Sacred Texts: Wisdom and Guidance

Learning objective: To understand the significance of sacred texts within religious traditions and how they provide guidance for believers.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world religions to provide thoughtful answers. Max the monkey is here to help you think logically about how these texts are treated with respect.

Sacred texts are more than just books; they are the heart of religious traditions. Whether it is the Torah, the Bible, the Quran, the Guru Granth Sahib, or the Vedas, these writings are considered to contain divine wisdom. Believers use these texts to understand their relationship with the world, learn moral lessons, and guide their daily actions. Many communities treat their sacred texts with great care, often storing them in special places, covering them with beautiful cloths, or reading them during worship.

Word bank: Scripture · Guidance · Reverence · Tradition · Interpretation · Moral · Divine

1. Why do you think religious communities show such great reverence (respect) for their sacred texts? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is looking at a bookshelf. He wants to know why a sacred text is different from an ordinary storybook. Explain the main difference in its purpose. (2 marks)

3. Many sacred texts contain 'moral lessons'. What does this mean, and why might these be important for a person's life? (2 marks)

4. Give one example of how a community might show respect to their sacred text during a ceremony or at home. (1 mark)

5. If a sacred text is written in an ancient language, why is the process of 'interpretation' important for believers today? (2 marks)

Draw: Imagine you are designing a beautiful cover for a book of wisdom. Draw your cover design in a box, including patterns that show what the book represents to you, such as symbols of peace, nature, or light.

Extension challenge: Choose one world religion. Research how their sacred text is physically stored or presented in their place of worship. Write a short paragraph explaining why they choose that specific method.