

The National Junior C of E Primary School

Unit: Pilgrimage

Subject: RE

Term: 5 & 6

Unit Overview / Key Question:

What is a pilgrimage? What does pilgrimage involve? Pilgrimage is a significant journey carried out for a special reason. This can be religious or non-religious reasons. Examples of religious and non-religious pilgrimages (e.g. pilgrimage to a particular football ground or site of significance for your family, to war graves, to the place of birth of an important person, etc.)

Symbols and Key Festivals



Pilgrim Badges



Kumbh Mela



Jerusalem



Mecca

What?

Key Knowledge

What is a pilgrimage?	Pilgrimage is a journey to a religious site or shrine. People who make pilgrimages are called pilgrims. They make these journeys to develop their faith and search for spiritual development. Many people attend pilgrimages because Jesus himself performed pilgrimages in the Bible.
What is the impact of pilgrimage on the environment?	Pilgrimage has a big impact on the land in the surrounding areas of the religious site. As more and more pilgrims visit these sites they are putting a lot of stress on the local natural resources and there has been a steady decline of the local environmental conditions. All the waste from food, all the fumes from coaches traveling around the city, all the energy used for powering local hotels, carbon footprint of all those flying in from around the globe. It is far from their moral and spiritual beliefs.
What does pilgrimage look like within different religions?	Jerusalem: a place of pilgrimage for Jews, Christians and Muslims; Judaism: the site of the Jewish temple, destroyed in 70CE by the Romans; Christianity: the site of some of Jesus' teaching and of his death and resurrection; Islam: the third most holy site for Muslims (known as al-Quds), the place of the Dome of the Rock and the al-Azqa mosque. Christianity: pilgrimages relating to specific denominations of Christianity, e.g. sites connected with the Wesley brothers for Methodists or George Fox for Quakers. Hinduism: the Kumbh Mela - a festival celebrated at four times over the course of twelve years at four different sites of pilgrimage, four sacred rivers.

Vocabulary

Holy site/place	a place that people consider holy and/or a religion considers to be of special religious significance.
Pilgrim	A person who travels to a religious site.
Pilgrimage	A significant journey carried out for a special reason.
Community	people with common interests

Prior Knowledge

Children have looked at why and how different religions celebrate the rites of passage. They understand the importance of a sense of belonging and building and being part of a community. Children have looked at key festivals and the stories and key practices that are at the heart of them.

