site? Could they still complete a 'pilgrimage' in a different way? Explain your reasoning in a short paragraph. Total: /25