

Key vocabulary

Baptism	A Christian ceremony when a person is baptized. When a person is baptized, water is put on their heads or they are covered with water as a sign that their sins have been forgiven and they have become a member of the Christian Church.
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	Move for Jewish young people from childhood towards adulthood.
Vedas	Hindu holy scriptures.
Dharma	The performance of Hindu duties. The Hindu religious law.
Reincarnation	Rebirth of the soul in a new body after death.
Ashramas	Four stages of a Hindu spiritual journey.
Sannyasa	A person who gives up all possessions and becomes a wandering holy person with no fixed home.
Samskaras	Life-stage rituals.
Kebulah	A Jewish wedding contract.
Initiation ceremony	Initiation is a rite of passage marking entrance or acceptance into a group or society. It could also be a formal admission to adulthood in a community.



Final outcome

Pupils will create a journey bag for either a Christian, a Jewish person or a Hindu. In the bag must be props that relate to what the children have learnt about the journey of life and death for the chosen religion. Children to write a 'guidebook to the journey of life'.

Sequence of learning

What does the idea of the journey of life mean to us?
 What is the significance of baptism to Christians? What happens and what does it mean?
 How do Jewish people mark becoming an adult?
 What ceremonies do Hindus mark in the journey of life?
 Why do people choose to get married? What do wedding ceremonies show us about commitment, love, promises?
 Are all journeys similar? Can we compare the milestones on the journeys of Christians, Jewish people and Hindus?

How and why do people mark the significant events of life?



Biblical links

Luke 1:5-25
 Matthew 3:13-17
 Acts 9:10-19
 Acts 8:26-40
 Acts 16:16-34
 1 Corinthians 13

Important facts

There is a religious metaphor that states that life is a journey. Special ceremonies take place by Christians, Jewish people and Hindus on their life journey.
 Ceremonies mark milestones in life in different religions.
 Christians celebrate 'believers baptism', or 'adult baptism'. The promises in a baptismal service are to reject evil and sin and to follow Christ, to express a commitment to belong to the Christian church and to live a life of love. Roman Catholics celebrate first communion and confession; Church of England and Roman Catholics celebrate confirmation.
 Hindus celebrate a sacred thread ceremony. A Hindu boy is given a sacred thread which he must wear all his life. It rarely takes place for girls.
 Jews celebrate bar/bat mitzvah which marks the move for Jewish young people from childhood towards adulthood.
 Wedding ceremonies and marriage commitments vary between different religions and for non-religious people.

Key skills

	Identify some beliefs about love, commitment and promises in two religious traditions and describe what they mean. Offer informed suggestions about the meaning and importance of ceremonies of commitment for religious and non-religious people today.
	Describe what happens in ceremonies of commitment (eg. baptism, sacred thread, marriage) and say what these rituals mean. Make simple links between beliefs about love and commitment and how people in at least two religious traditions live (eg. through celebrating forgiveness, salvation and freedom at festivals). Identify some differences in how people celebrate commitment (eg. different practices of marriage, or Christian baptism).
	Raise questions and suggest answers about whether it is good for everyone to see life as a journey, and to mark the milestones. Make links between ideas of love, commitment and promises in religious and non-religious ceremonies. Give good reasons why they think ceremonies of commitment are or are not valuable today.