



Religious Studies Knowledge Organiser

Year Group: 7

Topic: Religious Celebrations

Half Term: Summer

Key Terms

Symbol	When something represents something else.
Religious festival	A time of special importance that is celebrated by the people who follow that religion.
Cultural festival	Based on the traditions or history of the people in that area.
The Epiphany	This marks the twelfth day of Christmas, and is when Christians believe that the wise men visited Jesus.
Good Friday	The Friday before Easter. This was the day which Jesus died on the cross.
Fasting	Where you do not eat or drink during daylight hours. Many people also give up other luxuries and indulgences.
Five Pillars of Islam	Five practices it is important to undertake as a Muslim, including fasting, going on pilgrimage and giving to charity.
Five Ks of Sikhism	Five things it is important to carry or wear as a Sikh, including a Kara (steel bracelet) and Kanga (a wooden comb).
Synagogue	Jewish place of worship.

Two of the most significant religious festivals celebrated by Christians are Easter and Christmas. Easter is the most important date in the Christian calendar, it is when Christians believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Christmas is the second most important celebration in the Christian Calendar. It is the date when Christians believe that Jesus was born. Advent is celebrated a month before Christmas, where Christians reflect and prepare for Jesus.



Two of the most significant festivals celebrated by Muslims are Eid ul-Adha and Eid ul-Fitr. Eid ul-Adha is celebrated because Muslims believe that a long time ago Prophet Ibrahim was asked by Allah to prove his faith by killing his son. As Ibrahim was about to kill his son, Allah stopped him and gave him a lamb to sacrifice instead. Isma'il was saved. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a period of fasting for Muslims.

Vaisakhi is an important Sikh festival. It marks the start of the Punjabi New Year, but it is also a celebration of 1699, the year when Sikhism was born as a collective faith. In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh chose the festival as the moment to establish the Khalsa - that's the collective name given to Sikhs who've been baptised. To celebrate Vaisakhi, Sikhs will visit places of worship called Gurdwaras. These will also be especially decorated for the occasion.



There are several religious festivals celebrated in Judaism:

Rosh Hashanah - This is the celebration of creation of the world and marks making a fresh start. It is a time for people to reflect on the past year and to ask for forgiveness for anything wrong they feel they have done.

Yom Kippur - Yom Kippur is a day to reflect on the past year and ask for God's forgiveness for anything you might have done wrong. This is because in the Jewish faith, on Yom Kippur, God decides what the next 12 months will be like for everyone.

Pesach (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.

Hanukkah - The festival reminds Jews of a time over 2,000 years ago, when the Jews won a battle against the Greeks to practise their religion freely.

Suggested Reading

- *Boy vs. Girl* by Na'ima B. Robert

