

Yr 7 Knowledge Organizer 2 – Religious Artifacts and Authority

Religious Artifacts

Most religions make use of religious artefacts.

The reasons why they use artifacts :-

- To help express what they believe in such as the use of bread and wine in a Christian Communion service to represent Jesus' body and blood as they believe he died to save the sins of mankind.
- To identify themselves as a member of a faith such as the 5 Ks in Sikhism, the steel bangle representing that God is One and eternal.
- To make them feel different while praying and remind them to keep their rules such as the Jewish prayer shawl or Tallit with its 613 tassels to remind them of the 613 rules in the Torah.
- In Hinduism images are made to represent their Gods and for use in the Mandir or the home in order to worship at shrines.
- They can also be an aid to prayer such as a prayer mat in Islam to give Muslims somewhere clean to pray and the compass to ensure that as a Muslim prays 5 times a day they are facing towards Makkah their holiest city.



Religious books

Most religions have sacred texts or books. These contain a variety of different types of writing such as :-

- The history of the faith (Judaism in the Tenakh)
- The life and teachings of important religious leaders or founders. (Jesus in the Bible)
- The direct revelations of God (Qur'an in Islam)
- Rules that you should keep as a member of that faith. (The Torah and Jews)
- Beliefs they need to have to be a follower of their faith.

The main religious texts and sources of authority

Christianity—The Bible, especially the New Testament and the Gospels

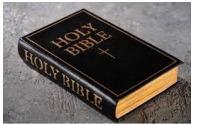
Judaism—the Tenakh especially the Torah containing 613 laws

Sikhism—The Guru Granth Sahib

Islam—The Qur'an

Hinduism—the Vedas

Buddhism—the Pali Canons



Religious leaders

As well as the texts religions have leaders who will give advice and interpret teachings and laws for a modern world as the sacred texts were written centuries ago.

Christianity—Priests, Vicars in the local community, The Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury at a world level.

Judaism— Rabbis

Islam—Imams

Sikhism and Hinduism—Gurus

Buddhism—Lamas, priests and monks



Acts of Worship

The use of artifacts during worship is help people understand the teachings of their faith better, to make the worship more fun, to give it a sense of mystery, to help you focus better, to help tell a story, to show your commitment to the faith, show your religious identity and to help worship God.

Links for deeper Knowledge

The Qur'an [BBC Two - My Life, My Religion, Islam, The Qur'an](#)

The Bible [BBC Two - My Life, My Religion, The Holy Bible](#)

The Guru Granth Sahib [BBC Two - My Life, My Religion, Sikhism, The Guru Granth Sahib](#)