

RE

Judaism and Hinduism

This half term, our RE focus is to answer the question: If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship? We will be focussing on the Jewish and Hindu approach to this question in our learning. We are going to draw comparisons between the Jewish and Hindu religions. For Jews, prayer typically (not always) is completed in a synagogue, as part of a Jewish community. Nevertheless, Hindus do go to temples for prayer but Hindus often pray at home (home shrines), as prayer is an individual act.

Key facts

- Synagogues are consecrated spaces used for the purpose of prayer, however, a synagogue is not necessary for worship.
- Halakha holds that communal Jewish worship can be carried out wherever ten Jews (a minyan) assemble.
- Jewish personal prayer as spiritual practice is hardly known, and even less engaged in – it is less common to pray outside of the synagogue where blessings are read
- Most Hindus worship (puja) every day at home and have a shrine there. A shrine can be anything from a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues.
- The Hindu building for communal worship is called Mandir (Hindu Temple). The temples are dedicated to different gods and are the focus of religious life.
- It is essentially the process of enlightenment found through worship of God, in whatever form one envisions – this can be done at home or in a temple.
- Puja (Hindu ritual) involves offering light, incense, flowers and food to the deities (the gods which can be found anywhere).

Key Vocabulary

Worship	the feeling or expression of respect and adoration for a god
Minyan	A group of 10+ Jewish men meeting for worship
Puja	The act of worship [Hinduism/Buddhism]
Temple	a building devoted to the worship of a god or gods
Shrine	A holy place dedicated to specific god/gods. Often a chest for religious books
Communal	shared by all members of a community
Shabbat	The Jewish Sabbath (Friday). Jews refrain from engaging in labors from everyday life

RE

Prior Learning

Year 1:

> Islam

What makes some places sacred?

Year 2:

> Christianity

What makes some places sacred?

Year 3:

> Judaism and Hinduism

How and why do people pray?

Year 4:

> Christianity and Islam

How and why do people pray?

Following on:

Year 5:

> Hinduism and Judaism

If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?

Year 6:

> Christianity and Islam

If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?

Judaism

Synagogues are spaces used for the purpose of prayer, study and assembly; however, a synagogue is not necessary for worship.

Halakha holds that communal Jewish worship can be carried out wherever ten Jews (a minyan) assemble.

It can be considered that Jews pray at home on a Friday when they observe Shabbat with their families.



Hinduism

Hindu worship of gods and goddesses is called Puja.

Puja is usually performed every day and can take place either in the home or the Hindu temple, which is called a Mandir.

A Hindu home usually has a shrine, which is a special place in a Hindu home where they can go to pray.

