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Religious Education: Religious Traditions of the World



Religious Traditions of the World

	Christian Traditions	Jewish Traditions	Sikh Faith Traditions	Hindu Traditions	Buddhist Traditions	Muslim Traditions
	<p>BBC Bitesize: Christianity</p> <p>Christianity is the name of the religion, and its followers are known as Christians.</p> <p>Today, there are over 2.2 billion Christians around the world, making Christianity the most followed religion.</p>	<p>BBC Bitesize: Judaism</p> <p>Judaism is the name of the religion, and its followers are known as Jews.</p>	<p>BBC Bitesize: Sikhism</p> <p>Sikhism is the name of the religion, and its followers are known as Sikhs.</p> <p>Sikhism has approximately 27 million followers worldwide, with about 83% of Sikhs living in India. Over 430,000 Sikhs live in the UK.</p>	<p>BBC Bitesize: Hinduism</p> <p>Hinduism is the name of the religion, and its followers are known as Hindus.</p> <p>Hinduism has over 1 billion followers worldwide, with about 95% of Hindus living in India. At the time of the 2011 census, there were over 800,000 Hindus living in the UK.</p>	<p>BBC Bitesize: Buddhism</p> <p>Buddhism is the name of the religion, and its followers are known as Buddhists.</p> <p>Today there are around 376 million Buddhists living around the world, with approximately 180,000 living in the UK.</p>	<p>BBC Bitesize: Islam</p> <p>Islam is the name of the religion, and its followers are known as Muslims.</p> <p>Today there are around 1.9 billion Muslims around the world, with over 3 million Muslims living in the UK.</p>
<p>Special Food</p>	<p>Holy Communion / Eucharist Bread and wine - communion - the 'Lord's Supper' - a symbol of Jesus.</p>  <p>BBC Teach: Communion</p> <p>Other Symbolic Food Some foods, e.g. milk and honey, fish, have representations in the Bible.</p> <p>Some foods, e.g. hot cross buns, Easter eggs, mince pies, have symbolic connections to Christian festivals.</p>	<p>Challah</p>  <p>Challah bread is made before Shabbat so that it is ready to be eaten on the day. These loaves are round but they would often be plaited in an oval shape. They can have sweet or savoury flavours added to the dough, or they can be left plain.</p> <p>Seder</p>  <p>On the evening before Passover starts, Jews have a special service called a Seder (Order). This takes place over a meal with family and friends at home.</p> <p>During the meal, the story of Exodus is told from a book called the Haggadah (Narration). Everybody takes part in reading from the Haggadah. Some parts are read in Hebrew and some parts are read in English.</p> <p>Everyone at the Seder has a cushion to lean on. This reminds them that they are now free people and no longer enslaved. They also sing lots of songs.</p> <p>Kashrut The Torah has rules about what Jews can and can't eat, called kashrut. Foods that Jews are allowed to eat are called kosher. Jews can eat any animal with split hooves and more than one stomach. These animals must also be slaughtered according to religious laws.</p> <p>This means that Jews can eat beef, but not meat from pigs. Meat and milk may not be mixed. Fish without scales or fins, and shellfish are also forbidden.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize: Passover (Including Seder) BBC Bitesize: Seder Video BBC Bitesize: Seder Video 2 BBC Bitesize: Kosher Food</p>	<p>The Langar</p>   <p>The 'langar' is a weekly meal served in the gurdwara. It often includes lentils, rice, potato curry and vegetable curry. It is served for the whole community - everyone is welcome and the meal is provided for free.</p> <p>The langar (or free kitchen) was introduced by Guru Nanak, who was the founder of Sikhism and the first Guru, because of his belief in the oneness of humanity. He offered free meals to everyone, regardless of their caste, gender or wealth. It was a place where everyone gathered and ate together.</p> <p>BBC Newsround: Langar</p>	<p>Vegetarianism Many Hindus are vegetarian because they live by a principle called ahimsa, which means not harming any living creature. Hindus believe cows are especially holy so many Hindus avoid eating or harming them.</p>		<p>Halal Food which Muslims are allowed to eat is called halal and the food they should not eat is called haram (an Arabic word for 'unlawful' or 'forbidden'). In order for meat to be halal, the animal must be slaughtered in a particular way. Most Muslims believe that the rules around the slaughter of animals are designed to minimise pain and distress for the animal.</p>

Special Clothing

Vestments

Many Christians will dress smartly when they attend church services, but there are not strict rules about clothing. Priests, ministers and other members of the clergy will usually wear special clothes called vestments, to show they are in a position of authority.

[Cbeebies What's On Your Head? Mitre](#)

Kippah / Coverings

Many Jews choose to cover their head. Men often wear small caps known as a kippah or yarmulke. They may also wear a special shawl with tassels called a tallit. Orthodox Jewish women also cover their heads with wigs or hats. Orthodox Jewish men may wear tefillin on their head and arm when praying. These are little boxes containing words from the Torah.



[Cbeebies What's On Your Head? Kippah](#)

The Five Ks



The Sikh community of men and women is known as the Khalsa which means the 'Community of the Pure'.

In order to become a Sikh and join the Khalsa, people need to follow the Five Ks.



[BBC Bitesize: The Five Ks](#)
[BBC Bitesize: The Five Ks Video](#)
[BBC Teach: The Five Ks Video](#)

Turban

The turban is the most visible symbol of Sikh pride and identity. The turban is an eight metre long piece of cloth. It is used by Sikh men to hold their hair, which they are not allowed to cut.

[Cbeebies What's On Your Head? Turban](#)

Robes for Monks and Nuns

Buddhist monks and nuns wear simple robes, and the colour often depends on the denomination – or branch - of Buddhism they belong to. Typically, the colours will be autumn colours such as yellow, orange, brown or maroon.

Monks and nuns also shave their heads to show they've given up worrying about the way they look. This follows the example of the Buddha, after he had renounced his comfortable life at the palace. Followers of Buddhism don't have to dress in a special way, but on important occasions will often wear white as a sign of purity.

Hijab / Jilbab / Niqab

Many Muslim women chose to wear certain types of clothing as a sign of respect and modesty. This may include a headscarf called a hijab to cover their head in public. Some women might wear a long loose dress called a jilbab, or a face covering called a niqab.

Men will sometimes wear a cap called a topi, especially when they're praying.

[BBC Teach: The Hijab](#)
[Cbeebies What's On Your Head? Hijab](#)
[BBC Newsround: Hijab, Niqab and Burka](#)

Special Buildings

Church / Chapel / Cathedral



Many Christians worship in churches. Some groups meet in homes and other buildings. 'Church' means the gathering of Christians as well as the building in which Christians worship. Their leaders are called priests or ministers.

Many churches hold a service called Communion, Eucharist or Mass, in which bread and wine are shared together, just as Jesus did with his followers before his death.

[BBC Bitesize: Worship in a Church](#)

Synagogue



Jews worship God in a synagogue. Jewish people attend services at the synagogue on Saturdays during Shabbat.

Shabbat (the Sabbath) is the most important time of the week for Jews. It begins on Friday evenings and ends at sunset on Saturdays. During Shabbat, Jews remember that God created the world and on the seventh day he rested. Jews believe God's day of rest was a Saturday.

The services in the synagogue are led by a religious leader called a rabbi, which means 'Teacher' in Hebrew.

[BBC Bitesize: Shabbat at the Synagogue](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Shabbat Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Synagogue Video](#)

Gurdwara



The Sikh place of worship is called a Gurdwara which means 'Gateway to the Guru'. A Gurdwara is any building where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept.

In the UK, Sikhs usually go to the Gurdwara on Sundays. During the services they listen to teachings based on the Guru Granth Sahib. They also chant and say prayers from the gurus. These are called Keertan.

[BBC Bitesize: The Gurdwara Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: The Gurdwara Video 2](#)
[BBC Teach: The Gurdwara Video](#)

Mandir



Hindus worship in a temple called a Mandir. Mandirs vary in size from small village shrines to large buildings, surrounded by walls.

People can also visit the Mandir at any time to pray and participate in the bhajans (religious songs).

Hindus also worship at home and often have a special room with a shrine to particular gods.



[BBC Teach: Hindu Temple Video](#)

Buddhist Temple



In Buddhist countries there are many temples. People bring flowers and incense for the shrine and food for the monks.

When entering a temple, Buddhists will take off their shoes, put their hands together and bow to the image of the Buddha. They may also use prayer beads called malas.

Some Buddhists may also have a shrine within their home too.

Mosque



Muslims worship in a building called a mosque. On Friday at noon, the most important of the weekly services is held.

When Muslims pray, they must always face Makkah in Saudi Arabia. Many Muslim men will wear a small cap called a taqiyah when they pray.

Muslims prepare themselves for worship through wudu which is a particular method of washing their body. This prepares them physically and mentally for their time of worship to Allah.

[BBC Bitesize: Prayers at the Mosque Video](#)
[BBC Teach: The Mosque](#)

Special Books

The Bible



The Christian holy book is the Bible. It is divided into the Old and New Testaments.

The New Testament explains how God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to restore the broken relationship between people and God which had been caused by human wrong-doing.

[BBC Bitesize: The Bible](#)
[BBC Teach: The Bible Video](#)

The Tanakh



The Jewish holy book is known as the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible. The word Tanakh comes from the first letters of the three different parts of the book:

The Torah (T) which is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. The Christian Bible also begins with these books, in the part which Christians call the Old Testament.

The Nevi'im (N) which are the books of the Jewish prophets such as Joshua and Isaiah.

Ketuvim (K) which is a collection of other important writings.
The Torah has 613 commandments which are called mitzvah. They are the rules that Jews try to follow. The most important ones are the Ten Commandments given to Moses.

The Torah is so special that people are not allowed to touch it. It is kept in a safe place called an ark in the Jewish temple and when people read from the Torah, they use a special pointer stick called a yad to follow the words.

[BBC Teach: The Torah Video](#)

Guru Granth Sahib



The Sikh holy book is called the Guru Granth Sahib. The tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, said that after him there would be no other living gurus. Instead, Sikhs could look at their holy book for guidance. This is why Sikhs call their holy book a Guru.

The Guru Granth Sahib is a collection of lessons from the ten gurus as well as Sikh, Hindu and Muslim saints. It is written in Punjabi and is greatly respected by all Sikhs as the living word of God. It is kept on a raised platform under a canopy in the Sikh place of worship. All Sikhs take off their shoes when they are near it.

[BBC Bitesize: Guru Granth Sahib Video](#)
[BBC Teach: Guru Granth Sahib Video](#)

The Vedas / Mahabharata / Ramayana / Puranas



Hinduism does not have a single holy book, but many ancient texts and scriptures.

The Vedas - a collection of hymns praising the Vedic gods. Veda means 'knowledge'.
The Ramayana - long epic poems about Rama and Sita.
The Mahabharata - which includes the Bhagavad Gita.
The Puranas - a collection of stories about the different incarnations and the lives of saints.

The Tripitaka

The Buddhist scriptures are known as the Tipitaka which means 'three baskets'. This is because the original writings were made on palm leaves and stored in baskets.

The Tipitaka contains the teachings of the Buddha and his companions, comments on those teachings, as well as rules for monks. Buddhists call the teachings of the Buddha dharma which means 'truth'.

The Qur'an

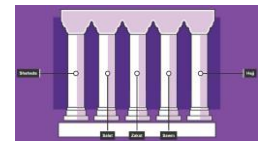


The Muslim holy book is called the Qur'an. Muslims believe this to be the word of Allah as dictated to Muhammad.

The Qur'an is the most important book in Islam. Muslims believe it was revealed to Muhammad by Allah through the Angel Jibreel. It has details on the existence of Allah, morality and historical events.

It is written in Arabic and Muslims believe it to be the perfect word of God. Muslims believe the Qur'an should be treated with great respect, and to damage or destroy it in any way is a great sin (a religious crime).

They also have the Sunnah, which Muslims believe to be the practical example of Prophet Muhammad.



[BBC Bitesize: The Qur'an Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: The Qur'an Video 2](#)
[BBC Bitesize: The Qur'an Video 3](#)
[BBC Teach: The Qur'an Video](#)

Special Stories

The Parable of the Good Samaritan



[BBC Bitesize Story](#)
[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: The Good Samaritan and the Lost Sheep](#)

The Parable of the Lost Son

[BBC Bitesize Story](#)

The Last Supper

[BBC Bitesize Story](#)

Zaccheus

[BBC Bitesize: Zaccheus](#)

Christmas

[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: The First Christmas](#)

Easter

[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: Easter](#)

Passover



[BBC Bitesize: Ten Plagues of Egypt](#)
[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: Moses](#)

Hanukkah



[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: Hanukkah](#)

The Story of Guru Nanak



[BBC Bitesize: Guru Nanak](#)

The Story of the Milk and the Jasmine Flower & The Story of Duni Chand and the Silver Needle



[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: Sikh Stories](#)

Rama and Sita



[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: Rama and Sita](#)

Siddhartha and the Swan and Monkey King



[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: Siddhartha and the Swan and Monkey King](#)

The Prophet and the Ants



[BBC Teach: Religions of the World: The Prophet and the Ants & Crying Camel](#)

Special People

God / Jesus / Holy Spirit / The Trinity



Christians believe there is only one God, but that he is revealed in three different forms:

God the Father (The creator of all things in Heaven and Earth.)

God the Son (Jesus Christ who came to Earth as a human being.)

The Holy Spirit (The power of God which draws people to Him.)



Christians model themselves on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught people to love God and love their neighbour.

Christians believe that God sent Jesus to live as a human being in order to save humanity from the consequences of its sins - the bad things humanity had chosen to do which had separated them from God.

Christians believe that through the death and resurrection of Jesus this broken relationship with God is restored.

God

Judaism teaches that there is one all-powerful God who created everything and who wants humans to live their lives following his rules, called commandments. These rules were given to individual people called Prophets who lived in the Middle East from about 4,000 years ago.

All Jews believe that they have a special relationship with God. This relationship is called the covenant. Jews promise to obey God's laws to say thank you to him for looking after them.

Abraham



Jews believe a man called Abraham was the first person to make a covenant with God. Abraham was a Hebrew. Jews believe God named Abraham's grandson Israel. After this, the Hebrews became known as the Israelites. Abraham is considered the father of the Jewish people and the Israelites are his descendants.

Moses



Later, a man named Moses saved the Jewish people from persecution in Egypt when he led them to safety across the Red Sea. After this, the Jews lived in the desert where God gave Moses a set of rules which they should live by, including the Ten Commandments. Moses is the most important Jewish prophet.

God

Sikhs believe in one God who guides and protects them. They believe everyone is equal before God. Sikhs believe that your actions are important and you should lead a good life. They believe the way to do this is:

Keep God in your heart and mind at all times
Live honestly and work hard
Treat everyone equally
Be generous to those less fortunate than you
Serve others

Guru Nanak



Guru Nanak is the founder of Sikhism. Guru means 'Teacher'.

Sikhism is still based on his teachings and those of the nine Sikh Gurus who followed him.

The Three Pillars of Sikhism are duties which all Sikhs must carry out. They were formalised by Guru Nanak, and can be summarised up in three words: pray, work, give.

[BBC Bitesize: Guru Nanak](#)
[BBC Teach: The Ten Gurus](#)

Brahman - The Trimurti - Brahma / Vishnu / Shiva



Central to Hinduism is the belief in a supreme God Brahman. Brahman is present everywhere and there is a part of Brahman in everyone.

Hindus believe in One Supreme Spirit, or Power called Brahman. Brahman can take the form of many gods and goddesses, also known as deities.

Brahman takes many forms. Especially three forms called the Trimurti.

Brahma is the creator of the world and all creatures. He is usually shown with four heads.

Vishnu is the preserver of the world. His role is to return to the earth in troubled times and restore the balance of good and evil. He has blue skin and four arms.

Shiva is the destroyer of the universe. Shiva destroys the universe in order to re-create it. Shiva has blue skin, a third eye and carries a trident.

[BBC Bitesize: Hindu Gods Video](#)
[BBC Teach: Cycle of Birth and Rebirth](#)

Siddhattha Gotama / The Buddha



Buddhism started in India over 2,500 years ago. Buddhists follow the teachings of a man called Siddhattha Gotama. He became known as the Buddha, which means 'enlightened'.

Buddhists do not believe that the Buddha was a god, but they hold a deep respect for him and show their devotion to him by following his teachings.

Siddhattha Gotama was a prince who lived a life of luxury. When he was 29, Siddhattha went outside his palace and saw people suffering for the first time.

He decided to leave his palace and live among holy men in search of truth. His search took him six years, but he became enlightened while meditating under a fig tree.

Following this, Siddhattha became known as the Buddha, which means the 'awakened' or 'enlightened' one. From then on, he dedicated his life to spreading his teachings.

The Buddha discovered that the answer lay in what have become known as the Four Noble Truths. Buddhists try to achieve enlightenment by understanding these important principles.

Buddhists try to live a good life by following the Buddha's teachings, helping them to avoid suffering and bad feelings. They believe nothing in life is perfect and the way to avoid suffering is to follow a set of important guidelines known as the Noble Eightfold Path.

Allah / Muhammad



Muslims believe that Islam was revealed over 1,400 years ago in Mekkah, Arabia through a man called Muhammad.

Muhammad is so respected that it is usual for Muslims to say 'peace be upon him' whenever they mention his name.

Muhammad is believed by Muslims to be the last prophet sent by God (Allah). They believe God sent prophets to mankind to teach them how to live according to His law.

Jesus (Isa), Moses (Musa) and Abraham (Ibrahim) are other respected prophets.

[BBC Bitesize: Muhammad / Allah Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Muhammad Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Muhammad Video 2](#)

Imam



Imams lead worship in a mosque and are important community figures. They are there to offer spiritual guidance and life advice for the Muslims in their community.

Special Events

Lent



Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

[BBC Bitesize: Lent](#)
[BBC Newsround: Lent](#)

Easter

Passover



Passover is a celebration of the story of Exodus. During Passover, Jews remember how their ancestors left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses. Passover is celebrated with a series of rituals. Each ritual symbolises a different part of the story.

[BBC Bitesize: Passover](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Questions of Passover](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Passover Video](#)
[BBC Teach: Passover Video](#)
[BBC Newsround: Passover](#)

Yom Kippur

Guru Nanak Gurburab



Guru Nanak Gurburab is a festival celebrating Guru Nanak's birthday!

The word 'Gurburab' is a mixture of the word Guru, which means 'teacher', and Purab which means 'Festival' or 'Celebration' in Punjabi.

[BBC Bitesize: Guru Nanak](#)

Vaisakhi

Holi



Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love, and new life.

During the festival of Holi, many Hindus remember the mischievous ways of the god Krishna, and how, as a young boy, he used to play tricks on people.

Some families hold religious ceremonies, but for many Holi is more a time for fun. It's a colourful festival, with dancing, singing and throwing of powder paint and coloured water.

Holi is also known as the "festival of colours".

[BBC Bitesize: Holi](#)

Nirvana Day



Nirvana Day is an annual Buddhist festival that remembers the death of the Buddha when he reached Nirvana at the age of 80.

Nirvana is believed to be the end of the cycle of death and rebirth. Buddhism teaches that Nirvana is reached when all want and suffering is gone.

[BBC Bitesize: Nirvana Day](#)

Wesak Day

Ramadan



During the month of Ramadan, Muslims won't eat or drink during the hours of daylight. This is called fasting. Children are not expected to fast until they reach puberty, usually around the age of 14.

Ramadan remembers the month the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book) was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. The actual night that the Qur'an was revealed is a night known as Lailat ul-Qadr ('The Night of Power').

[BBC Bitesize: Ramadan](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Ramadan and Eid Video](#)
[BBC Teach: Ramadan](#)
[BBC Newsround: Ramadan](#)



Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates Jesus rising from the dead, three days after he was executed.

[BBC Bitesize: Easter](#)
[BBC Teach: Easter Video](#)
[CBeebies: Let's Celebrate: Easter](#)

Christmas



Christmas is a Christian holy day that marks the birth of Jesus, who Christians believe to be the Son of God.

[BBC Bitesize: Christmas](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Christmas Reflection](#)
[BBC Teach: Christmas Video](#)
[CBeebies: Let's Celebrate: Christmas](#)

Baptism

[BBC Bitesize: Baptism 1](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Baptism 2](#)
[BBC Teach: Baptism Video](#)

Holy Communion / Eucharist

[BBC Bitesize: Holy Communion](#)
[BBC Teach: Communion](#)



Yom Kippur means Day of Atonement. It is the most sacred and solemn day in the Jewish calendar.

Yom Kippur is a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins. Jews do not work or go to school on this day.

[BBC Bitesize: Yom Kippur](#)
[BBC Newsround: Yom Kippur](#)

Hanukkah



Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. The word 'Hanukkah' means 'Dedication' in Hebrew. It celebrates a miracle that happened in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago.

[BBC Bitesize: Hannukah](#)
[BBC Teach: Hanukkah Video](#)
[BBC Newsround: Hanukkah](#)

Rosh Hashanah

[BBC Teach: Rosh Hashanah Video](#)

Purim

[CBeebies: Let's Celebrate: Purim](#)

Mitzvah

When a Jewish boy turns 13 years old he has a Bar Mitzvah (Son of the Commandment). When a Jewish girl turns 12 years old she has a Bat Mitzvah (Daughter of the Commandment). In this ceremony, the girl or boy promises to keep God's commandments.

Jews believe that after the ceremony, the child becomes an adult in God's eyes and they have a big party to celebrate.

Sometimes, after his Bar Mitzvah, a Jewish man will wear a cap called a kippah. This cap reminds him about God's commandments.

[BBC Bitesize: Bar Mitzvah Video](#)
[BBC Teach: Mitzvah Video](#)



Vaisakhi, also called Baisakhi, is the festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community, the Khalsa, in 1699.

[BBC Bitesize: Vaisakhi](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Baisakhi Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Vaisakhi Video](#)
[BBC Teach: Vaisakhi Video](#)
[BBC Newsround: Vaisakhi](#)
[CBeebies: Let's Celebrate: Vaisakhi](#)

Amrit

[BBC Teach: Amrit](#)

[BBC Teach: Holi](#)
[BBC Newsround: Holi](#)
[CBeebies: Let's Celebrate: Holi](#)

Diwali



The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'.

Diwali celebrates the Ramayana, which is an epic poem telling the story of Hindu deities, Rama and Sita. In the story, Rama is sent away to a far-off country by his father. Rama leaves with his wife, Sita, but Sita gets kidnapped by a wicked demon called Ravana. The monkey god, Hanuman, helps Rama save Sita and kill Ravana so they can finally return home. This story is about good overcoming evil. Lamps were lit to guide Rama and Sita home, and this is why most Hindus light diya lamps during Diwali today.

Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called 'diyas'.

[BBC Bitesize: Diwali](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Diwali Video](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Diwali Video 2](#)
[BBC Teach: Diwali Video](#)
[BBC Newsround: Diwali](#)

Janmashtami



In the Hindu festival of Janmashtami, Hindus celebrate the birth of the god Krishna. As part of the festival, children will often dress up as Krishna and perform drama re-enactments of his life.

[BBC Bitesize: Janmashtami Video](#)

Raksha Bandhan

[BBC Teach: Raksha Bandhan](#)



Wesak celebrates the Buddha's birthday and, for some Buddhists, also marks his enlightenment and death. It is also called Buddha Day.

[BBC Bitesize: Wesak Day](#)
[BBC Newsround: Wesak](#)
[CBeebies Let's Celebrate: Wesak](#)

Eid ul-Adha



Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha on the last day of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Makkah in Saudi Arabia. All Muslims who are fit and able to travel should make the trip to Makkah at least once in their lives.










Eid ul-Adha ('Festival of Sacrifice') is one of the most important festivals in the Muslim calendar.

The festival remembers the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son when God ordered him to.

[BBC Bitesize: Eid ul-Adha](#)
[BBC Bitesize: Eid ul-Adha Video](#)
[BBC Newsround: Two Eids](#)

Eid al-Fitr

[CBeebies: Let's Celebrate: Eid al-Fitr](#)

<p>Special Journeys</p>	<p>Pilgrimage Canterbury Cathedral Rome / Vatican Lourdes The Holy Land Santiago de Compostela</p>	<p>Western Wall</p>  <p>This is the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem in Israel. It is a huge ancient wall made of limestone and it is the holiest place that Jews are allowed to pray. Lots of people pilgrimage here every year to pray at the foot of the wall. This is why it is sometimes called the Wailing Wall.</p>		<p>Varanasi</p>  <p>Varanasi, located on the river Ganges, is considered by Hindus to be the holiest city. Many Hindu pilgrims come here to die, believing it will release the soul from the cycle of reincarnation.</p> <p>Hindu Pilgrimages BBC Teach: Hindu Pilgrimages</p>	<p>Bodhgaya</p>	<p>Haji</p>  <p>Makkah is the holiest city in Islam. It is Muhammad's birthplace and also the place the Qur'an was revealed. Hajj is a huge yearly pilgrimage to Makkah, attracting several million Muslims from all over the world. All Muslims (as long as they are healthy and able to travel) try to do Hajj at least once in their life.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize: Hajj Video BBC Teach: The Hajj BBC Newsround: Hajj</p>
<p>Special Symbols</p>	<p>The Cross</p>  <p>The cross is the symbol of Christianity. Jesus Christ was executed by the Romans and died by being crucified on a wooden cross. Christians remember his death and resurrection by wearing crosses. Sometimes crosses will have a figure of Jesus on them. These are called crucifixes.</p>	<p>Star of David</p>  <p>The Jewish emblem is the Magen David (Shield of David). It is also known as the Star of David because it is made up of two equilateral triangles that are overlaid to form a six-pointed star. Each point is a sign that God rules over the universe and protects his people from harm.</p>	<p>The Khanda</p>  <p>The Khanda is the symbol of the Sikh faith. It consists of three different types of weapons:</p> <p>A double edged sword or khanda in the centre. A round throwing weapon known as a chakkar. Two single-edged swords called kirpans, crossed either side of the other weapons.</p> <p>BBC Bitesize: The Khanda</p>	<p>Om</p>  <p>This is the Om symbol (sometimes written as Aum) and it is the Hindu word or sound for God. Hindus will say this at the beginning and end of all prayers.</p>	<p>The Dharmachakra</p>  <p>The way to end suffering is by following the Eightfold Path.</p> <p>The Eightfold Path is often represented as a wheel, known as the Wheel of Dharma. 'Dharma' is an ancient Sanskrit word used to refer to the Buddha's teachings.</p>	<p>Star and Crescent Moon</p>  <p>The symbol of the star and crescent moon is used in the flags of many Islamic countries, including Turkey, Tunisia, Pakistan and Algeria.</p>
<p>'C' Concepts Glossary</p>	<p>Agape The love of God for humanity, which Christians should seek to emulate. Atonement Reconciliation between God and humanity through Christ, restoring a relationship broken by sin.</p> <p>Church The whole community of Christians in the world throughout time. Also a particular congregation or denomination of Christianity. Also the congregation of a particular church or worshipping community.</p> <p>Grace The freely given and unmerited favour of God's love for humanity. The means to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Incarnation The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus Christ and the belief that God in Christ is active in the Church and the world through the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Logos The Word. The pre-existent Word of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Resurrection The rising from the dead of Jesus Christ, leading to the rising from the dead of all believers at the Last Day, and the belief in the new, or risen, life of Christians.</p>	<p>God One and indivisible, though called by many different names, often denoting different qualities or aspects, eg HaRachaman (the Merciful One), Eyn Sof (Without End), HaKadosh Barukh Hu (The Holy One, Blessed Be He), Avinu Shebashamayim (Our Father in Heaven), or often, simply, Hashem (The Name).</p> <p>Israel Literally one who struggles with God. The name given to the biblical patriarch Jacob, one of the fathers of the Jewish people (together with Abraham and Isaac). Thus, the Children of Israel and the Israelites. The word is now applied to the world-wide Jewish people, the Land of Israel and the State of Israel.</p> <p>Kosher Permissible according to the Torah (Kashrut is the noun). Most often applied to food laws but also applicable to any other area of rules.</p> <p>Kedusha Literally holiness. "You should be holy for I, the Lord your God, am holy." The Jews are required in the Torah to be a holy people. All mitzvot have an element of kedusha when performed.</p> <p>Mitzvah/mitzvot (plural) A commandment from the Torah.</p>	<p>Amrit The Sikh rite of initiation into the Khalsa Panth. Also the sanctified sugar and water liquid (nectar) used in the initiation ceremony. Water which is consecrated by the Granthi and used in Amrit Sanskar/Amrit Pahul (initiation/baptism) ceremony.</p> <p>Bani/shabad Divine Word.</p> <p>Gurmukh God-centredness, a state of being God-centred.</p> <p>Guru The guru is the spokesperson for the divine being; a teacher as in Guru Granth Sahib.</p> <p>Haumai The human condition of self-reliance. A dependence on the Ego-I and self-centredness, which prevents an individual from becoming God-centred (gurmukh).</p> <p>Ik Onkar Word meaning One God.</p> <p>Jot The divine light indwelling everyone.</p> <p>Khalsa Fellowship of those who have taken Amrit (both men and women) and have adopted</p>	<p>Ahimsa Non-violence.</p> <p>Atman One's true or innermost self, often identified with the absolute essence of the world, Brahman.</p> <p>Avatar An incarnation (or descent) of god (deity). For example, followers of Vishnu believe he was incarnated in 10 different forms, of which the most popular/important are Rama and Krishna.</p> <p>Bhakti yoga The yoga of loving devotion.</p> <p>Brahma The Hindu god (deity) associated with creation and creative power. One of the trimurti (the three deities who control the gunas: the three functions of creation, preservation and destruction).</p> <p>Brahman (key concept) Ultimate reality. The one supreme being from which the entire universe is understood to develop, which pervades the universe, and which, as pure consciousness, is the innermost self.</p> <p>Darshan Literally seeing. Refers to seeing, and being seen by god (the deity). Hindus refer to going for darshan when</p>	<p>Anatta No permanent self.</p> <p>Anicca Impermanence, change.</p> <p>Arhat (SK)/Arahant (P) Enlightened disciple. The fourth and highest stage of realisation recognised by the Theravada Buddhist tradition.</p> <p>Bodhisattva (SK)/Bodhisatta (P) A person who has made the vow to follow the bodhisattva path to complete awakening over many lifetimes. The inspiration of the bodhisattva vow is a central feature of Mahayana Buddhist tradition.</p> <p>Buddha The enlightened one: a being who has discovered reality as it really is for themselves. May refer to the historical person, or other such beings in the past or future. In all Buddhist traditions there are many Buddhas. And the term may also refer to the reality underpinning the universe.</p> <p>Dharma (SK)/ Dhamma (P) Teachings of the Buddha, the truth about reality.</p> <p>Dukkha The unsatisfactoriness of worldly existence,</p>	<p>Akhirah Life after death, the hereafter.</p> <p>Akhlaq Ethics governing conduct, character and attitudes.</p> <p>Allah The Muslim term for God, the Almighty One.</p> <p>Ibadah Worship and actions demonstrating obedience and commitment to God.</p> <p>Iman Faith.</p> <p>Islam Submission to the will of Allah, leading to peace, or willing submission to Allah's Divine Guidance leading to peace.</p> <p>Jihad Individual striving towards Allah (greater jihad), preventing the corruption of Allah's creation (lesser jihad), or individual striving for the sake of God/ in the cause of God (greater jihad), striving in relation to improving social conditions, defending rights and preventing corruption of Allah's creation (lesser jihad).</p> <p>Muslim One who submits to God/to the will of God,</p>

	<p>Redemption The effect of the deed of Jesus Christ in setting people free from sin through his death on the cross.</p> <p>Repentance The acceptance of our unworthiness before God and recognition of the need to be saved from sin by his love.</p> <p>Reconciliation The uniting of believers with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The process of reconciling Christians with one another.</p> <p>Salvation The belief that all believers will be saved and live in God's presence.</p> <p>Sin Act or acts of rebellion against the known will of God. An understanding of the human condition as being severed from its relationship with God because of disobedience.</p> <p>Sacrament An outward sign of a blessing given by God (Protestant) or the actual presence of God (Catholic). In the Roman Catholic Church these represent a means to salvation.</p> <p>Trinity The doctrine of the three-fold nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons (or forms) in one God.</p>	<p>Rabbi An ordained teacher of Torah. More importantly, a rabbi is empowered to make decisions about the proper interpretation of Torah and its application. A rabbi is often the religious leader of a Jewish community.</p> <p>Shabbat Literally rest day. The key day of the week, commemorating both the fact that God is the creator of the world and that He freed the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The day is required to be holy but also a delight.</p> <p>Torah Literally instruction. The whole body of Jewish teaching. Specifically, the first five books of the Bible (The Five Books of Moses) and the traditional commentaries on, and interpretations of, them.</p> <p>Chosen people In the Torah, God describes the Jews as "a chosen people" (NB: not The chosen people) implying a particular relationship with them. God undertakes to take a special interest in their future. In return the Jews are required to live according to the Torah and be a holy people. This deal is often called the Covenant. Circumcision (for all Jewish baby boys) is called the sign of the Covenant.</p> <p>Tzelem Elokim Literally the image of God. A term used in the creation of Adam in the Bible, denoting the absolute equality of all human beings and their utter right to dignity and respect since each human is created "in the image of God".</p>	<p>the five Ks.</p> <p>Langar As a concept this means the community meal expressing unity and equality of humankind, not just Sikhs. Langar is also the name given to the community kitchen in the gurdwara, where free food is prepared, cooked and served to all. Food is prepared and served by both men and women who are volunteers. Men and women eat separately.</p> <p>Manmukh Self-centredness.</p> <p>Maya The illusion that the world has an essential reality instead of being temporary.</p> <p>Mukti Liberation from the world and union with God; freedom from the cycle of rebirth.</p> <p>Nadar The grace of the Guru.</p> <p>Nam simran Meditation on God's name; can be personal or in a group.</p> <p>Nirguna Concept of God as one and formless, without attributes.</p> <p>Panth The Sikh community.</p> <p>Sewa Selfless service without an expectation of a return in response to gurmukh.</p>	<p>going to the mandir (temple) for worship.</p> <p>Dharma Religious duty, according to one's status or place in society. It also refers to the intrinsic quality of the self (see karma).</p> <p>Guna The three fundamental constituents of the world that, in combination, make up the qualities of all objects – sattva (purity), rajas (passion) and tamas (dullness).</p> <p>Jati Usually translated as caste. This refers to a social group into which one is born in Hindu society. It is a form of social regulation and hierarchy derived from varna.</p> <p>Jnana yoga The path of knowledge.</p> <p>Karma Action or deed, understood to determine the quality of subsequent experience. According to the law of karma good and bad deeds cause the doer to experience subsequent enjoyment and suffering respectively.</p> <p>Karma yoga The path of selfless action, without expectation of reward.</p> <p>Maya The form and nature of the created world, understood in some traditions to be ultimately illusory or masking the true reality.</p> <p>Moksha Liberation or release from samsara.</p> <p>Murti The consecrated image of a deity in a temple, understood not merely as a representation or symbol, but as the actual presence of the deity.</p> <p>Samsara Literally passage. Refers to the cycle of life, death and rebirth, often described as the source of unhappiness.</p> <p>Shiva The Hindu god (deity) associated with the destructive aspect of creation. One of the trimurti.</p> <p>Varna Colour. This refers to the four Vedic sub-divisions in Hindu society. These are Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (ruling or warrior class), Vaishyas (merchant class) and Shudras (the servants of the other three varnas).</p>	<p>suffering.</p> <p>Karma (SK)/Kamma (P) The principle of cause and effect in the moral realm (or better morally) significant actions that affect a person's circumstances in this or future life. Any intentional action.</p> <p>Karuna Compassion.</p> <p>Maitri (SK)/Metta (P) Loving kindness. A pure love which is neither grasping nor possessive. A wish that others should have happiness and the cause of happiness.</p> <p>Nirvana/Nibbana The state of peace reached when ignorance and attachment are extinguished and enlightenment is reached.</p> <p>Prajna Wisdom.</p> <p>Samsara (both SK and P) Wandering on refers to the cycle of birth, death and rebirth, into life characterised by suffering, impermanence and death. Although the concept of living many lives until the cycle can be broken is shared by other religions of Indian origin, the Buddhist concept does not accept the idea that there is an eternal, unchanging self or soul which is reincarnated into successive lives (see anatta), rather it is a process subject to causes and conditions.</p> <p>Sangha The Buddhist community. Often used specifically to refer to the monastic community.</p> <p>Sila Ethical conduct. The fourth, fifth and sixth steps on the eightfold path, or middle way, taught by the historical Buddha. There are also various lists summarising ethical conduct such as the five precepts undertaken by Theravada Buddhists.</p> <p>Tanha Thirst, meaning attachment, craving or desiring.</p>	<p>or one who has accepted Islam by submitting to the will of Allah.</p> <p>Rasool The messengers of Allah (those given Divine scriptures).</p> <p>Risalah Divinely revealed message of God.</p> <p>Tawheed The oneness of God.</p> <p>Umma The family (community) of Muslims worldwide.</p> <p>Yawmuiddin The day of faith. Name for Day of Resurrection/Judgement.</p>
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