

Wisdom in the Pages: Understanding Sacred Texts

Learning objective: To understand the significance of sacred texts within religious traditions and their role in guiding believers.

Read the text carefully, then answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences.

Across the globe, different religious communities hold specific writings in deep reverence. These are known as sacred texts. For many, these books are not merely stories; they are considered the inspired word of a divine being or a record of profound wisdom passed down through generations. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that sacred texts often act as a compass for believers. They provide guidance on how to live a moral life, treat others with kindness, and celebrate important milestones.

Each religion has its own unique collection of scriptures. For instance, the Torah is central to Judaism, the Bible to Christianity, the Quran to Islam, the Guru Granth Sahib to Sikhism, and the Vedas to Hinduism. While these texts are written in different languages and originate from diverse cultures, they all share a common purpose: to connect individuals to their faith. Followers often treat these physical books with immense care, sometimes storing them in special places to show respect. By studying these passages, people find answers to life's big questions, comfort during difficult times, and a sense of belonging to a global community.

Word bank: Sacred · Scripture · Tradition · Guidance · Inspiration · Interpretation · Reverence

1. Name three specific sacred texts mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, why do some people store their sacred books in special places? (2 marks)

3. Why might the author use the metaphor of a 'compass' to describe the role of sacred texts? (3 marks)

4. Explain why different cultures might interpret the same sacred text in slightly different ways. (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for a society to preserve ancient texts? Justify your answer using reasons. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw an illustration of a beautiful, ornate book resting on a stand. Surround it with symbols that represent peace, wisdom, and global connection.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the way sacred texts are treated in two different religions. If you were tasked with writing a 'Book of Wisdom' for your school to live by, what three rules would you include and why? Explain your reasoning in a short persuasive paragraph.