

Year 1&2 Key Stage 1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File



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Contacts and further resources

The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) can support local groups of RE teachers to run INSET and network meetings and provide advice and support. Closely linked to RE Today it taps into a large pool of resources available for every teacher.

www.pcfre.org.uk

For pictures of Jesus and a wide variety of teaching resources, look at RE Today.

www.retoday.org.uk

Christian Aid publishes new resources each year and is particularly useful for information on children in countries across the world.

www.christian-aid.org.uk

The Festival Shop has a great range of books and resources.

www.festivalshop.co.uk

Also useful are Articles of Faith and the In Evidence series from the TTS Group.

www.articlesoffaith.co.uk

www.tts-shopping.com

Edward de Bono's book Six Thinking Hats (Penguin) is supported by the website:

www.edwdebono.com

For more on using Computing in RE, look at

www.ictadvice.org.uk/webbasedresources

Recommended books

Picture fiction

John Burningham – *Granpa* (Red Fox)
John Burningham – *Oi, Get Off Our Train* (Red Fox)
Valerie Flournoy – *The Patchwork Quilt* (Puffin)
Michael Foreman – *Dinosaurs and all that rubbish* (Puffin)
Michael Foreman – *One World* (Andersen Press)
Roger Hargreaves' *Mr Men and Little Miss books* (Egmont)
Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch – *Amazing Grace* (Frances Lincoln)
Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch – *Grace and Family* (Frances Lincoln)
Shirley Hughes – *Dogger* (Red Fox)
Virginia Ironside – *The Huge Bag of Worries* (Hodder)
Hiawyn Oram and Satoshi Kitamura – *Angry Arthur* (Red Fox)
Hiawyn Oram and Susan Varley – *Badger's Bad Mood* by (Scholastic)
Dyan Sheldon and Gary Blythe – *The Whales' Song* (Penguin)
Martin Waddell – *Once There Were Giants* (Walker)
Oscar Wilde – *The Selfish Giant* (various publishers)
Brian Wildsmith – *The Hare and the Tortoise* (OUP)
Margery Williams – *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Egmont)
Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross – *Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets* (Red Fox)

Story collections

Margaret Mayo (ed) – *The Orchard Book of Creation Stories*
Michael Morpurgo and Emma Chichester-Clark – *The Orchard Book of Aesop's Fables*
The Lion Book of Tales and Legends by Lois Rock
Bibles and religious stories
Adiccabandhu and Padmasri – *The Monkey King* (Windhorse)
Nasreen Aktar and Enebor Attard – *Samira's Eid* (Mantra)
Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen – *The Magpie's Tale: Jesus and Zaccheus* (Collins)
The Children's Illustrated Bible (Dorling Kindersley)
The Christmas Book by Dick Bruna (Egmont)
The First Christmas by Marcia Williams (Walker)
Bahiya Gent – *The Wise Rabbit* (Ta-Ha Publishers)
Karen King and Jane Cope – *Where's God?* (Tamarind)
The Lion Children's Bible
The Lion First Bible
Rainbow Good News Bible (Bible Society)
Jessica Souhami – *Rama and the Demon King* (Frances Lincoln)
Steve Turner – *In the Beginning* (Augsburg Fortress)
The Usborne Easter Story
Stories about God (from RE Today's Developing Primary RE series)

Non-fiction books

- Christian Aid Big Books – *Abu lives in Kenya; Shompa lives in India*
- Robert Cooper – *A World of Wonders* (SPCK)
- Emma Damon – *All Kinds of Beliefs* (Tango)
- Jacqueline Dineen – *Ceremonies and Celebrations: Births* (Hodder Wayland)
- Heinemann Lives and Times series – *Emmeline Pankhurst; Harriet Tubman; Louis Braille; Martin Luther King Jnr; Mohandas Ghandi; Mother Theresa; St Francis*
- Monica Hughes – *Bonfire Night* (Heinemann)
- Sally Humble-Jackson – *The Life of Guru Nanak* (4Learning)
- Diana Lazenby – *Stop, Look, Listen: Dottie and Buzz Activity Book* (4Learning)
- Michael Rosen's *Sad Book* (Walker)
- Rainbows Big Books (Evans) – *My Buddhist Faith; My Christian Faith; My Hindu Faith; My Jewish Faith; My Muslim Faith; My Sikh Faith*
- Linda Smith – *Dat's New Year* (A&C Black)

Music books/packs

- Sylvia Barratt – *Tinder-box: 66 Songs for Children* (A&C Black)
- Maureen Hanke – *Music Express Songbook Years 1-2* (A&C Black)
- The Complete Come and Praise (BBC)

Music suggestions

General come-together/reflection music

Music is very helpful in creating a mood and in encouraging reflection and contemplation. It can signal that the session/discussion/circle time is about to start and encourage people into the right frame of mind.

Change the music for each unit of work. This will provide continuity for the six weeks of the unit; then introduce a new 'theme tune' to herald new thoughts for the next six weeks.

Any piece of music you use for coming together at the beginning of a lesson, or for thought and reflection towards the end, needs to be:

- calming;
- pleasant to listen to;
- a signal that a quiet, reflective time is coming;
- short;
- worthwhile;
- a signal that activities will follow!

CD suggestions

Any tracks from the *Adiemus* series of albums by Karl Jenkins

Cello music played by Julian Lloyd Webber, e.g. *Lloyd Webber plays Lloyd Webber* or *Cello Moods*

Guitar music played by John Williams, e.g. 'Cavatina' from *Guitar Recital* (Decca) or *The Essential Collection* (Metro)

South American pan-pipe music

Any classical music which is peaceful

Music using or reflecting sounds from the natural world, e.g. *The Blue Planet* by George Fenton

Celtic music from the Iona community (see Wild Goose Publications at www.ionabooks.com)

Choral works by John Rutter

CDs from the National Trust

Other short orchestral pieces, e.g. *Renaissance - Music for Inner Peace*

Film theme collections, e.g. *Classic Flicks* or individual soundtracks, e.g. *Lord of the Rings*

Also useful will be sound effects of:

- waves on a beach;
- bird song;
- wind/breeze blowing through trees;
- running water.

Specific suggestions for Year 1

Myself

'My Favourite Things' from *The Sound of Music*

Celebrations

'We Plough the Fields and Scatter', e.g. from *Godspell*

Tabla music of shabads, e.g. *Shabad Gurbani* by Japji Rehraas or *Mitr Pyare Nu* by Jagdi Singh

Nativity Christmas carol

Stories

'He's Got the Whole World in his Hands'

'The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock'

Islamic call to worship or a song from *I Look, I See* by Yusuf Islam

Film theme music

Special people

The UK National Anthem

Sporty music, e.g. Match of the Day theme

Easter hymn, e.g. 'Make Way' by Graham Kendrick

Belonging

'The Family of Man' by Fred 'Karl' Dallas

'Think of a World Without Any Flowers'

Beliefs

I Believe (For Every Drop of Rain That Falls)

Specific suggestions for Year 2

Myself

Theme tune to You and Me

'The Angry Song', e.g. from *Tinder-box* by Sylvia Barratt (A&C Black)

Celebrations

'The Last Post'

Music by Zain Bhikha e.g. from *Children of Heaven* or *Towards the Light*

Stories

Hindu music, e.g. *If or Revelation* by Niladri Kumar, or *Mystic India* (various artists)

Leaders and teachers

Easter music, e.g. *Messiah* by Handel

Belonging

Hymns, e.g. from *Your Favourite Hymns sung by Guildford Cathedral Choir, St Joseph's Choir and the Salvation Army*

Hindu music, e.g. *If or Revelation* by Niladri Kumar, or *Mystic India* (various artists)

'Think about' displays

It is crucial to all of these sessions that the stimulus used and the results of any debate can be revisited so that people can continue their thinking and exploring. Developing a special area of the classroom as this 'Think about' space with the class will encourage people's interaction with the display and extend their RE experience. It needs to be attractive, interactive, an area of 'wonder' and comfortable for people wanting to sit there. Where space is at a premium even the seat of a chair can be used for the display (see the examples issued by the Diocese of Gloucester – Pause for Reflection, a resource for spiritual development in schools). A display should be set up for each unit. It needs to include:

- the title 'Think about...' and the particular topic;
- labelled artefacts;
- questions;
- notepads, clipboards and pens and pencils for people to add their own writing and drawings;
- spaces for pictures or models or findings from the lessons;
- picture books – both story books and non-fiction – about the topic, including the CD Image Gallery.

It is very useful to collect boxes of 'Think about' resources that can be shared with other groups doing RE throughout the school. Some inspiring collections/topics are:

- Pattern
- Colour
- Wood
- Water
- Food
- Animals
- The Earth in space
- Pottery
- Shells
- Earth/Clay/Soil/Land
- Plants
- People
- The seasons

A 'Water' collection, for example, might contain:

- blue-green cloth to act as drapes;
- bright, postcard-sized, laminated pictures of fish, and river or sea scenes;
- a few artefacts, such as pebbles, a toy boat, some clean driftwood.

These can form the basis for a display that people in the class can add to themselves. A bowl of water or fish tank could be added later! A box of role-play clothing and equipment nearby would encourage play on the topic: lots of blue fabric for the water, a cardboard boat, shells, sailor hats, ropes, fishing nets, towels, buckets and spades... as much as space will allow!

If the young people are part of the process of constructing these displays, the resources are less likely to 'walk' or, if they do, everyone knows where they should be!

These 'Think about' areas could, if possible, be available to the whole school rather than just the class that has studied the topic.

Using Persona Dolls in RE

Persona Dolls are an excellent versatile resource for teaching RE, particularly where access to real people of faith is limited. Wherever possible, people, old and young, with a specific perspective on life are the best resource for introducing and learning about a faith, but this is not always possible or practical. Instead, the practice of using dolls to portray life stances can be invaluable.

Although primarily a method of exploring personal, social, health and citizenship issues, Persona Dolls have been used with success in learning about and from religion and are an extremely valid way to explore faiths and cultures with insight and integrity.

The basic principle behind Persona Dolls is the creation of characteristics – ‘personas’ – for a few specific dolls kept in the classroom, which help people to identify with how others feel. The use of dolls enables people to address powerful themes that they may not personally have been involved with. Young people’s empathy with these situations may have long-reaching consequences for their understanding and their future behaviour towards others.

Normally Persona Dolls are used to encourage discussion about life stances and ‘big issues’ that need debate and resolution. When using them for religious education they should be used in a slightly different way because there are more facts to be learned than is typical when discussing a bullying or relationships issue, for example. These facts are crucial to informed debate so it is best to leak them gradually rather than present them in large doses!

Persona Dolls allow young people to understand and empathise with experiences, cultures and religions that are different from their own, and this is a powerful means of exploring all religious themes. The dolls are particularly helpful in situations where there are few faith members within the learning group, as they are a means of introducing the whole idea of religion and its various forms and importance in the lives of others.

You could introduce, for example, a Hindu doll called Geeta, who is similar to the people in the class in many ways: the same age, enjoys the same TV programmes, plays with similar toys but whose life is guided by her family’s commitment to the Hindu religion. Her days are governed by worship at a shrine at home, visits to the local mandir and commemoration of different festivals. Learning about these things through a doll that they love and appreciate is a powerful means of involving people in something unfamiliar but with which they can then connect.

Babette Brown’s books *Unlearning Discrimination in the Early Years* and *Combating Discrimination: Persona Dolls in action* (Trentham Books) are recommended reading. There is also an excellent video *Persona Dolls in Action*, available from www.persona-doll-training.org, which shows dolls being used in early years settings. The children are seen thinking and discussing with great insight the thoughts and feelings of those different from themselves.

For more information, activity suggestions and different personas to create, see *The Little Book of Persona Dolls* by Marilyn Bowles (Featherstone)

Appendix Summary of faiths

Buddhism

Buddhists follow the teaching of Siddhattha Gotama (an Indian prince living about 500 BCE) who left a life of luxury to seek an answer to why people suffer. He found the answer through calming his mind and body in meditation and became a Buddha, or 'the Enlightened One'.

To meditate, Buddhists sit in a comfortable position, calm their emotions and clear their minds of busy thoughts. They try to put some time aside each day to do this, either at home or at the temple.

Although Buddhists do not believe in God the creator or as a force outside their lives, they honour the Buddha for his teachings and try to follow his example.

They follow five 'rules' for everyday life:

Be sympathetic and helpful to all things that have life and be careful not to harm or kill humans or living creatures.

Do not steal or take what has not been given freely by others and always be generous to those who are poor or in need.

Never take more than you need whatever you are doing.

Do not tell lies or say bad things about others.

Never act thoughtlessly or carelessly.

The principle celebration is Wesak, which celebrates the Buddha's birth, Enlightenment and death. Buddhists may observe this by going to the temple to meditate and listen to teachings, giving presents and having family feasts.

There are different kinds of Buddhists who believe different things.

Christianity

Christianity began around 33 CE. Christians believe in one God, who sent his son Jesus Christ to live on Earth. Christians try to live life according to the loving nature of God as revealed by Jesus' life and death. They are helped in this task by the Holy Spirit and by praying to God.

Their holy book is the Bible and they worship in churches using songs, prayers and preaching. Many Christians get married in church, have their babies christened or have adult baptisms. They also have funeral services when their loved ones die.

They sometimes meet in each other's homes for Bible study and fellowship.

Christians try to keep God's Commandments by showing love and respect to others. They often work for social justice.

Special festivals include: Christmas – which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ; Holy Week/ Easter – which recognises the events of Jesus' death and resurrection; Pentecost – when Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit.

The harvest is celebrated, plus many other special days like Mothering Sunday, Education Sunday, Racism Sunday.

There are many different kinds of Christians, for example, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Orthodox, and so on.

Hinduism

Hinduism is a very old religion, which began around 3500 years ago. Hindus believe in one God who created the world and is everywhere and in everything. They see God represented in the form of thousands of gods and goddesses. They worship murtis – statues representing the deities – which are treated as living beings and are washed, dressed and fed every day.

The Hindu act of worship is called puja. Many Hindus have shrines in their homes where they can pray individually. Hindus may also go to the mandir, or temple, for communal worship. Gifts of food are blessed and shared among the worshippers. Priests conduct lots of special ceremonies: weddings, funerals, blessings for babies and new homes.

Worship is in the form of prayers, songs, meditation and readings from the sacred books, for example, the Bhagavad Gita.

The concept of Dharma is important: law, duty, justice and virtuousness are central to Hindus' faith. All believe in a cycle of rebirth: good living in this life leads to better standing in the next incarnation.

There are hundreds of festivals throughout the year, the most well-known being Divali, a festival of light which marks the beginning of the New Year. Holi is a spring festival that celebrates creation and renewal. Raksha Bandhan takes place in August when sisters tie bracelets around their brothers' wrists to show their love for them.

The family is very important to Hindus. Many Hindus are vegetarian. They consider cattle to be special beasts and therefore do not eat beef.

There are different kinds of Hindus who believe different things.

Islam

Islam began in the 7th century CE with the ministry of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Muslims believe in one God – Allah – who revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad (pbuh).

The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam and gives guidance on everyday life. Muslim children are taught to read Arabic, the language in which the Qur'an is written, and many of them learn the Qur'an by heart. They go to a madrassa each evening to study this.

Muslims worship in a mosque, or masjid. When praying in the mosque or at home a person's body faces towards the holy city of Makkah (Mecca).

Muslims have Five Pillars to their faith:

shahadah – declaration that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad (pbuh) is his prophet

salah – praying/worship five times a day

zakah – giving money to the poor

sawm – fasting during Ramadan

hajj – going on a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime.

Id-ul-Fitr is an important festival, which celebrates the end of Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan Muslims do not eat or drink from dawn until sunset. The festival of Id is a time for thanksgiving, prayers, giving presents and sharing special food.

There are many different kinds of Muslims.

Judaism

Judaism has its origins around 2000 BCE. Jews believe that God told Abram that he would be the father of a great people if he followed God's path. Abram spent his life travelling and teaching that there was only one God and then God gave him the new name of Abraham when his first son was born.

Around 1300 BCE Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. Jews believe that God revealed the Torah, the most holy scriptures of the Jewish people, to Moses. The teachings contain many rules for everyday life.

The family and community are very important in Jewish life. Family meals with special food and symbols take place regularly. There are laws regarding food preparation and which foods may be eaten.

Jewish people meet at the synagogue for prayers, worship and study. Shabbat (the Sabbath) is observed each Saturday as a day of religious worship.

Festivals include: Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year; Yom Kippur – a time of repentance and reflection; Passover (Pesach) – which celebrates the escape from Egypt; Hanukkah – a festival of lights.

There are different kinds of Jewish believers, for example, Liberal, Orthodox, Conservative, and so on.

Sikhism

Sikhism is an Indian religion founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. Sikhs believe in one god: the immortal creator.

Sikhs try, by their lifestyle, to emulate the ten Gurus (teachers of God's word), trying to make the world a more honest place. They believe in equality and tolerance.

Sikhs can worship in their own homes or in the gurdwara, where the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy book) is kept.

Sikhs hold the idea of hospitality to be very important and serve meals daily to all-comers in the langar at the gurdwara. Sikhs are vegetarians.

Devout Sikhs do not cut their hair (kesh), and the men cover their hair with a turban. The men wear special undershorts (kachera) and a symbolic small dagger (kirpan). Both men and women wear a steel band round their wrists (kara), and use a special comb (kangha) that represents personal cleanliness and tidiness. These make up the Five Ks.

There are festivals that celebrate anniversaries in the lives of the Gurus and those that celebrate other significant events. Baisahki is a celebration of the Sikh New Year and also remembers the forming of the Khalsa (the Sikh community) in 1699.

There are different kinds of Sikh and different ways of being Sikh.

Appendix Glossary

General

God

Creator and ruler of the universe. A supreme being worshipped by believers. Some believers, such as Hindus, may worship more than one god. In this case, the gods represent different aspects of the supreme being.

hymn

A religious song of praise to God.

pilgrimage

A journey to a holy place, for religious reasons.

prayer

Thanksgiving or request made to God. May also be a conversation with God.

prayer beads

A string of beads used for reciting or counting prayers.

prophet

A religious teacher sent by God to pass on his commands.

worship

The act of showing love to and paying respect to God.

Buddhism

Buddha

The Buddha taught in India in the 5th century BCE and started the religion of Buddhism. He was called Siddattha Gotama and spent his life trying to be a better man. The word Buddha means 'Enlightened One'.

Buddhism

A religion founded by the Buddha in North East India in the 5th century BCE and based on his teachings. The Buddha taught that suffering is brought about because we always want things that we do not have. He taught that we can overcome suffering by not giving in to bad thoughts and actions, such as greed,

ignorance and hatred. Buddhism involves meditation in order to focus on the way to lead a better life.

Buddhist

Someone who follows the teachings of the Buddha.

Enlightenment

The Buddha achieved Enlightenment (a state in which desire and suffering are transcended/a state of being that goes beyond desire and suffering) while meditating under a tree.

Jataka

Stories about the previous lives of the Buddha, found in Buddhist literature.

meditate

To empty the mind of everyday thoughts and feelings. Buddhists meditate to still the mind and stop it jumping aimlessly from one thought to another. Meditation is a way of taking control of the mind so that it becomes peaceful, focused and more aware.

prayer bowl

A metal bowl that is made to sing by running a wooden beater around its rim. It makes a gentle sound that can aid meditation or bring calm to the room.

temple

A sacred building for Buddhists.

Tipitaka

The holy book of Buddhists.

Wesak

The celebration of the Buddha's birthday, and also his enlightenment and death. This usually falls on the full moon day of May each year.

wheel of life

A symbol of Buddhism, which represents the cycle of life and rebirth.

Christianity

Advent

Means 'coming'. Advent is the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas and leading up to Christmas. It is a time of preparation for Christmas.

altar

A special table in a church. It represents the table of the Last Supper. The priest or minister uses the table to prepare the bread and wine for communion. Originally altars were used to make sacrifices to God and now Christians remember Christ's sacrifice here when they share bread and wine.

archbishop

A bishop is a senior religious leader in some Christian churches. An archbishop is the chief bishop responsible for a large district, e.g. the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent. Some churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of repentance for wrongdoings.

baptism

A ceremony in which a person has water sprinkled on them, or they are immersed in water, as a sign that they belong to the Christian faith. At the baptism of a baby, the child is given his or her Christian names during the ceremony, which is also called a christening.

Bible

The holy book of Christians.

christening

A ceremony at which a baby is given its name in a church (see also baptism).

Christian

Someone who follows the religion of Christianity. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

Christianity

A religion founded in Israel around 2000 years ago. Christians believe in one God in three persons (God

the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit). Christians believe that God created the world and sent his son, Jesus Christ, to live on Earth and give people the chance of salvation. Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus. He taught about God and about how Christians should live their lives. Christians believe that after Jesus was put to death he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

Christians hope to attain eternal life after death through faith in Jesus Christ. They try to keep God's Commandments by showing love and respect for everybody.

Christingle

A lighted candle that children can make and hold during a special Christingle service in Advent. The candle symbolises Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

Christmas

A festival held on 25th December to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

church

1. A place of worship where Christians go for services and prayer; 2. the whole community of Christians; 3. a particular denomination of the Christian faith with its own leaders, buildings and principles, e.g. the Church of England or the Roman Catholic Church.

commandment

A command given by God, such as one of the Ten Commandments: rules of conduct given to Moses on Mount Sinai and recorded in the Bible; or the two commandments to love God and love your neighbour as taught by Jesus.

confirmation

A ceremony in which a Christian person is confirmed. He or she affirms Christian belief and is admitted as a full member of the Church.

cross

A symbol to represent the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

crucifix

Cross with the figure of Jesus Christ on it, to depict his death through crucifixion.

crucifixion

A Roman method of executing criminals by tying or nailing them to a cross and leaving them to die. Jesus Christ was put to death in this way.

disciple

A follower of Jesus Christ.

Easter

An important Christian festival, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his death on the cross.

frankincense

An aromatic herb burnt as incense. Represents purity.

Good Friday

The Friday before Easter Sunday. Commemorates the day Jesus died on the cross.

harvest festival

A celebration of thanksgiving for crops and food held as a service in Christian churches and schools. Gifts of food are often brought and then distributed to needy people.

Holy Communion

(Also called Eucharist, Mass, Lord's Supper.) A ceremony in which people share holy bread and wine. It recalls the last meal of Jesus Christ and reminds Christians that Jesus died to bring them salvation. The bread represents the body of Christ and the wine represents the blood of Christ.

Holy Spirit

The presence of God in the world that enables believers to do God's will.

Holy Week

The week before Easter, when Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life on Earth.

Jesus Christ

The central figure of Christian history and devotion, believed by Christians to be the Son of God, who was sent to live on Earth to teach people and to die for them.

Last Supper

The meal eaten by Jesus and his disciples on the night before Jesus was crucified.

Lent

The period of 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays). Christians associate Lent with the 40-day period when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray. Some Christians fast or give up something they enjoy. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

ministers: priest, pastor, vicar

A religious leader in charge of a church, who may be called a minister, pastor, vicar, rector, parson, etc. depending on the denomination of Christianity.

miracle

A surprising and wonderful event, which does not seem possible and is therefore believed to be the work of God.

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent, which celebrates the caring family of the church.

myrrh

An aromatic resin used for anointing dead bodies.

Nativity

The birth of Jesus Christ, or the festival that celebrates his birth.

New Testament

The second part of the Bible, comprising 27 books.

Old Testament

The first part of the Bible, which Christianity shares with Judaism, comprising 39 books.

Palm Sunday

The Sunday before Easter that commemorates the occasion when Jesus entered into Jerusalem and crowds waved palm branches to welcome him.

parable

A short story that makes a moral or religious point.

Pentecost

On the day of this feast, when the Jews were gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the disciples received the Holy Spirit. The Christian festival of Pentecost is also known as Whitsun because Christians traditionally wore white for baptisms and confirmations on this day.

pew

A long wooden bench with a back, that people sit on instead of chairs in some churches.

resurrection

The rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion. The word resurrection means 'return to life'.

sermon

A talk on a religious or moral subject given during a church service.

Shrove Tuesday

The day before Lent starts, also known as Pancake Day. It is marked by feasting and celebration before fasting in Lent begins.

Hinduism

Aum (Om)

An important symbol and the most sacred of Hindu words. It is said to be the name most suited for God and the sound made when the world was created.

Bhagavad Gita

A Hindu holy book, which is the most important scripture for most Hindus. Also called 'Gita'.

Bharat

The step-brother of Rama in the story of Rama and Sita told at Divali.

Brahma

A Hindu god in charge of creative power. One of the Trimurti with Vishnu and Shiva.

Brahman

The supreme God or the ultimate reality. Hindus worship many gods, but believe in one supreme Divinity who is all-powerful.

dharma

Meaning 'religion' or 'religious duty'. The law of religion upheld by the gods and by humans who adhere to the rules. That which sustains one's existence

diva

Small lamp (candle) used at Divali.

Divali

A festival of lights held in at the Hindu New Year in October or November. The word means 'row of lights'. Divali is a celebration of the return of Rama to his kingdom after exile in the forest and victory over a demon who kidnapped his wife, Sita. The significance of Divali for Hindus is that good overcomes evil as light overcomes darkness.

Ganesha

A god shown with an elephant's head. Ganesha removes barriers and brings good fortune.

Hanuman

A god who takes the form of a monkey. He helped Rama and Sita overcome evil in the story that is often told at Divali. Hanuman is a symbol of strength and loyalty.

Hindu

Someone who follows the Hindu religion.

Hinduism

An Indian religion with many gods founded 3500 years ago. Hindus believe in one supreme God, but they worship many different gods and goddesses that represent different aspects of this all-powerful Divinity. Hinduism teaches its followers to be caring, considerate towards family unity, hard-working and honest. Culture and traditions are very important. Hindus believe in reincarnation – that people have another life on Earth after they die.

Holi

The festival of colours, celebrated in spring. People throw coloured powder and water at each other and light bonfires. Holi celebrates creation, renewal and friendship.

incense

A substance that gives off a pleasant smell when burnt, or the smoke of this substance. Incense is burnt to honour the gods.

Lakshman

The brother of Rama in the story of Rama and Sita told at Divali.

mandir

Temple – a place of worship for Hindus.

murti

Form – the image of a god or goddess that is used as a focus of worship.

puja

Meaning ‘worship’. It refers to a number of practices in the home or mandir.

rakhi

A bracelet, made of cotton or silk. Sisters tie them around their brothers’ wrists at Raksha Bandhan.

Raksha Bandhan

A festival in August, which celebrates the love between brothers and sisters. Sisters tie bracelets (rakhi) around their brothers’ wrists for protection against evil. Brothers then promise to care for their sisters.

Rama

The god Vishnu took on human form as Rama in the story of Rama and Sita told at Divali.

Ravana

A demon king who captured Sita and was defeated by Rama in the story told at Divali.

reincarnation

This means being reborn. Hindus believe in a cycle of rebirth; good living in this life leads to better standing in the next incarnation (birth).

Shiva

A Hindu god of destruction and the dance. One of the Trimurti with Brahma and Vishnu.

shrine

A place of worship that is special and holy because it is connected with a sacred person or object. Many Hindus have a shrine in their home where they can pray and make offerings. The shrine may be a room, an altar or simply statues and images of gods.

Sita

The wife of Vishnu took on human form as Sita, the wife of Rama, in the story told at Divali.

Trimurti

Trimurti means ‘the three deities’. These three principal Hindu gods are Brahma, the creator, Vishnu, the preserver, and Shiva, the destroyer.

Vishnu

A Hindu god, preserver and protector of the universe. One of the Trimurti with Brahma and Shiva.

Islam**Allah**

The Islamic name for God in the Arabic language.

Arabic

Language in which the Qur’an is written.

crescent moon and star

The symbol of Islam. Just as the moon and stars show the way in the desert at night, so Islam shows the way to God.

fasting

To go without food for a period of time (sawm).

Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are an essential part of Muslim life. These are five rules that every Muslim has to live by. They are:

- hajj pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime
- salah saying prayers to Allah five times a day
- shahadah declaration of faith
- sawm going without food from dawn until sunset during Ramadan (fasting)
- zakah giving money to less fortunate people.

Id (Eid)

A Muslim festival, for thanking Allah and celebrating a happy time, in particular:

Id-ul-Fitr celebration of breaking the fast on the day after Ramadan ends.

Imam

Meaning 'leader'. A person who leads the communal prayer.

Islam

The religion that Muslims follow. Islam originated in Arabia in the 7th century and is founded on the ministry of a man named Muhammad (pbuh). It teaches that there is only one God, called Allah. Allah revealed his messages to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who recorded these moral rules and rituals in the Qur'an.

Muslims believe in the Five Pillars of Islam. They try to follow the example of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in their daily life. The word 'Islam' in Arabic means to surrender oneself to God and by doing so attain peace.

madrassa

Islamic school often held in someone's home or at the mosque.

Makkah / Mecca

City where the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born.

mihrab

Alcove in one wall of the mosque showing the direction of Makkah; Muslims face towards this direction to pray

minaret

A tall, thin tower on a mosque from which the call to worship is made.

mosque or masjid

A building where Muslims go to pray and worship.

muezzin

A man who calls people to prayer from the minaret of a mosque.

Muhammad (pbuh)

Name of the last prophet to be sent by Allah, who founded the religion of Islam. Muhammad (pbuh) is so revered that it is usual to make the statement 'peace be upon him' (shortened to pbuh) every time his name is mentioned.

Muslim

Someone who follows the religion of Islam. Muslims accept Islam by professing their faith and living according to its rules for everyday life.

prayer mat

A small carpet on which a Muslim performs his or her daily prayers.

Qur'an

The holy book of Islam. It is the record of Allah's messages to humanity and was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is treated with great respect; it must be touched with clean hands and not placed on the floor.

Ramadan

The ninth month of the Muslim year. The Qur'an states that fasting is required during this month. Muslims do not eat or drink anything during daylight hours, from dawn until sunset. Ramadan is a time of fasting and prayer.

topi

A hat worn by Muslim men to show respect for Allah when praying.

wudu

Ritual washing before prayer.

Judaism

ark

A special cupboard in a synagogue in which the Torah scrolls are kept.

commandment

A command given by God, especially one of the Ten Commandments: divine rules of conduct given to Moses and recorded in the Old Testament.

Exodus

The journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the promised land.

hanukiah

A nine-branched candlestick that is lit at the festival of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah

An eight-day festival of lights celebrated in December. It commemorates the re-dedication of the temple in Jerusalem in 165 BCE after a period during which a hostile king gave it over to the worship of Syrian gods and prevented the Jews from worshipping their God there.

Hebrew

Ancient language used by Jews for prayer and study.

Hebrew Bible

A term sometimes used to describe the holy books of Judaism. This is also known as the Tenakh and contains the Torah (Law), the Nevi'im (Prophets) and the Ketuvim (Writings). These books are also mostly found in the Old Testament part of the Christian Bible.

Jew

Someone who follows the religion of Judaism.

Judaism

The religion that Jews follow. It was founded over 3000 years ago when God revealed the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible) to Moses on Mount Sinai. This holy book gives the Jewish people ethical rules for everyday life. Judaism is based on the belief that there is only one God who created the universe and controls it. Jews love, fear and respect God. They believe in justice and mercy towards all people. The family and community are very important in Jewish life. Judaism also devotes itself to the study of Jewish literature and history.

kippah

Head covering (also called yamulka, capel).

latke

Fried grated potato cake.

miracle

A surprising and wonderful event, which does not seem possible and is therefore believed to be the work of God.

Moses

Around 1300 BCE Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt to the Holy Land that God had promised them. Jewish people believe that God revealed the first five books of the Bible to Moses.

Passover / Pesach

Festival that commemorates the Exodus from Egypt, celebrated in spring.

Pentateuch

The first five books of the Jewish scriptures, more often called the Torah.

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year.

Shabbat

The Sabbath, observed each Saturday as a day of religious worship.

Star of David

A six-pointed star, which is commonly used as a symbol of Judaism. Its origins are uncertain. It is also known as the Shield of David.

Sukkah

Meaning 'hut'. A temporary shelter for Sukkot.

Sukkot

An autumn festival commemorating the years that the Jewish people spent in the desert on their way to the promised land.

synagogue

A building where Jewish people meet for prayer, worship and study.

Torah

The most holy scriptures of the Jewish people. Torah means Law, but it also contains history guidelines for Jewish life. The Torah is made up of the Five Books of Moses (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible).

Torah scroll

The Five Books of Moses hand-written on parchment and rolled to form a scroll.

yad

Hand-held pointer used in reading the Torah scroll.

Yom Kippur

A day of reflection and atonement, which occurs ten days after Rosh Hashanah.

Sikhism

amrit

Sacred liquid made of water and sugar.

Baisakhi

Celebration in spring of the Sikh New Year. It also remembers the forming of the Khalsa in 1699.

Chanani

Canopy under which the Guru Granth Sahib is placed.

Chauri

Fan waved over the Guru Granth Sahib during services in the gurdwara.

Diwali

Festival of light.

Five Ks

Most Sikhs wear or have the Five Ks (panj kakke), which are five items that show that a person is a Sikh. They are:

- kangha wooden comb, which represents personal cleanliness and tidiness
- kara steel wristband, which shows that God's love is eternal
- kesh uncut hair, which symbolises devotion to God
- kirpan small sword, symbolic of freedom and defending the Sikh faith
- kachera undershorts, worn to remind Sikhs of moral purity.

Granthi

A person who reads the scriptures from the Guru Granth Sahib.

gurdwara

A Sikh place of worship.

Guru

A Sikh religious teacher.

Guru Gobind Rai

The tenth Sikh Guru, who formed the Khalsa in 1699 and became Guru Gobind Singh.

Guru Granth Sahib

The Sikh holy book.

Guru Nanak

The first Sikh Guru and founder of Sikhism (1469 – 1539). His birthday is celebrated in autumn.

Kaur

Meaning 'princess'. The name given to Sikh females.

Khalsa

The Sikh community and its rules for the Sikh way of life.

Khanda

A two-edged sword and symbol of Sikhism.

langar

The gurdwara dining hall where food is served to all-comers.

Nishan sahib

Sikh flag flown at gurdwaras, usually orangey-yellow.

Panj piare

Meaning 'the five beloved ones'. The name given to the five Sikhs who were first initiated into the Khalsa.

Sikh

Someone who follows the religion of Sikhism.

Sikhism

An Indian religion founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru, in the Punjab (North West India). Sikhs believe in one God, who is not exclusive to one religion. They are taught to respect other people's views since all religions simply have a different perspective on this one God.

Sikhism is based on the teachings of Guru Nanak,

the other nine gurus who succeeded him, and the scripture of the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs are taught to believe in equality and tolerance. Sikhs aim to work honestly, remember God and share with others who are less fortunate than themselves. Most Sikhs also wear or have the Five Ks.

Singh

Meaning 'lion'. The name given to Sikh males.

Takht

Meaning 'throne'. A special platform for the Guru Granth Sahib.

turban

A long piece of fabric wound around the head to cover the hair of Sikh men.

Other

Humanism

Humanism is an approach to life that is based on reason and common humanity. Humanists believe that moral values come from human nature and experience only.

A full list of terms for religious education can be found on the QCA website www.qca.org.uk under Religious Education / Downloads / RE Glossary.