

## KS3 Topic 3: Rites of Passage

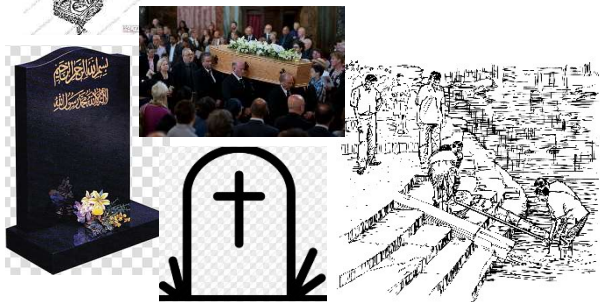
### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CERTAIN EVENTS?

#### What are Rites of Passage?

- They are special events which show a person is moving on to a new stage in life (e.g. following birth, marriage, or death).
- Religions often have special ceremonies to mark a rite of passage
- The ceremonies have special meanings and symbols.

#### Why should we learn about Rites of Passage?

- Rites of passage are very important times for families – you could be invited to one of these events
- It helps us to think about how we might want to celebrate and commemorate special times in our own lives



#### How do different religions celebrate different rites of passage?

Rite of Passage	Religion	Key information	Symbolism
BIRTH	Christianity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a service called a christening where the baby is welcomed into the Christian family</li> <li>• Parents and godparents make promises to raise the child in the Christian faith</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The water is a symbol of purification and washing away sins,</li> <li>• The candle given to the child symbolises Jesus and moving from darkness to light</li> </ul>
BIRTH	Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first words a baby hears are important so they recite the Adhan into the baby's ear &amp; rub something sweet on its tongue</li> <li>• The baby's hair is shaved and the weight in silver given to charity</li> <li>• Muslims believe the family is the heart of the Muslim community and that children must be brought up to be faithful Muslims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muslims recite the Adhan so that the first words a baby hears is the name of Allah</li> <li>• The baby is given something sweet so that they are reminded of good things when they hear the name Allah</li> </ul>
BIRTH	Sikhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sikhs have a naming ceremony and choose the name of the baby using their holy book the Guru Granth Sahib (all girls have the surname Kaur and all boys have the surname Singh) and the child is given some of the 5Ks which symbolise the faith e.g. bracelet</li> <li>• They have a service at the Gurdwara where they share food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomes a child into the Sikh community</li> <li>• The surname shows that no one is better than anyone else and that everyone is equal</li> <li>• Sharing food together is again a way of showing that everyone is equal</li> </ul>
MARRIAGE	Christianity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wedding is held in a church where the bride and groom make their promises in a Christian service and ask God to help them keep the vows which they make to each other</li> <li>• The priest asks for God's blessing on the marriage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bride wears white to symbolise purity</li> <li>• The rings symbolise never ending love</li> <li>• The clanging sound of the church bells is said to drive away evil spirits</li> </ul>
MARRIAGE	Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the wedding the bride will have Mendi patterns</li> <li>• The couple sit under a special canopy</li> <li>• As they make their vows they take seven steps round the fire and as they do this they are joined by a scarf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bride wears red and gold to bring good fortune</li> <li>• The sacred fire is a symbol of God</li> <li>• The scarf symbolises being joined together</li> </ul>
MARRIAGE	Sikhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A marriage hymn called the Lavan is sung</li> <li>• The couple are tied together by a scarf and take four steps around the Guru Granth Sahib</li> <li>• At the end they eat the Karah Prashad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Guru Granth Sahib shows the couple accept its teachings and want to spend the rest of their life together, supporting each other in all ways, but especially spiritually</li> </ul>
DEATH	Christianity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe in life after death and that how you have behaved in this life will make a difference to what happens when you die</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verses are read from the Bible which talk about a new life in Heaven</li> <li>• Flowers symbolise new life</li> <li>• The body is buried or cremated</li> </ul>
DEATH	Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe humans return to Allah when they die and will stand before him to be judged – based on a book containing all actions a person has done Allah will decide on paradise or Hell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The body is wrapped in a plain white cloth and placed in a simple coffin.</li> <li>• Muslims are not cremated as they believe they need their bodies in the afterlife</li> <li>• A simple headstone shows all are equal</li> </ul>
DEATH	Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe in the cycle of life which is life, death and rebirth</li> <li>• When you die your soul is reborn into another form dependent on your actions during your life (Karma)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cremated on a funeral pyre as the fire helps the soul move to its new destination</li> <li>• Many cremations are near the River Ganges</li> </ul>

Key Word	Definition
<b>Adhan</b>	The Muslim call to prayer which are the first word they recite into the baby's ear
<b>Arranged marriage</b>	A marriage planned and agreed by the families or guardians of a couple
<b>Burial</b>	The action of burying someone who has died - Muslims will only bury (rather than cremate)
<b>Christening</b>	A Christian ceremony at which a baby is welcomed into the church family
<b>Cremation</b>	Disposing of a dead person's body by burning it to ashes (often after a funeral ceremony)
<b>Day of Judgment</b>	God's judgement of humans at the end of the world
<b>Forced marriage</b>	This illegal practice, means that someone is forced to marry against their will.
<b>Funeral Pyre</b>	A pile of wood on which the Hindu's burn a body as part of a funeral ceremony
<b>Gurdwara</b>	This is the name given to the place where Sikh's meet to worship
<b>Guru Granth Sahib</b>	The main holy writings of Sikhism - which are central to a Sikh wedding ceremony
<b>Head Shaving Ceremony</b>	This is part of a Muslim baby being welcomed into the world - the weight of the hair shaved is given to charity in silver
<b>Heaven and Hell</b>	After death, Heaven is a placed of delight where Hell is a place of constant torture and horror
<b>Karah Prashad</b>	A special pudding (made while saying Sikh scripture) which is eaten at Sikh weddings
<b>Karma</b>	The sum of a person's actions which will decide what will happen to them in future existences (see Hinduism)
<b>Mandap</b>	A temporary platform set up for religious ceremonies (e.g. a Hindu wedding)

Key Word	Definition
<b>Marriage</b>	Formally recognised union of 2 people ( many religions limit this to a man and a woman) as partners
<b>Mehndi</b>	The art of making temporary henna tattoos - especially as part of preparations for a wedding
<b>Naming Ceremony</b>	A special ceremony at which Sikhs name a baby - usually when it is around 6 weeks old
<b>Purity</b>	Being clean from bad or evil things (this is especially used with respect to sexual sins)
<b>Reincarnation</b>	The idea that when a person dies their soul will be reborn in another body (see Hinduism)
<b>Rite of Passage</b>	A ceremony or event which marks an important stage in someone's life especially birth, transition to adulthood, marriage and death.
<b>River Ganges</b>	The river in India where many Hindus wish to have their ashes scattered following cremation
<b>Sanskrit</b>	An ancient language of India in which Hindu Scriptures are written
<b>Sins</b>	The bad things which a person has done during their lives
<b>Symbol / Symbolism</b>	Something which gives a message without words (just as a sign does but the meaning of a symbol is deeper)
<b>Vows</b>	A solemn promise (e.g. in the marriage vows two people make a commitment to each other). Many religions link vows to their belief that God is witnessing the vow.
<p>Make sure that you can give the key word if someone reads you the definition.</p> <p>Then make sure that you can give the definition if someone reads you the key word.</p> <p>Can you write some sentences which show your understanding of all of the key words?</p>	

