

Exploring Sacred Texts: A Journey with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance, structure, and usage of sacred texts within major world religions.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of sacred texts. Ellie the elephant has gathered these facts to help you remember how different communities cherish their holy books.

What is a 'sacred text'?

A book or collection of writings that a religious community believes to be holy, inspired by the divine, or containing important guidance for life.

Which sacred text is central to the Christian faith?

The Bible, which is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

What is the name of the sacred text in Islam?

The Qur'an, which Muslims believe was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

What is the Torah in Judaism?

The first five books of the Hebrew Bible, often written on a parchment scroll used in the synagogue.

What is the Guru Granth Sahib in Sikhism?

The central religious scripture of Sikhism, which is treated with the same respect as a living human Guru.

What are the Vedas in Hinduism?

Ancient collections of hymns, chants, and rituals that form some of the oldest sacred literature in the world.

Why do many religions cover or elevate their sacred texts?

To show veneration and respect for the holy words contained within, often keeping them on a high shelf or wrapped in cloth.

What is a 'revelation'?

The act of a divine being making truth or knowledge known to humans, often recorded within sacred texts.

Explain why sacred texts are often translated into many different languages.

To ensure that the teachings and stories are accessible to believers all around the world, regardless of their native language.

Compare and contrast how a scroll and a modern printed book are used in religious ceremonies.

A scroll is often historical and ritualistic, requiring careful handling, while a printed book is often used for daily study and personal reflection; both serve the purpose of preserving ancient wisdom.

Justify why many religious communities believe their sacred texts must be preserved exactly as they were written.

They believe the words are sacred and divine; therefore, even small changes could alter the intended meaning or spiritual message.

What might happen if a community lost their sacred text?

The community might struggle to maintain their traditions, rituals, and shared history, as the text acts as an anchor for their beliefs and identity.