



## Thinking Focus: Religion

Systems of belief and worship that help people find meaning in the world.

*It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own tracks of ennui.*

Helen Keller



### Curriculum Focus

Some people have deeply held beliefs and commit, with others, to systems which sustain them. Differences in belief lead to dialogue, learning and transformation. They can also lead to violence and war especially when people do not understand each others' religion. Pupils of every and no belief must be given the basic facts about major religions and the thinking skills to navigate a world in which diversity has immense potential for good or for evil.

### Knowledge, Skills & Values

Pupils will have the opportunity to learn the similarities and differences between major world religions and how those differences can lead to fights or friendships. They will then use critical thinking skills to consider and evaluate the purpose and impact of religion. Use the starting points below and the three task levels opposite to design meaningful, independent learning for your pupils.

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## Starting Points

### Text

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/religion/399908#>

*Read the definition of Religion. Reduce it to twenty words but keeping the meaning. Reduce to five words.*

### Data

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/this-is-the-best-and-simplest-world-map-of-religions>

*Choose one piece of information from these charts. Share it. Compare it to others.*

### Map

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religions\\_by\\_country#/media/File:Religion\\_in\\_the\\_world.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religions_by_country#/media/File:Religion_in_the_world.png)

*Make three conclusions from this map.*

## 1. Basic Questions/Tasks

What is 'Religion'?

Name at least 6 different religions.

Find/research/investigate and record creatively:

- 10 well-known religious people
- 10 words that describe religion
- 10 different images about religion

Collect ten different symbols all related to one or more religions.

## 2. Deeper Questions/Tasks

Choose two religions and find at least three features that they have in common.

Do non-religious people believe non-religious things as strongly as religious people believe religious things?

Choose six essential components of a religion then design a new religion using them.

## 3. Long-term Questions/Tasks

Do religions change over time and do people change their religious beliefs and activities over time?

Make a belief line - at one end write things that you believe 100%, at the other end things that you do not believe at all. Write other things in between.

How tolerant are you towards people who believe different things to you?

When I admire the wonders of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator.  
Mahatma Gandhi



### Books

A Call for Revolution  
by The Dalai Lama

Religions of the World by  
Sainsburys

The Religions Book  
by DK

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## Starting Points

### Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPYyWhtTDmQ>

*Watch this video. Which parts do you particularly agree with/disagree with? What would you say on camera?*

### Act

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Religion.html>

*Summarise three of the six major world religions in three bullet points each.*

### Extend

*Find one or more features that ALL religions have. Find the most interesting feature of three different religions.*