

Exploring Pilgrimage: A Journey of Faith

Learning objective: To understand the concept of pilgrimage, identify key sites for major world religions, and analyse the significance of these journeys for believers.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of pilgrimage. Read the front, think of the answer, and check the back to see if you are correct. Use the extension tasks to deepen your understanding.

What is a pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a journey, often to a sacred or holy place, undertaken by a believer for religious or spiritual reasons.

What is the Hajj?

The Hajj is the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, which all adult Muslims are expected to perform at least once in their lifetime if they are physically and financially able.

Why is Jerusalem significant to three major religions?

Jerusalem is considered a holy city by Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and many believers travel there to visit sites associated with their history and faith.

What is the significance of the River Ganges in Varanasi?

For Hindus, Varanasi is a sacred city, and bathing in the River Ganges is believed to cleanse the soul and assist in the cycle of life and death.

What is a shrine?

A shrine is a holy place dedicated to a specific deity, saint, or ancestor, where pilgrims often go to pray or show respect.

What is meant by the term 'penance'?

Penance is an act of self-punishment or devotion to show repentance for sins, which some pilgrims undertake during their journey.

What is the primary purpose of a pilgrimage?

To grow closer to the divine, seek forgiveness, offer thanks, or find inner peace through reflection and community.

Name a Christian pilgrimage site.

Lourdes in France, where many people travel seeking healing and spiritual comfort.

How might a modern pilgrimage differ from an ancient one?

Modern pilgrims may use faster transport (like aeroplanes) rather than walking for months, but the internal spiritual motivation often remains the same.

What is 'devotion' in the context of religion?

Devotion is the act of showing great love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a religious cause or deity, often demonstrated through rituals.