

Exploring Sacred Spaces: A Field Study with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and compare the features and significance of different places of worship within a community.

Choose a place of worship to research or visit. Use this fact-file template to record your observations and reflect on the importance of these buildings to the people who use them. Remember to look for special symbols, furniture, and objects that make the space unique.

Word bank: Sacred · Congregation · Altar · Sanctuary · Symbolism · Ritual · Community · Architecture · Reverence

1. Name of the place of worship and the faith it belongs to: Identify the building and explain why it is a significant location for its community. (2 marks)

2. Key Features: Describe two physical features of the building (e.g., stained glass, specific patterns, or furniture) and explain the purpose they serve during worship. (3 marks)

3. The Atmosphere: Describe the environment inside. How does the lighting, sound, or layout influence the way people behave when they are inside? (2 marks)

4. Comparing Perspectives: Compare this place of worship to a different one you have studied. What is one similarity and one difference in how they are used? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why do you think it is important for communities to have a dedicated physical space for worship, rather than just praying at home? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if: Imagine this building was no longer used for worship. How might the local community be affected, and what could the space become? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one specific symbol found inside the place of worship. Research its origin and write a short paragraph explaining its deeper meaning to the congregation. Can you find a similar symbol in a different religion? Compare and contrast their meanings.