

Key vocabulary

Altar	The table in a Christian church used in ceremonies.
Font	A large container in a church, usually made from stone, that holds the water for baptisms.
Lectern	A piece of furniture with a sloping part where the Bible is read from
Pulpit	A raised place in a church, with steps leading up to it, from which the priest or minister speaks to the people during a religious ceremony.
Mosque	Muslim holy building/place of worship.
Wudu	Washing ritual to be performed in preparation for prayer and worship.
Calligraphy	Beautiful writing created with a special pen or brush.
Minbar	A short flight of steps used as a platform by a preacher in a mosque.
Mihrab	A niche in the wall of a mosque at the point nearest to Mecca. People face this when they pray.
Muezzin	A man who calls Muslims to prayer from the tower of a mosque.
Synagogue	A Jewish place of worship.
Ark	The sacred chest representing the presence of God to Jews.
Ner Tamid	A light that hangs in front of and above the ark in the synagogue. It symbolises the light of truth and the presence of God.
Torah	The first part of the Jewish Bible.
Tzitzit	Tassels.
Tefellin	A set of small black leather boxes containing scrolls with verses from the Torah.
Tallit	Prayer shawl.
Kippah	Skull cap.
Hanukkiah	A 9 branch candelabra.

Sequence of learning

Which places are important to me? Where is a sacred place for believers to go?
 Which place of worship is sacred for Christians?
 Which place of worship is sacred for Muslims/Jews?
 How are places of worship similar and different? Why are places of worship important to our community?



What makes some places sacred to believers?



Important facts

It is important to show respect for other people's precious or sacred belongings.
 A church is a special place of worship for Christians and there are signs, symbols, artefacts and actions with meanings which help worship.
 A mosque is a special place of worship for Muslims and there are signs, symbols, artefacts and actions with meanings which help worship.
 A synagogue is a special place of worship for Jews and there are signs, symbols, artefacts and actions with meanings which help worship.
 Christian and Jewish religious believers sometimes use music to help them in worship. Muslims do not use music so freely.

Key skills



Recognise that there are special places where people go to worship, and talk about what people do there.
 Identify at least three objects used in worship in two religions and give a simple account of how they are used and something about what they mean.
 Identify a belief about worship and a belief about God, connecting these beliefs simply to a place of worship.



Give examples of stories, objects, symbols and actions used in churches, mosques and/or synagogues that show what people believe.
 Give simple examples of how people worship at a church, mosque or synagogue.
 Talk about why some people like to belong to a sacred building or a community.



Think, talk and ask good questions about what happens in a church, synagogue or mosque, saying what they think about these questions, giving good reasons for their ideas.
 Talk about what makes some places special to people, and what the difference is between religious and non-religious special places.

Final outcome

Pupils will create a poster of a church, mosque or synagogue to show what goes on inside and why the place of worship is important to the community.