

Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand and compare different religious and non-religious perspectives on what happens after we die.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world religions and personal beliefs to provide thoughtful answers. Think about the concepts of the soul, legacy, and the afterlife.

In Year 5, we explore how different people find meaning in life and death. Some religions believe in a physical or spiritual place where the soul goes after death, such as Heaven or Jannah. Others believe in reincarnation, where the soul is reborn into a new life. Many people also focus on the 'legacy' we leave behind through our actions, kindness, and the memories we create with others, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Word bank: Afterlife · Soul · Reincarnation · Heaven · Legacy · Jannah · Nirvana · Resurrection · Belief · Perspective

1. Explain the difference between the belief in a single 'afterlife' (like Heaven) and the belief in 'reincarnation'. (3 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant loves history. How might someone who does not follow a religion find comfort in the idea of a 'legacy' after someone passes away? (2 marks)

3. Many world religions have different names for the place or state of being after death. Can you name two different religious terms and identify which religion they belong to? (2 marks)

4. Why is it important for people to respect others who hold different beliefs about what happens after death? (2 marks)

5. Max the monkey is looking at the 'maths' of life. If a person spends their life doing kind deeds, how might this shape the way their family remembers them, even if they don't believe in an afterlife? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of Memories'. On the roots, draw things that represent a person's life on Earth, and on the leaves, draw things that represent the positive legacy or impact they leave behind for others.



Extension challenge: Research a funeral tradition from a culture different to your own. Write a short paragraph explaining how that tradition helps the family and friends of the person who has died to say goodbye.