

# Comparing Christianity, Islam and Hinduism

Over this year we have looked at Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. Using this Guidance Page, recap each religion's main beliefs and their worship and use this information to compare the three – looking at how they are similar and how they are different. We have coloured each religion to make each section clear.

## Key Beliefs

**Muslims** believe that there is only one God called **Allah**. They believe **Allah** is the only ruler of the universe. The word '**Islam**' means submission and obedience to **Allah**.

## The Six Main Beliefs

1. Belief in **Allah** as the one and only God.
2. Belief in angels.
3. Belief in the holy books.
4. Belief in the **prophets** and that **Muhammad** was the final **prophet**.
5. Belief in the Day of Judgement (the day when **Allah** decides if a person goes to heaven or hell).
6. Belief in predestination (the belief that **Allah** has already planned out what will happen).

## The Five Pillars of Islam

As well as the six main beliefs, there are **Five Pillars of Islam**.

**Shahadah:** **Muslims** say a declaration of faith.

**Salah:** **Muslims** pray five times a day. Before prayer, they must wash themselves and then face **Mecca** whilst praying.

**Zakat:** **Muslims** must donate to charities.

**Sawm:** **Muslims** fast for one month during a time called **Ramadan**.

**Haji:** **Muslims** have to travel to **Mecca** once in their lifetime, if they can afford to.

BBC Bitesize: [What is Islam?](#)

Don't forget you can look back at our [Islam 1](#), [Islam 2](#) and [Islam 3](#) sheets for more information.

**Muhammad** is so highly respected by **Muslims** that they will say "peace be upon him" after his name is spoken.

## Symbol of Islam

There is no official symbol of **Islam**, but the star and crescent symbol is the symbol most commonly associated with Islam.

## Christianity Overview

Christians believe in one **God**, who created the world and all within it. They believe in the teachings of **Jesus Christ**, who was a middle-eastern preacher and healer who lived around 2000 years ago. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was sent to Earth to save people by taking their punishment and dying on the cross

## Christianity: Main beliefs

- God created the Earth and everything in it in 6 days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>
- Christians believe that God can be seen in three ways, known as the Holy Trinity:
- The Father – Creator of the world
- The Son – who came to Earth as Jesus
- The Holy Spirit – God's power within Christians
- In the Bible, there are ten 'commandments' are shared and Christians should aim to live their life by

The Bible is the holy book of Christianity. It contains the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament is similar to the Jewish Bible and was written before Jesus' birth. The New Testament contains stories about Jesus, written by those who knew him.

## Hindu Gods and Goddesses

**Hindus** recognise one God, **Brahman**. The gods of Hinduism are different aspects of **Brahman**.

The main three aspects (**Trimurti**) are:

**Vishnu**, **Brahma** and Shiva

The three great goddesses (**Tridevi**) are:

Saraswati, Lakshmi and Shakti

**Hindus** can pray to different gods and goddesses for help with different needs.

BBC Bitesize: [What is Christianity?](#)  
[Holy Crib: The Church](#)  
 BBC Bitesize: [What is Hinduism?](#)  
[Holy Crib: The Mandir](#)

There are many different types of holy texts in Hinduism. Perhaps the most sacred are called the **Vedas**. The Vedas guide people in their daily lives. They are written into the Sanskrit language.

## Place of Worship

The **Muslim** place of worship is called a **mosque**. Services are held in **mosques** every day. The most important service for **Muslims** is on a Friday.

**Mosques** often have a domed roof. There are no images of people or animals in **mosques**. They are decorated with patterns and words from **the Qur'an**.

**Muslims** take off their shoes before going into the **mosque** and wash before they pray. **Muslims** pray kneeling on the floor on a prayer mat. The wall of the **mosque** which faces **Mecca** is called the qibla wall. It has an empty arch to show the direction of Mecca.

## The Qur'an

The **Muslim** holy book is called **the Qur'an**. **Muslims** believe that it is a record of the exact words that Allah said.



## Place of worship

Christians can pray in any place, but the most common location is a purpose-built building called a **church**. Churches can be very different – old, new, plain or highly decorated and can vary depending on the denomination of Christianity which uses them. Common church features include altar tables, lecterns, pulpits, fonts and stained glass windows.

Truth Is Eternal	Dharma	Reincarnation	Moksha
<b>Hindus</b> are encouraged to learn.	Dharma means to do the right thing with good behaviour.	<b>Hindus</b> believe a soul cannot be destroyed, so when a <b>Hindu</b> dies, their soul enters a new living being.	Moksha is the ultimate goal. It happens when a soul stops being reincarnated and is reunited with <b>Brahman</b> .

## Special Places for Hindus

**Hindus** can worship at home or in a **mandir**. In a **mandir**, **Hindus** can perform **puja**.

Some **mandirs** are very tall buildings. **Hindus** believe it brings them closer to heaven.

In a **mandir**, there are **shrines** and lots of **murtis** for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the **murtis**.

There are holy scriptures in Hinduism. The scriptures support **Hindus** in their life and guide prayer.

**Shruti** texts are knowledge from gods. **Smriti** were written by **Hindu** spiritual leaders.

# Comparing World Religions:

## Islam, Christianity and Hinduism

Special book

Important Figure

Special book

Important Figure

Special book

Important Figure

Place of Worship

Place of Worship

Place of Worship

Beliefs

Beliefs

Beliefs