

Sacred Texts: Wisdom Across Traditions

Learning objective: To identify and compare how sacred texts influence the lives, beliefs, and moral choices of believers within different world religions.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world religions to provide detailed, thoughtful answers. Use the word bank to help structure your responses.

Sacred texts are considered holy or inspired writings that serve as the foundation for religious beliefs. They often contain accounts of creation, historical narratives, laws, and moral guidance intended to help believers live a righteous life. Whether it is the Torah, the Bible, the Qur'an, the Guru Granth Sahib, or the Vedas, these texts are treated with immense respect and form the core of daily practice and communal worship.

Word bank: revelation · scripture · moral guidance · interpretation · tradition · community · sacred · commandments · parable · authority

1. Ellie the Elephant is learning about the history of scriptures. Explain why a religious community might consider a specific text to be 'sacred' rather than just an ordinary book. (2 marks)

2. Max the Monkey is looking at maths patterns in ancient laws. Compare and contrast how sacred texts provide moral guidance to a believer compared to the laws of a school or country. (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why do you think many religious traditions have strict rules regarding the physical handling and storage of their sacred texts? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if a religious community did not have a written sacred text to guide them? Explain the potential impact on their traditions. (3 marks)

5. Nova the Owl is stargazing and thinking about creation stories found in sacred texts. Explain why different religions might interpret the origins of the universe in unique ways. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw an image of a 'Tree of Wisdom' where each leaf represents a different value or moral lesson found in a sacred text you have studied. Label the branches with the names of the religions they belong to.



Extension challenge: Choose one specific sacred text. Research a famous parable, story, or verse from it and rewrite it in your own words. Then, write a short paragraph explaining how this story helps a person make a positive choice in their modern, everyday life.