

Special Places

Links to religions



Christianity Islam Judaism Hinduism Buddhism Sikhism



Foundation



Key Vocabulary

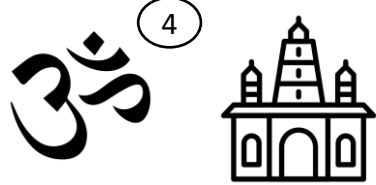
Christianity	The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, or its beliefs and practices.	Muslim	a follower of the religion of Islam.
Church	a building used for public Christian worship	Mosque	A Muslim place of worship
Hinduism	Hinduism can be defined as a collection of the religion, culture, and philosophy of ancient India	Judaism	Judaism is the religion and the way of life of the Jewish people.
Mandir	A Hindu temple	Synagogue	A Jewish place of worship
Buddhism	Buddhism is one of the world's largest religions and originated 2,500 years ago in India.	Sikhism	Sikhism, also known as Sikhi is an Indian religion
Temple	A building for religious worship	Gurdwara	A Sikh place of worship

WHAT?

1



A place of worship is a special place to some people. Worship is to honor and respect something/ someone. It is to express love and admiration. Worship is to give thanks for. The church is a **special place** to Christians. It is where they meet to worship God and to learn about him. The church is a special place to Christians. The church is a place where Christians can: Feel closer to **God**. Meet other Christians who share their beliefs. Feel like a part of a community.

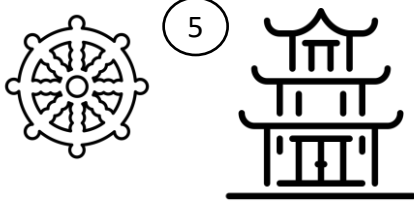


The Hindu place of worship is called a Mandir, or Hindu temple. Mandirs don't all look the same. They might look different around the world. But some parts of the building have special meaning. The towers of a Mandir remind Hindus that their spirits will reach heaven. The central shrine is the heart of worship in the temple. Inside a mandir, you will find murtis. Murtis are images of Gods. Hindus use them in their worship. Murtis are colourful and bright. You might also find yantras in a mandir. These are diagrams of the universe. You might even see them on the floors of the temple. They are made with special colours and shapes that remind Hindus of different things.

2



Muslim people worship in a Mosque. Muslims go to mosque to pray and services are held every day. As shoe rack is a place to leave your shoes before entering. Mosques either have carpet with individual prayer mats or Muslims take their own prayer mat to worship upon. Muslims must wash before entering the main hall. The Quran Muslim holy book. Tasbeeh beads are beads hanging around the mosque to help worshippers think about Allah. Mihrab is an alcove in the wall shows the direction the worshippers need to face. Most mosques have at least one minaret which is a tall thin tower. A man stands at the top and calls Muslims to prayer. Imam is the person who leads the prayers



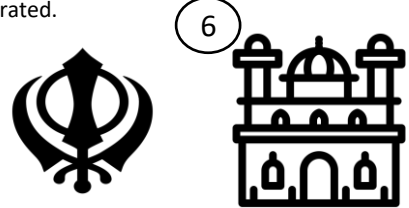
Buddhists do not believe in God. Buddha is a very special person to Buddhists but he was a person and not a god. Every Buddhist temple has at least one statue or image of Buddha. They do not pray to Buddha in the same way that other people might pray to God. Buddhist temples vary in how they look from the outside. One type of temple is a Stupa, Stupas are shaped like bells. Something very old and special that belonged to Buddha, such as a strand of his hair or one of his teeth, will be buried beneath the stupa. Some Buddhist temples are pagodas. Pagodas are based on the design of stupas but they have rows of towers going upwards. Buddhists believe that the universe is made up of five main things. These are called the five elements (Earth, fire, water, wisdom, air) Buddhist temples are designed to symbolise the five elements. The earth is represented by the square base of the temple. Wisdom is symbolised by the pinnacle at the very top. The spire represents fire. The crescent of a temple represents air. The dome represents water.

3



The Jewish special place of worship is a Synagogue. Prayer room is where Jews gather to pray together. Men sit in a different area to the women. Men wear a special shawl, called a tallit. The Cantor is a person has a special place in the room to stand. They chant prayers for the rest of the people to join in with. The Jewish special book is called the Torah. The bimah is a raised platform where the Torah is placed when it is to be read from. This is in the middle of the room, or at the end of the room near the ark. The cantor stands. The ark is where the Torah is kept. It is often on the main wall of the synagogue and impressively decorated.

6



A gurdwara is a place of worship for Sikhs. A gurdwara has four doors on the different sides. This is to show that people from all corners of the world are welcome in the gurdwara. The word 'gurdwara' means door or gateway to the guru. Guru Granth Sahib is the scripture. Any place that has a Guru Granth Sahib can be called a gurdwara because it is a gateway to reaching the Guru. As you walk into the entrance of the gurdwara, there is a porch area. On the shelves, you can see scarves for visitors to borrow. You have to take off your shoes and wash your hands when entering a gurdwara. The langar is a large kitchen and eating area where free vegetarian meals are provided. Sikhs volunteer to help with the work of the langar by collecting or preparing the food, serving the meals or washing up. Everyone sits on the floor to show that everyone is equal.