

# Christianity

**Jesus** Christians believe Jesus was the Son of God.

**Church** The Christian place of worship.

**Bible** The Christian holy book.

**Priest** The leader of a Catholic church is often called a priest. They might also be called a priest in other churches

**Vicar** A vicar is a leader of a church. They lead church services and perform ceremonies, such as weddings and baptisms.

**Crucifix** You might see a crucifix in some churches. A crucifix is a cross with Jesus on. It reminds Christians of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

**Disciples** The disciples were twelve people whom Jesus chose to follow him and help him talk to people about God

**Communion** A special church service where Christians share bread and wine to remember the sacrifice they believe Jesus made on the cross.

**Eucharist** Another name for communion, the Eucharist involves sharing bread and wine and saying special words to remember Jesus

**Prayer** Christians believe that by praying, they can talk to God. They might share their worries or give thanks for the things they have.

**Trinity** Christians believe in one God in three parts, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

**Holy Spirit** Christians believe the Holy Spirit is the part of God who is here on Earth. They sometimes call the Holy Spirit God's 'helper' and it can be symbolised by fire, wind or even a dove.



**Pastor** Sometimes, a leader of a church is called a pastor. They lead church services and talk to people about Christianity.

**Cross** The cross is an important symbol of Christianity, as it reminds Christians of the sacrifice they believe Jesus made for them when he died on the cross

**Hymn** A song which Christians sing, containing words about God, Jesus or the Christian faith, sung as part of worship.

**Easter** A festival where Christians remember Jesus' death on the cross. On Easter Sunday, Christians also celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

**Christmas** At Christmas, Christians remember the birth of Jesus, who they believe is the Son of God

**Heaven** Christians believe that if they follow their Christian faith and believe in Jesus, they will go to heaven when they die. They believe Jesus will be there too.



# Islam

**Muslim** A Muslim is a follower of Islam.

**Muhammad** Muhammad was the final prophet of Islam. He recited the words which were recorded to form the text of the Qur'an. Muslims say the words 'peace be upon him' after they say his name.

**Mosque** A mosque is a Muslim place of worship, learning and celebration.

**Qur'an** The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam. It is written in Arabic and Muslims learn and recite from it.

**Hajj** Hajj is the fifth Pillar of Islam. It is a special pilgrimage performed once a year to Mecca to worship and pray to Allah.

**Ramadan** Muslims recognise the fourth Pillar of Islam, Sawm, during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims fast during the daylight hours of the month of Ramadan.

**Eid al-Fitr** Eid al-Fitr is the end of Ramadan, and it is a great time of celebration for Muslims. It is a way of thanking Allah for helping Muslims stay strong through Ramadan.

**Muezzin** A person who, standing from the minaret of a mosque, calls Muslims to prayer.

**Five Pillars** Five acts that Muslims do to live a good life. The five pillars are Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj.

**Salat** The second pillar of Islam is Salat, which is a prayer ritual. Muslims perform Salat five times a day.

**Hijab** A hijab is a veil, often in the form of a head scarf, which some Muslim women wear

**Halal** Muslims use the term halal to describe anything that is allowed in Islamic law. It is often used with food and drinks.



**Imam** The imam is the leader of a mosque and the worship services held within and also of a Muslim community.

**Allah** The name used by Muslims for God. It is 'God' in Arabic.

**Mecca** Mecca is the home of the Ka'bah, which was originally constructed by the Prophets Is'mail and Ibrahim. It was restored by the Prophet Muhammad after his pilgrimage in AD628.

**Adhan** The call a Muezzin makes from a minaret for Muslims to come to prayer.

**Minaret** The tower at the top of a mosque where the Muezzin makes their call to prayer.

**Prophet** A messenger who speaks the word of Allah.



# Hinduism

**Mandir** The Hindu place of worship.

**Brahman** The Hindu God and life force that is present in everything. The different Hindu Gods are all expressions of Brahman.

**Brahma** One of the Trimurti, Brahma the creator, is a Hindu god who created the world and all living things on it.

**Trimurti** The Trimurti, three forms, are the three aspects of Brahman: Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma. Often depicted in statues as one person with three faces

**Saraswati** She is the Hindu goddess of knowledge and the arts and consort of Brahma the creator.

**Lakshmi** She is the Hindu goddess of wealth and purity and the consort of Vishnu.

**Shakti** Shakti is honoured as the mother goddess, a universal source of energy, power and creativity.

**Ganesh** The son of Shiva and Parvati, Ganesh is depicted as having a head of an elephant and a human body and gives good fortune and wisdom.

**Karma** The belief that for every action there is a consequence. In Hinduism, Karma is the belief that the actions performed in this life will affect what happens to you in the next life.

**Dharma** Duty, religion, virtue and morality, Dharma is what is expected of each individual to uphold order - it is the 'right way of living'.

**Atman** Atman means 'eternal self' and it is the belief that there is a part of Brahma in everyone.

**Hanuman** He is the symbol of strength and energy. A devotee of Lord Rama, who fought with him against the demon king Ravana



**Vishnu** The Hindu god responsible for protecting and preserving the universe.

**Shiva** A part of the Trimurti, Shiva is the Hindu god of destruction.

**Tridevi** The Tridevi is the joining of the three Hindu goddesses Saraswati, Lakshmi and Parvati.

**Reincarnation** In Hinduism, it is believed that life is a cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The rebirth doesn't have to be in human form and could be an animal or plant.

**Moksha** Leaving the cycle of birth and rebirth to become one with the God.

**Puja** The Hindu act of worship (often undertaken at home), where shrines of gods are offered food, treated as guests and prayed to

**Murti** A statue of a god or goddess.

**Diwali** The Hindu festival of lights is associated with many stories. The main one being a celebration of the return of Lord Rama after an exile of 14 years, where he killed the demon king Ravana.



# Sikhism

**Guru** A Guru is a spiritual teacher. Sikhism has ten human gurus.

**Guru Granth Sahib** Guru Granth Sahib is the Sikh holy book

**Khalsa** A path that Sikhs who have been baptised and wear the five Ks follow. It was started by Guru Gobind Singh.

**The Five Ks** These are five symbols that Sikh people can wear. These are kesh, kangha, kara, kachera and kirpan.

**Kesh** Kesh means 'hair'. Members of the Khalsa promise not to cut their hair.

**Kara** Kara is a steel bracelet.

**Kachera** Kachera are short, white trousers worn under clothes

**Kirpan** The kirpan is a small dagger. It acts as a reminder that Sikhs should always fight for what is right.

**Gurudwara** A Gurudwara is the Sikh place of worship. Guru means teacher and dwara means door.

**Langar** A kitchen at the Gurudwara where all are welcome to eat is called a langar.

**Turban** A turban is a very long piece of material that some Sikhs wrap around their head. It is seen as a token of love and obedience of the wishes of Sikh gurus.

**Granthi** A person who leads services at a Gurudwara.

**Nishan Sahib** A triangular flag flown outside most Gurudwaras.

**Diwali** During this festival, Sikhs celebrate the release of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, and 52 other princes in 1619. It is also known as Bandi Chhor Divas (Day of Liberation)

**Kangha** Kangha is a comb used for keeping hair neat.





# Judaism

**Torah** The Torah is the religious document which contains the first five books of Moses. These are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It provides the law and wisdom of Jewish Scripture.

**Rabbi** A rabbi is a teacher of Jewish law who is trained for religious leadership

**Kippah /kipot** A kippah is a small circular piece of material like a cap, which Jewish males wear as a sign of devotion to God.

**Star of David** The Star of David is a symbol which has six points, each representing a different aspect of something important in the Jewish beliefs. These six aspects are creation, revelation (the revealing of God's will), redemption (to be saved from sin), Man, the World and God

**Hanukkah** Hanukkah is known as the festival lights. It lasts for eight days and is celebrated either in November or December.

**Menorah** The Menorah is a special candle with eight branches used in Jewish festivals and celebrations. It is representative of the burning bush on Mount Sinai as seen by Moses and is a symbol of light, wisdom and Divine inspiration.

**Matzos** Matzo is unleavened bread. This means it has not risen and remains flat. It is eaten during the festival of Passover as a reminder of what the Jewish slaves ate as Moses led them out of slavery.

**Synagogue** A synagogue is a Jewish building of worship to God with a large room for prayer and smaller rooms for study.

**Passover** Passover is also called Pesach. It is a Jewish festival which is celebrated in spring and lasts for seven or eight days. It is held to remember those who Moses saved from slavery





**Tallit** A tallit is a prayer shawl with a tassel fringe. The tassels remind the person wearing it of all the commandments they should live by.

**Shabbat** Shabbat is the seventh day of the Jewish week which is a Friday. The family gather together for a special meal after the sun has gone down. The meal begins with prayers. Shabbat lasts until one hour after sundown on Saturday. It is a time of rest, prayer and celebration.

**Seder plate** The Seder plate is used during the festival of Passover. Special foods are placed on the plate to remind Jewish people of the time when Moses led the Jews from slavery to freedom.

