

Exploring Pilgrimages: Journeys of Faith

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of a pilgrimage and why believers choose to undertake a special journey to a place of significance.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious practices to provide detailed answers. Think about why a physical journey can be important for a person's spiritual life.

Ellie the elephant has spent her life learning about the history of different cultures and beliefs. She has discovered that many people, throughout history and across the world, have travelled long distances to visit places they consider holy. These journeys, known as pilgrimages, are often taken to show devotion, to seek forgiveness, or to find peace and quiet for reflection.

Word bank: Pilgrimage · Sacred · Shrine · Faith · Reflection · Devotion · Journey · Community

1. In your own words, define what a 'pilgrimage' is. Why might someone choose to go on one instead of just praying at home? (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is trying to calculate the cost of a journey. If a pilgrim needs to save £150 for travel and £85 for food and accommodation during their stay, what is the total cost of their pilgrimage? (2 marks)

3. Name one reason why a person might feel that visiting a 'sacred' place is more special than visiting a regular park or museum. (2 marks)

4. How might traveling with a group of other pilgrims change the experience compared to traveling alone? (2 marks)

5. Think about the challenges of a long journey. Why do you think many pilgrims describe their journey as a time for 'reflection' and 'personal growth'? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a pilgrim reaching their destination. Include symbols that show the journey was long and meaningful, such as a walking stick, a map, or a peaceful landscape.



Extension challenge: Research a famous pilgrimage site, such as Lourdes, Varanasi, or Mecca. Write three sentences explaining why that specific place is important to the people who travel there.