



Religious Studies Knowledge Organiser

Year Group: 8

Topic: Life After Death

Half Term: Summer

Key Terms

Resurrection	Coming back to life. The resurrection of Jesus is a key belief for Christians.
Purgatory	The Catholic Church teaches that after death the souls of people who have sinned are purified.
Ten Commandments	A list of ten rules Christians believe they should follow.
Mummification	The practice of preserving the body after death in Ancient Egypt.
The Book of the Dead	A book of spells the Ancient Egyptians believed would help them in the afterlife.
Humanism	An organisation whose followers do not believe in a God or an afterlife.
Jahannam	Hell in Islam.
Cremation	The burning of a body after death.
Valhalla	The equivalent of heaven for Viking warriors.
Odin	A Viking God and ruler of Valhalla
Eightfold Path	A course of action Buddhists believe they must follow to achieve enlightenment.
Nirvana	A state of enlightenment in Buddhism.

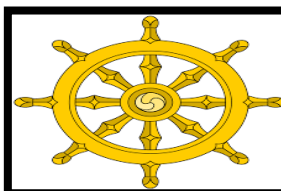


Christian beliefs about life after death are based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection are part of God's divine plan for humankind. Most Christians believe that heaven is a place where souls are reunited with God, and that this can be achieved by following the Ten Commandments. The opposite of this is hell, but hell is rarely mentioned in the Bible. Some Catholics also believe in purgatory, where the soul is purified before heaven.



The Ancient Egyptians mummified their dead to preserve the bodies for the afterlife. Some wealthier Ancient Egyptians had a Book of the Dead to help them in the afterlife. They believed that after death, their heart would be weighed against a feather. If their heart was lighter than the feather, then they would go on to a place of happiness where they could reunite with lost family. If their heart was heavier then they would be stuck in the underworld or simply disappear.

Humanists don't believe in a God or an afterlife, and instead believe that the life we have now is the only one we will get, and that therefore people should make the most of their lives on Earth. Buddhists don't believe in a God or a heaven as such - instead they believe in reincarnation, where we are reborn in to different beings. The ultimate aim in Buddhism is to escape the cycle and achieve enlightenment. Buddhists believe that this can be achieved through following the Eightfold Path.



Holy Quran 93:4

وَلَلْآخِرَةُ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَىٰ

The reward in the next life will certainly be better for you than worldly gains.

Akhirah is the word Muslims use to refer to life after death. Muslims believe that after death people will either go to heaven or hell. Heaven is described in the Qur'an as paradise, whereas hell is described as a place of suffering. Muslims believe that getting to heaven can be achieved by living religiously, asking Allah for forgiveness and showing good actions in their life. Muslims believe that people may go to hell if they reject the teachings of the Qur'an or take no responsibility for their actions. Some Muslims believe that sould in hell can eventually get to heaven.

The Vikings had complex beliefs about life and death. They believed in a universe made up of nine worlds inhabited by gods and goddesses, giants and giantesses, men, dwarves and elves. They passed on these beliefs through elaborate and eloquent poems and sagas.

The Vikings aspired to reach Valhalla when they died. In order to gain a place here, they were required to have a "good death." This would have included dying in battle. Valhalla was ruled over by a god called Odin. People who did not experience a "good death" would go to the hall of the goddess Hel. This was different to the Christian Hell, there was no suffering, it was just plain and boring.



Suggested Reading

- The Girl of Ink & Stars** Kiran Millwood Hargrave.

