



Year 7 - Spirituality- knowledge organiser.

- Being human.
- The average human contains ... iron to make a 3 inch nail, sulphur to kill all the fleas on an average dog, carbon to make 900 pencils, potassium to fire a toy cannon, fat to make 7 bars of soap, phosphorous to make 2,200 match heads, and water to fill a ten-gallon tank.
- Human qualities include: thoughts, feelings, emotions, skills, beliefs, attitudes, etc.
- Blaise Pascal said, “ Man is a reed, the weakest thing in nature; but, he is a thinking reed”.

World views/being human.

- A Christian view:
 - Humans are made in God’s image, the purpose of humans is to reflect God’s qualities on earth – to be creative, to think, be free and be good. Humans often get it wrong and do the wrong thing [sin]. Humans have a soul, humans are special because they are made by God.
- A Hindu view:
 - All beings possess an atman (soul) – which is a spark of Brahman [supreme spirit]. We do good and bad actions – this produces karma and when we die we are reborn into a life based on our previous karma. Samsara is the circle of life, the ultimate aim is for the soul to go back to where it came from: Brahman.

An atheist view:

- The Universe happened by chance, humans evolved. There is no God, so humans are an accident – the result of random events in time. We should recognise the importance of our short time on earth, we have a duty to make the world a better place.

- Spirituality and Aborigine culture.
- Spirituality: a connection with something greater than ourselves.
- Ancestor: someone you are/were related to [family/community].
- Aborigine: indigenous people in Australia .
- The Aborigines of Australia make up 3% of the population and have no written language of their own.
- The Aboriginal people are very spiritual and have a close relationship with nature.
- Their faith and culture is passed down through the generations by telling each new generation its mythology [oral traditions].
- They respect many beings in animals and nature and they believe their communities are linked the land they live on and the stars and planets.
- Aborigines believe that the ‘dreamtime’ was when the world was created by a ‘creator God’ (they believe in many Gods/Goddesses) but that this particular God after the Dreamtime was over went to a ‘distant realm of heaven where human beings cannot reach him’.
- For Aborigines dreams are often interpreted as memories from this time.
- Aborigines express their spirituality in a number of ways through art, music, ceremonies, dancing and sacred places.

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- Spirituality and the natural world.
- Many people find the natural world inspiring and that it contributes to their experiences of spirituality.
- The natural world has inspired spiritual experiences which have been expressed in art.
- Satish Kumar has been a pilgrim ever since, at the age of eight, he joined the brotherhood of wandering Jain monks in his native India. Today he lives in Devon and writes about environmental and social issues; he has said that he finds the wilderness of Dartmoor inspires his spirituality.
- Spiritual Places.
- There are many spiritual places around the world; e.g. Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal, the pyramids in Egypt, the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the Ka'aba in Makkah.
- The Sikh Golden Temple at Amritsar.
- The Golden Temple also known as Harmandir Sahib ("God's Temple") was completed in 1604.
- It is the most famous Sikh temple in the world. It is a very sacred place.
- It symbolises the magnificence and strength of Sikhs all over the world.
- Sikhs pay respect to the Guru Granth Sahib (holy book)
- Pilgrims also bathe in in the Amrit Saras Kund (Pool of Immortality) for spiritual purification.
- Sikhs aim to go on pilgrimage to the Golden Temple in Amritsar once in their lifetime
- Spiritual objects.
- spirituality is not something simple to define, broadly speaking it is a greater connection with the world around us.
- For many people objects/symbols help with that, they remind believers of different teachings and often help them in worship and in their daily lives.
- Objects can possess special memories, people or events. All of the major religions have objects which have meaning.
- Examples of spiritual objects from Judaism are:
- Shofar: [Judaism] A shofar is a trumpet usually made from a ram's horn. The shofar is used mainly in the festivals of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement).
- Yad: [Judaism] Yad means 'hand' and describes the silver pointer which is used when reading from the Torah scroll.
- Torah: [Judaism] The Torah is the Jewish holy book and is the first five books of the Bible.
- Tallit: [Judaism] The tallit is a prayer shawl worn by Jewish males over the age of 13.
- Seder Plate: [Judaism] Jews use the seder plate during the festival of the Passover (Pesach).
- Menorah [Judaism] The Menorah is a seven branched candlestick and an ancient Jewish symbol.