

My Pilgrimage Fact-File: A Journey of Faith

Learning objective: To understand the purpose of a pilgrimage and identify key features of a sacred journey.

Use this fact-file to research and record your knowledge about pilgrimages. You may choose one specific religious tradition to focus on, such as Hajj, the Camino de Santiago, or a journey to a sacred site. Think like Ellie the elephant as you explore the historical and spiritual importance of these special travels.

Word bank: Pilgrimage · Sacred · Journey · Devotion · Reflection · Tradition · Destination · Spiritual · Faith · Community

1. Defining the Journey: Explain what a pilgrimage is and why a believer might choose to undertake such a journey. (2 marks)

2. The Destination: Identify a specific sacred place where pilgrims travel. Describe what makes this location significant to the people who visit it. (2 marks)

3. Preparation and Practice: Describe one ritual or action that a pilgrim might perform during their journey. Why is this action meaningful? (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: How does a pilgrimage differ from a standard holiday or tourist trip? Justify your answer using examples. (4 marks)

5. The Impact: Explain why a person might feel changed or transformed after returning from a pilgrimage. (3 marks)

6. Creative Reflection: If you were to design a pilgrimage route through your local community that highlights places of peace or beauty, where would it go and why? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a pilgrim writing a diary entry about reaching your final destination. Consider the physical challenges of the journey and the emotions you feel upon arrival. What might happen if a pilgrim arrived at their destination and found the site was closed? How would their sense of purpose change?