

# R.E: WHAT MAKES SOME PLACES SPECIAL TO RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS?



## Overview

- Places can be extremely important to people. Most people have different places in their lives that are special to them. Different places are special to different people.
- Home is often a special place for people. It helps them to feel as though they belong and are safe.
- Many religious people, for example Christians, Jews and Muslims, have special places that mean a lot to them and their religion.
- To these people, places (and the objects and symbols in them) are often sacred or holy.

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, a special place for Muslims.



## In Christianity

### Churches



- Churches are special religious places for Christians.
- Every Sunday, Christians gather in churches to worship God and Jesus.
- Churches are places where babies are christened, people are married, and funerals are held. It is also a peaceful place, where people can come and pray to God in their own time.
- Many churches are the centre of their communities, and hold lots of activities and programmes which people are welcome to attend.
- Churches also hold special events at different times of the year, e.g. Easter/ Christmas.

### Harvest Festival



- At Harvest time (in Autumn), many churches are filled with fresh produce and foods.
- At Harvest time, Christians thank God for his creation, and for the food they eat.
- Christians often donate food and money at this time of year, to those who need it more than themselves.

### Advent



- Advent takes place in the lead up to Christmas (December).
- On each of the four Sundays of advent, candles are lit around an advent wreath.
- On Christmas Eve/ Christmas Day, a 5<sup>th</sup> is lit in the centre, representing Jesus.
- Many churches hold nativity plays.

## In Judaism

### Synagogues



- Synagogues are places of worship for Jewish people. Jews use synagogues as places to meet, worship and study.
- Jews sometimes call their synagogues 'temples' or 'shuls'.
- Synagogues often have large rooms for prayers, and smaller rooms for studying.
- There are normally also offices and a large room for special events.
- The front of the synagogue faces towards Jerusalem in Israel. Jerusalem is a holy place in Judaism.



### Key Vocabulary

Sacred Holy Believers Religious Artefacts Symbols Worship

### Key Vocabulary - Christianity (Christian)

Church Cross/ Crucifix Advent Harvest Altar Lectern  
Font Stained-Glass Windows Candles Communion table

### Key Vocabulary – Judaism (Jew)

Synagogue  
Star of David  
Ner tamid  
Ark  
Torah scroll  
Bimah  
tallit (prayer shawl)  
Tzitzit (tassels on a prayer shawl)  
tefillin  
Kippah (skullcap)  
menorah  
Rabbi

### Key Vocabulary – Islam (Muslim)

Islamic  
Mosque  
Crescent and Star  
Qur'an  
Prophet Muhammad  
Allah  
Dome  
Wuzu/wudu area (washing area)  
Prayer mat  
Prayer beads  
Minbar  
Mihrab  
Muezzin  
Call to prayer  
Imam

## In Islam

### Mosques



- Muhammad lived around 1,400 years ago in Arabia. Muslims believe that he received messages from God. This is the basis for Islam.
- According to Muslim tradition, Muhammad's camel (Qaswa) chose the location of the very first mosque. Mosques are where Muslims pray to Allah (God).
- Bilal, one of Muhammad's companions, gave the very first call to prayer. The 'adhan' (call to prayer) still takes place today, and begins each time with the words 'Allahu akbar' (God is most great) repeated four times.
- Today, there are mosques all over the world. They often have domes and/or minarets (tall, slender towers). There are no pictures/ statues in Mosques as Muslims believe that this would be offensive to Allah.



## Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

What makes our homes special?

Where is my favourite place in my home?

What makes our school special? What makes our village special?

What special places have I visited?

How do I feel when I am in special places?

Are places that are special to me, special to everyone?

What do I like/ dislike about places around me?

What times and events can make places special?