

# Artefacts and visual images

## 7.2

### Activity to support schools in addressing the question, 'Do we have access in school to a sufficient range of religious artefacts and visual images?'

The following provides a checklist of some of the key artefacts and visual images associated with each of the main religions, taking into account (a) the variety and diversity within each of these traditions, and (b) that 'artefacts' and 'visual images' can often be one and the same. Key artefacts and visual images associated with some of the minority religious traditions, as well as multi/interfaith work and Humanism, are also listed. Teachers should consult with their RE syllabus to establish which artefacts and visual images are most appropriate for their *own* situations.

| Religion         | Some key examples   | Notes |
|------------------|---|-------|
| <b>Buddhist</b>  | Contrasting Buddha <i>rupas</i> (images); offering bowls; bell and <i>dorje</i> (Tibetan Buddhism); <i>mala</i> (string of beads); miniature <i>stupa</i> (reliquary); <i>thangka</i> (Tibetan wall hanging); Buddhist scriptures; butter lamp; images or artefacts associated with Western forms of Buddhism (e.g. the <i>kesa</i> used in the Triratna Buddhist Order (formerly the Western Buddhist Order)). Visual images of: lay people and monks/nuns; the lotus; Western and Eastern Buddhist buildings (e.g. London Peace Pagoda, British house <i>viharas</i> , Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Rangoon); Buddhists living in different cultures; the <i>Dalai Lama</i> (Tibetan Buddhism). |       |
| <b>Christian</b> | Different types of cross (e.g. plain, crucifix, South American); witness pin; rosary beads (Roman Catholicism); <i>chalice</i> and <i>pater</i> ; various kinds of candle (e.g. plain, baptismal, Easter); Nativity sets (from different cultures); icons (e.g. Greek, Russian); Salvation Army tambourine and flag; Bible (various translations). Visual images of: depictions of the crucifixion (classic and modern); Christian buildings from around the world; Christians living in different cultures; the Pope (Roman Catholicism); the Archbishop of Canterbury; Archbishop Desmond Tutu.   |       |

# Artefacts and visual images

## 7.2 (Continued)

| Religion      | Some key examples   | Notes |
|---------------|---|-------|
| <b>Hindu</b>  | Various <i>murtis</i> (physical images) of Hindu deities (e.g. <i>Rama</i> , <i>Sita</i> , <i>Lakshman</i> , <i>Hanuman</i> , <i>Ganesh</i> ); image/picture of <i>Khrishna</i> (including as baby/child); <i>puja</i> (worship) set with <i>aum</i> (Hindu symbol); image of the <i>Trimurti</i> ( <i>Brahma</i> , <i>Vishnu</i> and <i>Shiva</i> ); <i>mala</i> (prayer beads); image/picture of <i>Lakshmi</i> (goddess of fortune); <i>arti</i> lamp/tray; image/picture of <i>Shiva</i> Natraja ( <i>Shiva</i> as Lord of the Dance); <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> (devotional text). Visual images of: Hindu temples in Britain and elsewhere; Hindus living in different cultures; Hindu celebrations; Mahatma Gandhi. |       |
| <b>Muslim</b> | Prayer mat; <i>qiblah</i> compass (showing direction of the <i>Ka'bah</i> in Makkah); <i>Qur'an</i> stand; <i>tasbeih/subhah</i> (prayer beads); clothing for pilgrimage ( <i>Hajj</i> ); wall plaque (e.g. showing the <i>Ka'bah</i> in Makkah); examples of calligraphy and Arabesque design; <i>Qur'an</i> (Arabic and English translation); poster listing the prophets of Islam. Visual images of: famous mosques (e.g. Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, Sacred Mosque in Makkah, Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem) and of European mosques (e.g. Central Mosque in Dundee, Regents Park Mosque in London); Muslims living in different cultures.   |       |
| <b>Jewish</b> | <i>Seder</i> (Passover) plate and <i>hagadah</i> (book); <i>challah</i> cloth; <i>mezuzah</i> (placed on doorposts); <i>tallit</i> (prayer shawl); <i>kippah</i> (skull cap); <i>kiddush</i> cup; <i>Shabbat</i> (Sabbath) candles and candlesticks; <i>siddur</i> (prayer book); <i>hanukiah</i> (nine-branched <i>Hanukkah</i> lamp); <i>menorah</i> (seven-branched candelabrum); Torah scroll (facsimile); <i>magen david</i> (Shield of David symbol). Images of: the Western Wall in Jerusalem; European synagogues and monuments; famous Jewish thinkers and artists; Jews living in different cultures.   |       |
| <b>Sikh</b>   | <i>Chauri</i> (waved over holy book); examples of some of the Five Ks (e.g. <i>kara</i> (wristband), <i>kangha</i> (comb), <i>kacchera</i> (undershorts), <i>kirpan</i> (short sword)); <i>Ik Onkar</i> symbol; <i>Nishan Sahib</i> (flag); <i>mala</i> (prayer beads); <i>Gutka</i> (book of daily prayers). Visual images of: Guru Nanak, Guru Gobind Singh, the Ten Gurus; <i>Har Mandir</i> (the Golden Temple in Amritsar); European <i>gurdwaras</i> (Sikh temples); Sikhs living in different cultures.  |       |

# Artefacts and visual images

## 7.2 (Continued)

| Religion                 | Some key examples  | Notes |
|--------------------------|--|-------|
| <b>Jain</b>              | Statue/image of <i>Mahavira</i> ; Jain symbol. Visual images of: Jain temples (e.g. in Leicester); Jains living in different cultures.   |       |
| <b>Zoroastrian</b>       | Visual image of a <i>fravashi</i> (guardian spirit); Zoroastrians living in different cultures.  |       |
| <b>Bahà'ì</b>            | Bahà'ì symbols (e.g. nine-pointed star, the 'Greatest Name' and the 'Ringstone Symbol'). Visual images of Bahà'ì temples (e.g. in Haifa in Israel, New Delhi in India); Bahà'ìs living in different cultures.  |       |
| <b>Multi/inter-faith</b> | Logos (e.g. Three Faiths Forum, the Inter Faith Network); picture of group at an interfaith youth event (World Congress of Faiths); pictures showing Inter Faith Week events ( <a href="http://www.interfaithweek.org">www.interfaithweek.org</a> ); poster showing wording of the Charter of Compassion ( <a href="http://www.charterforcompassion.org">www.charterforcompassion.org</a> ); the UN Millennium Declaration and pictures of its launch. |       |
| <b>Humanism</b>          | The 'Happy Human' (international symbol of Humanism).  |       |

*Please note*

For those unfamiliar with some of the above terms, a general 'Glossary of Religious Terms' is available via the re-net website:

[www.re-net.ac.uk/attachments/28f345b6-4936-4043-9cc4-440e2f9b298c.pdf](http://www.re-net.ac.uk/attachments/28f345b6-4936-4043-9cc4-440e2f9b298c.pdf)

In addition, there are two audio glossaries that demonstrate pronunciation:

- a general glossary produced by the Shap Working Party on Education in Religions: [www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/glossary.html](http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk/glossary.html)
- a Jewish glossary located on the Jewish Way of Life (JWoL) website: [www.jwol.org.uk/index.php?id=8](http://www.jwol.org.uk/index.php?id=8).