

Journeys of Faith: The Pilgrimage Path

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of pilgrimage in different religions and explore the physical and spiritual motivations behind these journeys.

Ellie the elephant is studying the history of global journeys. Use the word bank to fill in the blanks, then complete the analytical tasks to demonstrate your understanding of why people undertake pilgrimages.

Word bank: sacred · reflection · devotion · community · tradition · transformation · shrine · pilgrim

1. Complete the sentence: A _____ is a person who travels to a _____ place as an act of religious _____. (3 marks)

2. Explain why a person might choose to walk a long, difficult distance to reach a holy site rather than travelling by modern transport. Consider the internal experience of the traveller. (4 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: How is a pilgrimage different from a regular holiday or a school trip? Justify your answer using the concept of purpose. (4 marks)

4. What might happen if a pilgrim arrived at their destination and found the site had been closed for repairs? How could they still achieve their goal of spiritual connection? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is the physical journey more important than the destination itself? Give reasons for your viewpoint. (4 marks)

6. If you were designing a modern-day pilgrimage for people in your town, what features would you include to encourage 'reflection' and 'community'? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Path of Personal Growth'. Illustrate a journey that includes symbols of challenges (like a steep hill) and symbols of peace (like a quiet garden) that a pilgrim might encounter along the way.



Extension challenge: Research a specific pilgrimage (e.g., Hajj, Camino de Santiago, or Varanasi). Create a 'Pilgrim's Budget' for a hypothetical 7-day trip. If the daily costs for food and shelter are £22.50, and the travel costs are £145.00, what is the total cost of the journey? Then, write a reflective poem from the perspective of a traveller arriving at their destination.