Exploring Beliefs: Journeys of the Soul

Learning objective: To understand that different religions have diverse beliefs about life after death, including concepts of heaven, reincarnation, and the afterlife.

Leo the Lion is helping his friends understand how different people view the journey of the soul. Below is a list of descriptions and beliefs. Match the belief to the correct religious concept or term using the word bank provided. Then, write a short explanation for each to show your understanding.

Word bank: Reincarnation · Heaven · Afterlife · Soul · Moksha · Paradise

1. 1. Many Christians believe in a place of peace and union with God after this life. Which term from the word bank describes this? Explain why this belief might bring comfort to someone. (2 marks)

2. 2. In Hinduism, the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth is a central belief. Which term is used for this process? Describe what this tells us about how some people view the soul's journey. (2 marks)

3. 3. What is the definition of the 'soul' in a religious context? Why do you think most religions believe that a part of a person continues even after the body dies? (2 marks)

4. 4. If a person believes in 'Moksha', they believe the soul is released from the cycle of rebirth. How is this different from the idea of living in an eternal heaven? (2 marks)

5. 5. Why is it important for us to respect that different people have different ideas about what happens after death, even if we do not share those beliefs ourselves? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of Beliefs'. On the roots, write the word 'Soul'. On the branches, draw symbols or write words that represent different ideas about what happens after death (such as a light for heaven or a circle for reincarnation).

Extension challenge: Research a religion not mentioned here, such as Islam or Buddhism. Write a 50-word summary of their specific teachings regarding the afterlife to share with the class.