



R.E: SPECIAL SYMBOLS AND OBJECTS

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Overview

- Most of us have objects in our lives that are special. They may hold special meanings to us or remind us of special memories.
- Some things are special just to us (e.g. our cuddly teddy) whilst some may have value to lots of people (e.g. a treasure chest of gold!)
- Symbols are objects/things that stand for something else (e.g. the heart is a symbol of love).
- Many religious people, for example Christians, Jews and Buddhists, have special objects and symbols that mean a lot to them.

The image of the Buddha contains many Buddhist symbols.



In Judaism



Torah Scroll



- The Torah Scroll is also known as the Sefer Torah. To Jews, it is the most important object in the world.
- It contains the first five books of the Bible, written onto animal skin.
- It is dressed in a mantle (a cloth covering), a crown, and a breastplate (a kind of silver covering).
- It is kept in a special cupboard at the front of a synagogue, known as the Aron Hakadesh.
- Jews use a yad (a silver pointer) to handle the Torah, as it is too sacred to be touched by hand.

Other Special Jewish Objects & Symbols

- Passover is also known as Pesach. Jewish families gather together to eat the Seder Meal.
- Each item of food on the plate represents something important from the Passover Story:
- Lamb represents lambs that were sacrificed. Egg represents the new life and freedom. Salt water is a reminder of the tears and sweat of slaves. Haroset is a reminder of the mortar used by slaves.



Key Vocabulary

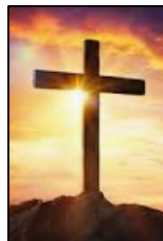
- Symbol
- Represent
- Christianity
- Judaism
- Buddhism
- The Cross
- Crucified
- Bible
- Torah Scroll
- Yad
- Seder Meal
- The Buddha
- Lotus Flower
- Dorje



In Christianity

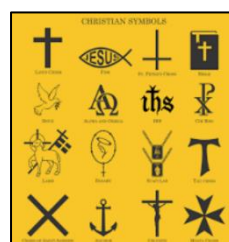


The Cross



- The cross is the most important symbol in Christianity.
- It helps Christians to remember that Jesus Christ died on the cross, in order to make up for the sins of humans.
- The Romans crucified Jesus along with some other Jewish rebels, because they thought that he might lead an uprising against them.
- They were wrong. In fact, Jesus was a man of the people, who wanted people to live in a kind and loving way to one another. He knew that he would die on the cross.
- Afterwards, God brought him back to life. This is why Christians celebrate Easter.

Other Special Christian Objects & Symbols



- There are many other special objects in the Christian faith:
- The Bible is the holy book of Christianity, containing stories and hymns.
- Baptismal certificates show that a person has become a Christian.
- Stained glass windows often show images of Christian stories & beliefs.
- There are also many symbols in Christianity:
- Eggs, bunnies, chicks and daffodils are used at Easter time to present new life – Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified.



In Buddhism



Image of the Buddha



- Buddhists see many symbols in the image of the Buddha.
- The eyes are normally closed, to demonstrate the power of meditating.
- The lotus flower is used to show purity.
- There is often a circle of light around his head, to show that he has been enlightened (knows the truth about life). He often has a calm expression, to show

Other Special Buddhist Objects & Symbols

- Many special objects are used by Buddhists as a part of their rituals.
- Examples include special lamps, prayer bells, drums, and dorjes (representing a thunderbolt, to show the power of nature).



What things/ objects do I have that are special to me?

Why are they special to me?

How do I treat them?

What animals do I resemble? Why?

Which animals can I compare my character to?

What is a symbol? What symbols are in my life?

What symbols can I create for me/ my family?

Why do we use symbols? What is the point?