

KS1 Special Journeys: Unit Overview

Why Do People Go On Special Journeys and Pilgrimages?

Introduction

This Unit allows learners to explore the idea of special journeys and religious pilgrimages. They will discover why people from different religions and worldviews choose to go on these journeys, what they experience and what these journeys mean to them.

Unit Essentials

- ▶ Read our [RE CPD Islam](#), [RE CPD Christianity](#), [RE CPD Judaism](#) and [RE CPD Humanism](#) to support your knowledge and understanding of the different faiths and worldviews explored in this Unit.
- ▶ Download [How to Teach RE in KS1: Describe the Main Beliefs of a Religion](#) to support your teaching.
- ▶ Lesson 3 Outdoor Opportunity – For this opportunity, the class will visit a local church to deepen their understanding of Christian pilgrimages. You will need to carry out the necessary risk assessments and arrange for any additional staff support ahead of the visit.
- ▶ Lesson 3 Creative Opportunity – For this creative task, pupils will design and make their own stained glass windows using cellophane, coloured paper and scissors.
- ▶ Lesson 5 Creative Opportunity – Pupils will use materials such as clay, cardboard or building blocks to construct a model of a significant landmark.

Progression Statements

- ▶ Understand that a pilgrimage is a journey made to a special place for religious reasons.
- ▶ Recognise that people travel on pilgrimages to show devotion and seek spiritual growth.
- ▶ Learn about specific pilgrimage sites such as the Ka'bah in Mecca, the Western Wall in Jerusalem and the Ganges river in Varanasi.
- ▶ Understand why these sites are considered sacred and significant to believers.
- ▶ Explore simple stories and legends associated with pilgrimage sites.

Disciplinary Lens

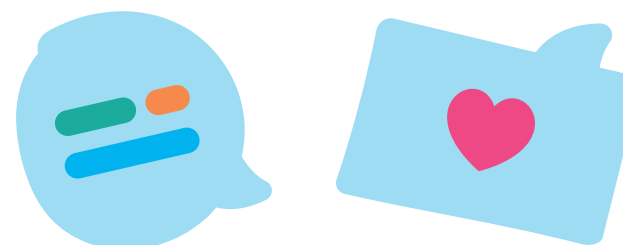
- ▶ In this Unit, we will be using the Social Science lens. This [Using Lenses in Worldview Explorers](#) resource will help you to understand how we use the Disciplinary Lenses in our Worldview Explorers scheme.

Prior Learning

Previously in KS1, during the Belonging Unit, children learnt about what it means to be part of different communities. In the Sacred Places in Judaism Unit, they were introduced to the concept of pilgrimage and discovered that Jewish people often visit the Western Wall. You can find the progression of learning with statements on the [Progression Map](#).

Digging Deeper

Each lesson in this Unit will support learners in developing a deeper understanding of pilgrimages and why people from various faiths and worldviews choose to go on them. By the time pupils encounter the LKS2 Pilgrimages Unit, they will have a solid understanding of why Christians may choose to undertake a pilgrimage. Together, these units will build a strong foundation for the UKS2 Islamic Pilgrimage Unit, where children will explore the rituals and historical background associated with Islamic pilgrimages.



Lesson Breakdown

Lesson 1: What Is a Special Journey?

In this lesson, children will think about what makes some journeys more special than others. They will also be introduced to the idea of pilgrimages.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: Open to all religions and worldviews

Resources:

- ▶ [Lesson Pack 1](#)
- ▶ [Knowledge Organiser](#)
- ▶ [Additional Resources Pack](#)

Lesson 2: What Is Hajj and Why Is It a Special Journey for Muslims?

Pupils will review the Five Pillars of Islam, with a focus on the fifth pillar which is Hajj. They will learn why Muslims travel to Mecca, what happens during the Hajj and why the Ka'bah is so important.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: Islam

Resources:

- ▶ [Lesson Pack 2](#)
- ▶ [Knowledge Organiser](#)

Lesson 3: Why Do Christians Go on Special Journeys?

This lesson explores why Christians may choose to go on special journeys. Pupils will learn about Canterbury Cathedral in Kent and understand why it is a place of pilgrimage for many Christians.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: Christianity

Resources:

- ▶ [Lesson Pack 3](#)
- ▶ [Additional Resources Pack](#)

Lesson 4: Why Do Jewish People Go on Special Journeys?

In this lesson, pupils will explore the significance of the Western Wall in Jerusalem for Jewish people. They will learn why people visit and the emotions they may feel during the journey.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: Judaism

Resources:

- ▶ [Lesson Pack 4](#)
- ▶ [Additional Resources Pack](#)

Lesson 5: Where Might Humanists Go on Special Journeys?

This lesson introduces humanist ideas about special journeys. Pupils will find out where humanists might choose to go and what they hope to gain or learn from these experiences.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: humanism

Resources:

- ▶ [Lesson Pack 5](#)
- ▶ [Additional Resources Pack](#)

Lesson 6: How Are Special Journeys Similar and How Are They Different?

In this lesson, pupils will review the different journeys they have learnt about. They will compare and contrast the reasons people go on these journeys and what makes each one unique or similar.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: Islam, Christianity, Judaism and humanism

Resources

- ▶ [Lesson Pack 6](#)

Lesson Breakdown

Additional Lesson: Why Do Hindus Go on Special Journeys?

In this lesson, pupils will explore why Hindus go on pilgrimages to significant places such as the River Ganges and what the Kumbh Mela is.

Religions and Worldviews Covered: Hindu Dharma

Resources:

► [Additional Lesson Pack 1](#)