

Exploring Sacred Spaces: Places of Worship

Learning objective: To identify and describe the significance of key features and practices within various places of worship, including churches, mosques, synagogues, mandirs, and gurdwaras.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of how different communities express their faith through sacred architecture and internal features. Read the term on the left, then check your understanding with the definition on the right.

Altar

A raised table or structure in a Christian church where the Holy Communion is celebrated, symbolising the table of the Last Supper.

Minaret

A slender tower attached to a mosque from which the call to prayer (Adhan) is traditionally issued by the Muezzin.

Bimah

A raised platform in a synagogue where the Torah scroll is placed and read during services.

Murti

A sacred image or statue in a Hindu mandir that serves as a focus for devotion and worship, representing a deity.

Guru Granth Sahib

The central religious scripture of Sikhism, which is treated with the utmost respect and kept in a place of honour within the Gurdwara.

Qibla

The direction towards the Kaaba in Mecca, which Muslims face when performing their daily ritual prayers (Salah).

Ark (Aron Kodesh)

The ornate cabinet in a synagogue used to house the Torah scrolls when they are not being read.

Font

A bowl or basin, often made of stone, found in Christian churches and used for the ceremony of baptism.

Langar

The communal kitchen in a Gurdwara where a free, vegetarian meal is prepared and served to all visitors, regardless of their background.

Sanctuary

A holy or sacred place within a building, often the area near the altar in a church or the most hallowed part of any place of worship.