


<h1>R</h1>	<h1>RITUALS</h1>	<p>What's it all about? The significance of rituals A religion without ritual would be boring. No such religion exists. So, what do examples of some major religious rituals tell us about how religions – and humans – work? By bringing everyone together to experience what is deeper than everyday life. Muslim and Jewish baby welcoming ceremonies are examples of 'rituals of passage' – the big steps through life.</p>
 <p>The Hindu Aarti ceremony uses lit burning ghee lamps, and devotees give thanks to the gods and goddesses daily. All religions have rituals, some to mark births, marriages and deaths others for everyday living, or once in a lifetime to show thankfulness, worship or to glue a community together.</p>	<p>Aarti (in Hinduism) uses flame, daily, to remember and thank the gods and goddesses. Eucharist is an enactment of Jesus' Last Supper, a remembrance of Jesus using bread and wine. Some people take a ritual journey – pilgrimage. Hindus, for instance, go to the River Ganges, the Mother River. And millions of Muslims go to the Haram Mosque in Makkah – it is extended in between pilgrimages almost every year!</p> <p>A religion without ritual would be a club for people who believe the same things. But rituals such as festivals, pilgrimages, baby-welcome ceremonies and weddings can all function inside different religions to be joyful, thankful, challenging or relaxed. And that point probably applies as well to non-religious rituals – can you think of examples?</p>	
<p>Which religions and beliefs?</p> <p>Hindu Jewish Muslim Christian</p> <p>Clip available here: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-r-is-for-rituals/zkfp382</p>	<p>Key Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a ritual? • Why do religions have rituals? What difference do they make? • Can rituals make us open to the deeper meanings of life? • Which rituals are daily, weekly, annually or once in a lifetime? • What non-religious rituals can you identify? (e.g. from sport, in annual celebrations like Red Nose Day, Valentine's Day or Remembrance Day?) 	<p>Classroom or homework task: Rituals Explained</p> <p>A> Take one ritual... How is this ritual practised? What do believers say it means? How does it connect to the emotions of joy, thankfulness, challenge or relaxation? How might joining in with the ritual 'glue the community together'?</p> <p>B> Compare religious and non-religious. There are lots of ritual associated with sport – fans' and players' clothing, pre-match courtesies, singing, non-standard body language, celebrating success, holding up the cup. Give some examples. How are these similar to religious rituals? Suggestion: soccer is a great sport, but a poor substitute for religion.</p> <p>C> Religion's best bits. Annual festivals (Divali, Christmas) are religion's most popular bits. Should religions open these up to non-members, or is Christmas just for Christians, Divali just for Hindus?</p> <p>D> A new ritual? Can you suggest a ritual for 'being recognised as an adult' in a society like modern Britain, where very many people are not religious? Would you include: a period of learning, a test, a public promise, new responsibilities and rights, gifts, partying?</p> <p>Suggested outcomes: students can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give an informed account of some different religious rituals. ▪ Use examples to show they understand the concept of ritual in religious and non-religious settings ▪ Handle ideas effectively by making a creative suggestion for a new ritual in which people are accepted as adults in modern Britain.

R is for Ritual

Non-rational repeated actions that mean something to the people involved

Choose a religious ritual that you know a bit about and describe it: how frequently does it happen? Who does what? Who joins in? What are the meanings of the symbols?

A ritual is a way of behaving that expresses an idea using symbol, and is repeated in a religion maybe daily, weekly, yearly or across lifetimes.

Here are some rituals that happen at a big football match: Why do they happen? How do they feel?

- ⊕ Fans wear particular clothes
- ⊕ Teams line up and sing at the beginning
- ⊕ Players all dress the same
- ⊕ There are special rules
- ⊕ Singing in a large crowd
- ⊕ People hug and kiss who don't usually do this
- ⊕ After the special time is over, things return to normal
- ⊕ Silver cups are paraded around
- ⊕ Emotions run high: there is joy, sorrow, triumph and disaster. People really care.

Annual festivals are 'religion's best bits' – way more people do Christmas than go to church on an average Sunday, and it's the same for Eid and Divali. Why do people enjoy an annual festival like Christmas? What rituals do people like to join in with? (examples: a tree in the house / Christmas music / unusual lighting)

How are any of the ritual actions of football similar to any you know from a religion?

Invent a new ritual: suggest what a new British ritual for becoming an adult might include. Would you include: a period of learning, a test, a public promise, new responsibilities and rights, gifts, partying? Start your answer here and continue on a separate sheet.