Sacred Texts: Exploring Wisdom and Guidance

Learning objective: To understand the importance of sacred texts in different religions and identify key features and teachings found within them.

Ellie the elephant has been reading about world religions and needs your help! Sort the statements below by deciding if they describe a general feature of sacred texts, or if they relate to a specific faith. Once you have sorted them, use the word bank to complete the key definitions in the questions below.

Word bank: Torah · Guru Granth Sahib · Qur'an · Bible · Vedas · revelation · scripture · sacred

1. 1. Explain why a book is considered 'sacred' to a believer. Why might it be treated with special care or kept in a particular place? (2 marks)

2. 2. Complete the sentence: The _____ is the holy book of Islam, believed to be the word of Allah as recited to Muhammad. (1 mark)

3. 3. Complete the sentence: In Judaism, the scroll containing the first five books of the Hebrew Bible is known as the _____. (1 mark)

4. 4. Complete the sentence: The _____ is the central religious text of Sikhism, regarded by Sikhs as the final, sovereign, and eternal living Guru. (1 mark)

5. 5. Think about the stories found in sacred texts. Why do you think people still study these ancient texts today? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, decorated cover for a book that represents your own personal values or wisdom. Include patterns inspired by Zara the zebra to show how special this 'book' of wisdom is to you.

Extension challenge: Research one story or parable from a sacred text. Write a short paragraph explaining the moral of the story and why it is still relevant in modern life.