

Key Vocabulary

pilgrimage	A long journey made to a sacred place out of devotion
Mecca	The place Muslims go on Hajj each year
Hajj	One of the five pillars of Islam – a pilgrimage to Mecca, Muslims would try to do this at least once in their lifetime
Golden Temple	A holy place for Sikh pilgrims in Amritsar in India
Lourdes, France	A place where Catholics go to be healed by the miraculous waters
Western Wall	Part of the old city of Jerusalem where Jews go to pray



The Kaaba in Mecca

**Our big question:
Why is pilgrimage important for some religious believers ?**

Which places have you been to which you thought were special? Why did you think that? Why were they important? What happened there to make it memorable? What is the difference between a special place and a sacred or holy place?



Golden Temple Amritsar, India

What is similar and what is different between different pilgrimage experiences?

Powerful knowledge

People from different religions make pilgrimages to sites which have a deep spiritual significance. Muslims travel to Mecca, Jewish people go to the western wall in Jerusalem, Sikhs visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar in India and Catholic Christians might go to Lourdes. There are special beliefs and stories as to why these places of pilgrimage have developed. The reasons for pilgrimages vary but might include obedience, an opportunity to remember or reflect or to repent (say sorry). Going on a pilgrimage is symbolic of making a journey and progress in life. We will explore how this makes an impact on peoples' lives.



Western wall in Jerusalem

What I know already

Different religions have sacred spaces of worship: Mosques for Muslims, Cathedrals and churches for Christians, Temple of Gurdwara for Sikhs and Synagogues for Jews. In these places of worship there are special practices which reflect and inform peoples' beliefs.

