The Wisdom of Sacred Texts: A Journey with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand that sacred texts provide guidance and moral teachings for believers of different religions.

Ellie the elephant has been visiting sacred sites across the globe to learn about the holy books that guide people's lives. Match the sacred text to its religious tradition, then use your deeper understanding to answer the questions below. Think about how these texts influence the way people live, treat others, and make decisions.

Word bank: Torah · Bible · Qur'an · Guru Granth Sahib · Vedas · Judaism · Christianity · Islam · Sikhism · Hinduism

1. 1. Match each religion to its sacred text: Judaism (Torah), Christianity (Bible), Islam (Qur'an), Sikhism (Guru Granth Sahib), Hinduism (Vedas). Why might a community treat their sacred text with special care and respect? (2 marks)

2. 2. Explain why sacred texts are often considered 'living' documents, even if they were written thousands of years ago. (2 marks)

3. 3. Compare and contrast: How do the teachings found in sacred texts influence how a person might spend their money or help someone in need? (3 marks)

4. 4. Justify your answer: If a person does not follow a specific religion, can they still learn valuable lessons from the stories found in these texts? Why or why not? (3 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if a community lost their sacred text? Discuss the impact this would have on their traditions and sense of identity. (3 marks)

6. 6. Imagine you were asked to write a short 'text of wisdom' for your school. What are two core values you would include and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, decorative cover for a book that contains your own personal wisdom. Use patterns inspired by the arts of different cultures to show that these teachings are precious.

Extension challenge: Research a specific story or parable from one of the sacred texts listed. Write a diary entry from the perspective of a character in that story, explaining what moral lesson they learned and how it changed their actions.