Pilgrimage: Journeys of Faith with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of pilgrimage, identify key reasons why believers undertake them, and recognise significant sites in different world religions.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of religious practices to provide detailed answers. Think about why a physical journey can be important for a person's inner belief.

Ellie the elephant has been studying history and world religions! She has learned that many people of faith choose to travel to places they believe are holy. These journeys, known as pilgrimages, are not just holidays; they are times for prayer, reflection, and showing devotion to God or their beliefs. Whether it is a long walk or a flight across the world, the journey itself is often just as important as arriving at the destination.

Word bank: Pilgrimage · Sacred · Devotion · Reflection · Shrine · Hajj · Ganges · Jerusalem · Vatican City · Spiritual

1. Ellie explains that a pilgrimage is different from a holiday. Using your own words, explain two reasons why a believer might choose to go on a pilgrimage. (2 marks)

2. Name two world religions and a specific place that is considered a site of pilgrimage for their followers. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the 'journey' aspect of a pilgrimage is often described as being just as important as arriving at the destination? (2 marks)

4. If a group of 5 pilgrims were travelling to a sacred site and each person had to pay £120 for their travel and accommodation, what would be the total cost for the whole group? (2 marks)

5. Explain what a 'sacred site' is and why it might be special to a religious community. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map showing a path leading to a peaceful, sacred place. Include symbols or landmarks along the way that represent the challenges or reflections a pilgrim might experience during their journey.

Extension challenge: Research one major pilgrimage site. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a pilgrim arriving at that location, describing how they feel and what they hope to gain from their visit.