Exploring Sacred Texts: Wisdom Through the Ages

Learning objective: To understand the significance of sacred texts in different religions and how they influence the lives of believers.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world religions to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers.

Sacred texts are more than just books; they are the heart of religious traditions. Whether it is the Torah, the Bible, the Qur'an, the Guru Granth Sahib, or the Vedas, these writings act as a bridge between the divine and the human experience. They contain history, laws, poetry, and stories that guide believers in their daily lives and help them answer the big questions about existence, morality, and purpose.

Word bank: Scripture · Revelation · Interpretation · Covenant · Authority · Tradition · Sacred · Moral guidance

1. Ellie the elephant loves history. Explain why a religious community might consider a text to be 'sacred' rather than just a regular book from a library. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is looking at math puzzles, but sacred texts often contain laws. Give two examples of how a sacred text might provide 'moral guidance' for a person living today. (2 marks)

3. How might the way a sacred text is treated (e.g., how it is stored or handled) show the level of respect a believer has for its contents? (2 marks)

4. Many sacred texts were written thousands of years ago. Why is it sometimes difficult to decide how to apply these ancient rules to modern-day life in the 21st century? (3 marks)

5. If you were writing a book that you hoped would guide people for generations, what are two core values you would include and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, ornate cover for a book that represents your own personal values and the things you think are most important for living a kind life.

Extension challenge: Research one sacred text from a religion you are less familiar with. Write a short paragraph explaining the language it was originally written in and one key story or teaching found within it.