

A Journey of Faith: Understanding Pilgrimage

Learning objective: To explain the purpose and significance of a pilgrimage and reflect on why people undertake these journeys.

Use this writing frame to explore the concept of a pilgrimage. Think carefully about why people choose to travel to sacred places and how it changes them. Use the word bank to help you build complex sentences.

A pilgrimage is a meaningful journey that a person undertakes to visit a place they consider to be sacred or holy.

Word bank: sacred · devotion · reflection · journey · significance · furthermore · consequently · in contrast · spiritual growth · tradition

1. The Purpose of Pilgrimage: What are the primary reasons a believer might decide to leave their home to visit a specific place of worship? Start by saying: People choose to embark on a pilgrimage because... (2 marks)

2. The Experience of the Journey: Describe what a pilgrim might see, hear, or feel during their travels. Start by saying: Throughout the journey, the pilgrim might experience... (2 marks)

3. Personal Reflection: Explain why the destination is more important than the physical distance travelled. Start by saying: The destination is significant because... (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare a pilgrimage to a regular holiday or trip. Start by saying: Unlike a typical holiday, a pilgrimage is different because... (3 marks)

5. Justify Your Answer: Why might a person feel their faith has deepened after completing a long pilgrimage? Start by saying: I believe a pilgrim feels a sense of spiritual growth because... (4 marks)

6. What might happen if...: Imagine if a person was unable to travel to a sacred site. How might they still find a way to connect with their beliefs? Start by saying: If a journey is not possible, a person could still feel connected by... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Pilgrim's Map'. Create a visual representation of a journey to a sacred place. Include symbols to show where the journey begins, the challenges faced along the way (such as mountains or rivers), and the final destination. Write a short paragraph explaining the symbolic meaning behind each of your map's features.