

Year	Religion	Enquiry Question	Activity	Questions to ask/discuss
1/2	Judaism	Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children?	Watch <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/29363650">https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/29363650</a> or <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-celebrating-rosh-hashanah/zdqc8xs">https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-celebrating-rosh-hashanah/zdqc8xs</a> Cut out some apple shapes and hang on a tree/large twig, with the children writing their hopes for the future on one side and a forgiving action on the other.	What do you think 'forgiveness' means? If you forgive someone how does it make you feel? Can you think of a time when you have forgiven someone? What was the reason? What do you think is the most important event that happens in Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur and explain why?

**Background information to share with your child:**

**Rosh Hashanah**

Rosh Hashanah is also known as the Head of the Year; it is celebrated on the first and second days of the seventh month, Tishri and is the Jewish New Year festival. *“In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations. You shall observe it as a day when the horn is sounded”* (Numbers 29:1).

The horn in question is the *shofar*, a large ram's horn which makes a long, loud sound. There are many different interpretations as to why this is done. One interpretation is that it sounds as a call to repentance, but it is also a sound which remembers key events concerning people like Abraham, a prophet.

Rosh Hashanah, itself, has several meanings including:

- Commemorating the anniversary of the creation otherwise known as the birthday of the universe.
- Being called the day of judgement and the day of remembrance by the rabbis (Jewish teachers) over the years

It is day of prayer, a time to ask for help in the year ahead and a time to remember the power of God who they believe created the universe

Rosh Hashanah celebrations include:

- Sending people good luck greetings
- Lighting candles and reciting prayers
- Reading the Torah (particularly stories about Abraham and his son Isaac)
- Eating a festive meal which includes Challah bread

**Yom Kippur**

Yom Kippur known as the Day of Atonement, follows 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. These ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are known as the High Holy Days and are days of repentance. Yom Kippur remembers the day Moses asked God to forgive the people of Israel for their sins

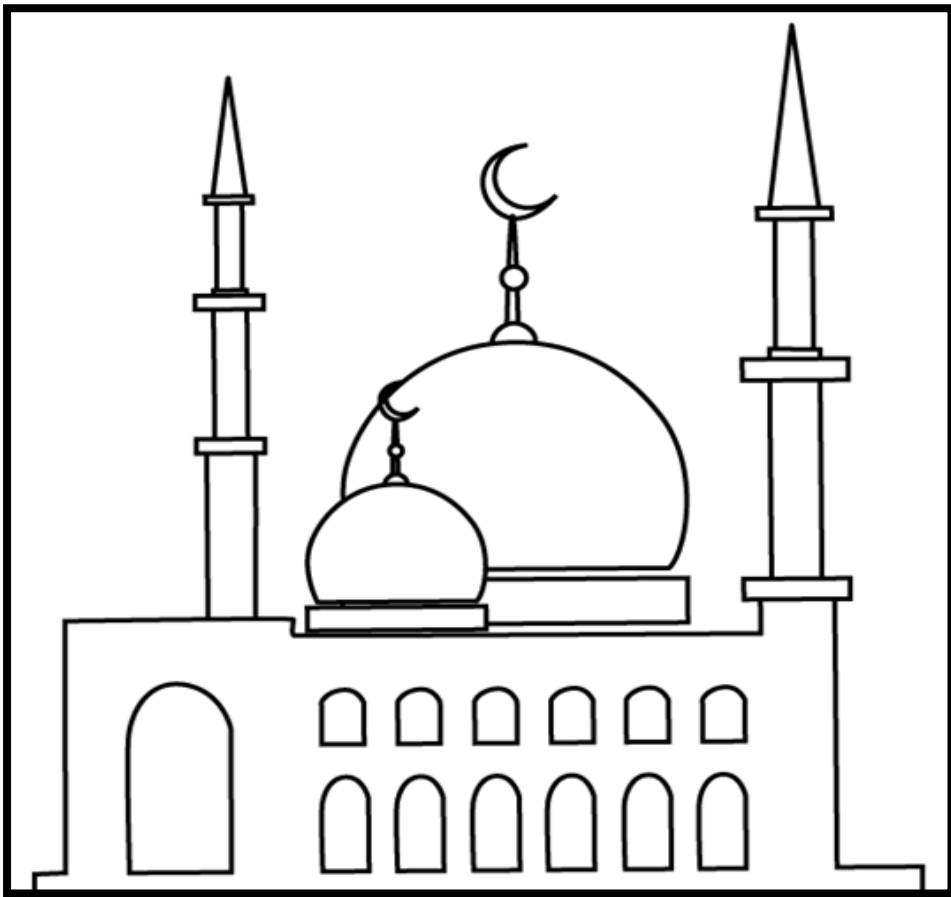
On Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, God has decided about a person's behaviour over the last year and this is sealed in the Book of Life.

*“For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before God”* (Leviticus 16:30).

On Yom Kippur Jews will

- Fast all day
- Not work
- Visit the synagogue (place of worship)
- Spend time reflecting on their own behaviour
- Ask God for forgiveness

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1/2	Islam	Does going to a Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging?	Look at <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zjr87ty">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zjr87ty</a> To see how Muslims pray at the mosque Use an outline of a Mosque like the one below (you can find many on the internet) and write around it why it might be important to a Muslim to go to a Mosque to pray.	What does it mean to belong? What feelings do people have when they have a sense of belonging? Can you think of a place or group where you feel like you belong? Do you think that a Muslim praying in a mosque would have a sense of belonging? If so why? Why might a Muslim prefer to pray in a mosque? Do you think it matters to a Muslim where they pray, as long as they pray?



### Background information to share with your child:

The Mosque is the Islamic place of worship and is the centre of the community. It is used for prayer as well as many other community activities. It gives access to prayer leaders and books which could help develop understanding of the Muslim faith. Madrasah schools are also run at the mosque where children are taught about the Qu'ran (the Muslim Holy Book) and Islamic theology.

Going to the mosque might help give a sense of belonging as Muslims gather there to give thanks to Allah. They wash before prayer with others and join their fellow Muslims praying on the floor of the prayer room as all are equal in the eyes of Allah. Purpose built mosques are very recognisable from the outside with a large domed roof covering the main prayer hall and a tower called a minaret from which the Call to Prayer is made. This was because in early times there was no way to ensure that everybody knew when to pray so the Call to Prayer was made from a high point so that it could be heard. Many Mosques in non-Muslim societies are converted buildings rather than purpose built mosques.

Inside the Mosques there is usually a Minbar (platform at the top of some stairs) for the Imam (prayer leader) to stand on when he gives his sermon. There will also be a Mihrab, an indentation in the Qiblah wall. This wall signifies the direction of Makkah to which Muslims pray. Muslims are expected to cover their whole bodies including their heads when praying as a sign of modesty and respect.

Year	Religion	Enquiry Question	Activity	Questions to ask/discuss
3/4	Hinduism	Would visiting the River Ganges feel special to a non-Hindu?	<p>Think about how special water is.</p> <p>Watch <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-my-life-my-religion-hinduism-pilgrimage-hinduism/z4ghf4j">https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-my-life-my-religion-hinduism-pilgrimage-hinduism/z4ghf4j</a></p> <p>Look at some online travel brochures for India and the River Ganges.(Varanasi). Make a collage of the river and research facts about it to include on the picture.</p> <p>Draw an outline of a person, ask the children to think of reasons that a Hindu might want to visit the River Ganges and write these around the outline. On the inside ask children to write the feelings/emotions a Hindu might feel when visiting the Ganges.</p> <p>Repeat thinking about a non-Hindu and compare the children's ideas.</p>	<p>What do we use water for? Why is it important?</p> <p>Why is The River Ganges symbolic for Hindus?</p> <p>How might a Hindu feel when visiting the Ganges?</p> <p>Is the Ganges a special place to visit for a non-Hindu? Why?</p>

**Background information to share with your child:**

Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as deities in their own right. Brahman, the supreme spirit, basically underpins everything.

Hindus believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the Atman.

Hindus are comfortable with using images and objects (often called murtis) to portray God. Hindus do not *worship* these but worship Brahman *through* them. Hindus are free to worship God in a variety of colourful forms.

Trimurti

Trimurti, a term meaning "having three forms," refers to the three main aspects of Brahman: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Brahma is the creator; Vishnu is the preserver and Shiva is the destroyer or transformer. These three forms together represent the highest Hindu deity, the Supreme Divine

The River Ganges is considered to be sacred and spiritually pure for Hindus although in reality it is not a clean river. Because of the purifying nature of the river, Hindus believe that any rituals performed on the banks of the Ganges or in its water will wash away impurity.

One of the key places of Hindu pilgrimage is Varanasi, situated on the bank of the holy River Ganges. It is considered to be the home of Shiva one of the principle deities of Hinduism and part of the Trimurti.

*The Puranas* (ancient Hindu scriptures) say that taking a dip in the sacred river 'bestows heavenly blessings.

The banks of the River Ganges host hundreds of Hindu festivals and celebrations each year as the land over which the Ganges flows is regarded as sacred ground. It is believed that the holy waters of the river will purify the soul and lead to a better reincarnation or liberation (Moksha) of the soul from the cycle of life and death (Samsara). Because of these beliefs, it is common for Hindus to cremate dead loved ones by the river and/or spread their ashes in the Ganges in the hope that the river will embrace and guide the soul of the departed.

Year	Religion	Enquiry Question	Activity	Questions to ask/discuss
3/4	Christianity	Do people need to go to church to show they are Christians?	<p>Discuss places that might be special to your children.</p> <p>Look on the internet at a range of photos of Christian churches and discuss the artefacts you may find in them.</p> <p>Print out and make a large collage of the features, labelling them/writing captions about the significance/symbolism. You could search for pictures of these items: font (where a Baptism takes place), chalice (holds the wine for communion), altar (table). You could look at <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/ztjxn39">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/ztjxn39</a> about Christian Baptism and other church rites.</p> <p>Explore the benefits of worshipping in a church (community, belonging, being with other Christians) and the possible reasons why someone would rather worship elsewhere (being with other Christians, finding a greater connection with God in natural surroundings, uninspiring services) (Can link with why Muslims would go to a Mosque to pray if already studied).</p> <p>Make a code of behaviour of how to behave in a church. Can this apply to any 'special' place? Ensure there is a reason for each of the points</p>	<p>Where is your special place?</p> <p>Is it the only special place you have?</p> <p>What is special about the place? Is it the people there, where it is, or what you do there?</p> <p>How do you act in your special place?</p> <p>How do Christians show their faith?</p> <p>Where can they practise their faith?</p> <p>Do all Christians go to church and if not why?</p> <p>Why is church a special place for Christians?</p> <p>How should we act in someone's special place, (both religious and non-religious)? Discuss the importance of being respectful!</p>

**Background information to share with your child:**

Although many Christians will attend church, the regularity and reasons for attending may vary hugely. Explain to your children that some rites are usually performed only in the church building such as baptism (or Christening of a person) and Holy Communion or Eucharist (the taking of bread and wine in remembrance of the events of the Last Supper – the night before Jesus was put to death). Whilst Holy Communion or Eucharist is usually carried out in church, it should be noted that people who wish to but cannot come to church e.g. because they are sick, can receive communion from a minister who can take it to them. However, for many Christians, the receiving of communion will be the biggest difference between praying and worshipping at home (or away from the church) and attending a service in church where Eucharist is distributed.

In thinking about a special place, the children should be encouraged to consider the feelings it invokes as well as what actually happens there as a Christian may choose to pray or worship in a church because of the peace and quiet, feeling of community or the aesthetics of the building. Churches frequently have art or symbols which may remind the Christian of his or her beliefs or the life of Jesus or other figures from the Bible or later saints.

There is also the aspect of service and commitment. There are many roles which can be taken by lay-people within the church (i.e. people who are not ordained ministers) and committing to these can be seen by a Christian as demonstrating their love of God and their love of their neighbour through their service to the church and its community. These were the commandments given by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40:

*“<sup>37</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

Year	Religion	Enquiry Question	Activity	Questions to ask/discuss
5/6	Sikhism	What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?	Think what you might be committed to. Look at <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z8th34j">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z8th34j</a> about the Gurdwara. Look at photos (you can find plenty on Google images) of inside of different Gurdwaras and see if the children can identify the Guru Granth Sahib, shoe racks, carpeted prayer room, Guru Granth Sahib's 'bedroom', langar, khanda symbol (see below). Ask the children to focus on these and think about its purpose and significance e.g. the Guru Granth Sahib bedroom shows dedication to the words about Waheguru – it is treated as a living guru).	What is commitment? Can you explain if you think it is possible to show the same level of commitment to everything we do? What is one of the main Sikh beliefs? How might they show this belief in action? Can you think of other ways that Sikhs may put their beliefs into action?  There are many ways a Sikh shows their commitment to God. Which way(s) do you think is the best? Is it possible to rank them or not? How is looking after the Guru Granth Sahib showing God respect and commitment?



#### Background information to share with your child:

We are looking at ways in which Sikhs are committed to their faith by looking at Sewa (selfless service) and considering some other rites. Sewa is the belief in selfless service to the community and is an important part of worship. Examples of Sewa include helping in the Langar (where the meal is served in the Gurdwara) or looking after the Gurdwara (the Sikh place of worship) and giving money or other kinds of help to people in need. This is the main reason why the Langar welcomes anyone regardless of religion or background even offering free meals to visitors

#### Amrit Ceremony

The Amrit ceremony involves the drinking of Amrit (sugar water stirred with a dagger) in the presence of 5 Khalsa Sikhs as well as the Guru Granth Sahib.

The novice is instructed to live a good life and follow certain rules e.g. never to remove any hair from any part of the body, not to use tobacco, alcohol or any other intoxicants.

The novice is required to wear the physical symbols of a Khalsa at all times (known as the 5K's) as well as follow the Khalsa Code of Conduct

#### The Gurdwara

A Gurdwara is the place where Sikhs come together for congregational worship. The literal meaning of the word Gurdwara is 'the residence of the Guru', or 'the door that leads to the Guru' however Sikhs believe that God is everywhere.

#### Worship in the Gurdwara

Any Sikh can lead the prayers and recite the scriptures to the congregation during a service. Each Gurdwara has a *Granthi* (reader/keeper of the Guru Granth Sahib) who organises the services and does the readings. The **Guru Granth Sahib** the Sikh Holy Scriptures and is treated as the living Guru of the Sikhs. It contains poetry which is often set to music and is kept under a special canopy in the Gurdwara and when is not used is covered up, it is also kept in a separate bedroom overnight. Sikhs take off their shoes in the presence of the holy scriptures making sure they never turn their back on them. The Granthi must be able to read Gurmukhi (the language of the Guru Granth Sahib) and must be properly trained in looking after the holy book. They are expected to be a full member of the Sikh Khalsa.

Services include singing hymns (some of these were written by the Gurus and are often accompanied by instruments. This hymn-singing is called *Kirtan* and is an essential part of Sikh worship), a sermon usually referencing Sikh history or stories, prayers, readings from the Guru Granth Sahib which are often chosen randomly on the day.

After the service, food is offered to the congregation. This consists of *Parshad* and a more substantial meal in the Langar.

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5/6	Christianity	Does belief in the Trinity help Christians make better sense of God as a whole?	<p>Think about all the different people you know and who know you. Discuss how we show different aspects of ourselves in different relationships.</p> <p>Consider why, if there is one God, does Christianity need the trinity? So what does God the Father mean? Role of perfect father explored – Why is Jesus important for Christians? Human and divine? Why important? Why did God need to become human?</p> <p>Holy Spirit – why do Christians need this? What are the benefits of each separately and why are they stronger as a collective unit? Explore the idea of individual talents and also the strength of a cohesive team.</p> <p>Looking at “The Holy Trinity” by Andrei Rublev: all 3 persons are the same person. Children to design and make a creative piece of artwork, exploring the belief in the Trinity and how they make sense of it. Explain their design and explain how this depicts the Trinity.</p>	<p>Do they all think of you in the same way or do some people know us in different ways? Would your school report look different to one that your parents/carers might write about you at home?</p> <p>What does the Trinity mean?</p> <p>How many Gods do Christians believe there are?</p> <p>Christians believe God is revealed to them in three ways... what are they?</p> <p>Do you find the idea of the Trinity helpful in describing the idea of God as a whole? Why?</p> <p>What is the benefit of the belief in God the Father? The Son? The Holy Spirit?</p>



**Background information to share with your child:**

The Christian belief in the Trinity, means they believe in the complete relationship between God (the Father), Jesus (his son) and the Holy Spirit. The three are “consubstantial”, which means that they exist separately and together as one. Imagine lighting one candle then lighting two others from it . The flames are identical even if the candles are different and they have all come from the same source. If you melted them all together, they would become one candle with one flame again.

The concept of the Trinity is difficult to explain but is demonstrated throughout the Bible. You could look at Matthew 28, 18-20 – known as the Great Commission. Jesus himself uses the phrase Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Look back into Old Testament – Genesis2: 7 (creation of man), prophets who had personal encounters with God the Father e.g. Abraham (Genesis 12), Moses (Exodus 3); reference to the Holy Spirit: Psalm 51 vs 10 & 11, Matthew 1: 18-20, Person of Jesus: refer back to previous teaching e.g. Christmas, miracles, friend etc., John1 where Jesus is referred to as the Word, Peter in Matthew 16:15-16. What do these tell you about each person in the Trinity? (Bible Gateway is a good website for this as it gives lots of different translations so choose one your child will understand such as the Good News Bible which is written in quite simple language).

Children may also have seen the “Sign of the Cross” which is used by ministers to confer the blessing of the Trinity, and it is also used personally by some denominations such as Roman Catholics, to bless themselves. (Some footballers and other sportspeople do this before an event so the children may be aware of it.)

The greatest aspect of this is to ensure the children understand that Christians believe this is not 3 Gods co-existing together to appear in different ways, but one God and only one God. This belief in one God is called monotheism. So Christians believe that although there are three persons within the Trinity, there is only one God who is all 3 persons.