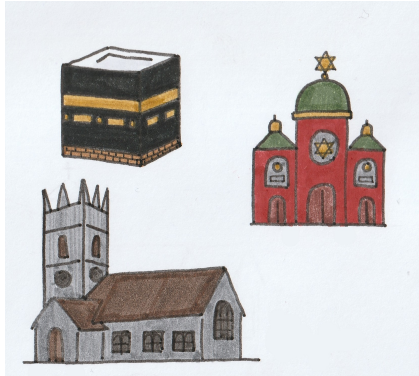


T

TEMPLES



The impulse to create great buildings to honour your God or your religion is very widespread in all religions and has created some of the wonders of the world.

What's it all about? Sacred space and holy buildings: what are they worth?

Humans are builders, like no other species on earth (except perhaps termites). And so we apply our love of bricks and planks to religion. Churches, mosques, synagogues and temples can be found everywhere, but there are also some buildings with global significance, like the Muslim Ka'aba, the Christian church of St Peter in Rome, the Jewish 'Western Wall' in Jerusalem – which also has holy sites for Christians and Muslims in it too. But you don't have to worship in grandeur: for some, a shack, or an open space is a good place to worship. So perhaps, if you want to worship, you need an attitude not a big building.

It is easy to research holy buildings online, and there is very much more to find out about them. Can you develop your own criteria for selecting 5 top religious buildings in the world?

Would you balance your list, with just one building for one religion, or might you choose two Christian or Muslim buildings (they are the biggest religions, with billions of followers)?

Which religions and beliefs?

- Islam
- Christianity
- Judaism

Clip available here:

www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-t-is-for-temples/zhw9qp3

Key Questions

- What makes a space or a building holy?
- Why do religious communities like to 'build for God'?
- Which do you think matter more – local religious places to worship or the big examples of global importance like Makkah, Jerusalem or Rome? Why?
- Can you imagine a sacred space for all humanity, including all religions? Can you find examples of this? Design one of your own?

Classroom or homework task: List, analyse, design

- A> What facts about temples did you learn from the clip? What did you know already? Make a list.
- B> Make a list of the buildings referred to in the clip. Can you add 5 more examples to your list? Which are most important, and why?
- C> Compare the value of having a local place of worship – mosque, synagogue or church to practise your religion all the time with the significance of global sites, maybe where the religion began, like Jerusalem, Rome or Makkah. Which do you think is more significant and why?
- D> Many non-religious people continue to enjoy some places for their spiritual significance: a mountain top, riverside, favourite walk or place with memories. Are these places as important as any temples or religious buildings?

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of the significance to believers of different places of worship
- Give reasons for their views about whether it matters where people worship.
- Handle information and ideas effectively so that they can answer with reasons the questions above.

T is for Temples

What facts about temples did you learn from the clip?

What did you know already?

Is it better to have a holy space 'just around the corner' for any day use, or to visit a globally famous and amazing holy building once in a decade? Give reasons for your answer.

In the UK there are about 50,000 Christian congregations, most of whom have a place of worship, nearly 2000 Mosques (Muslim), about 400+ Synagogues (Jewish) and Mandirs (Hindu). What surprises you about these figures?

Your own spiritual space: If you could travel to a place somewhere on earth for a week of spiritual living, where would you go? Why? Who with? What would you do there? What would you hope for? (Continue on more paper if you need to)

Research 5 Top Religious Buildings in the World: (You could use a group like this one, Flickr's religious buildings section.

www.flickr.com/groups/941390@N22/pool

There are lots of Christian, Muslim and Jewish buildings here, and some Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh examples) Here, note your 5 top choices. In another document you can copy pictures and give your comments on why the photos attracted you. Put a religion in the search bar to get photos from that one faith. *Tag the pictures you choose with keywords: peace, community, faith, love, generosity, presence of God. Say why.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Many non-religious people enjoy spiritual space on a mountain top, a riverside, a favourite walk or a place with memories. Are these places as important as any temples or religious buildings?