

Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand diverse perspectives on life after death within major world religions and reflect on the concept of legacy.

Join Ellie the Elephant as she explores how different people around the world think about life, death, and what comes next. Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of RE to select or write the best answer.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Afterlife, 5.B, 6.True, 7.Reincarnation, 8.A, 9.False, 10.Legacy. Ellie reminds us that while beliefs differ, all respect the value of a life well-lived.

Word bank: Reincarnation · Heaven · Soul · Legacy · Afterlife · Jannah · Nirvana · Moksha

1. 1. In Christianity, many people believe in a place of eternal peace called... A) Moksha B) Nirvana C) Heaven D) Reincarnation* (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Many Hindus believe in the cycle of rebirth known as reincarnation. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: All religions across the world have identical views on what happens after death. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the general term for the belief that existence continues in some form after the death of the physical body? (1 mark)

5. 5. In Islam, the concept of a beautiful garden representing paradise is known as... A) Karma B) Jannah* C) Samsara D) Enlightenment (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Buddhists often seek to reach Nirvana, a state of perfect peace and liberation from the cycle of rebirth. (1 mark)

7. 7. What is the word for the process where a soul is reborn into a new physical body or form? (1 mark)

8. 8. Humanists often focus on which of the following instead of an afterlife? A) The legacy we leave behind in the world* B) Preparing for a celestial kingdom C) Accumulating good karma D) Ritualistic prayer (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: The concept of the 'soul' is rejected by every single religion in the world. (1 mark)

10. 10. What do we call the impact, memories, and actions we leave behind that continue to influence the world after we are gone? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of Life'. On the roots, draw symbols representing things that help people during their lives, and on the branches, draw symbols representing what people hope for or believe in regarding the future and the afterlife.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why death is considered a significant 'rite of passage' in many cultures. 2. Compare and contrast the concept of 'Heaven' with the concept of 'Reincarnation'. 3. Justify your answer: Does believing in an afterlife change how a person behaves during their life? Why or why not? 4. What might happen if everyone in the world held the exact same belief about death? 5. Reflect on your own definition of 'legacy'. What would you like yours to be? 6. Research how different funeral traditions reflect a community's beliefs about life after death.