

Pilgrimages

Christians

- Christians travel to Lourdes as a place of pilgrimage
- Christians can choose whether or not to be pilgrims. It is not expected in their faith. They may go on a pilgrimage to develop spiritually and bring them closer to God.
- St Bernardette had visions of St Mary, mother of Jesus, at Lourdes.
- Christians pray to St Mary and St Bernadette at Lourdes, especially to ask for help in curing a disease. They bathe in water that is said to have miraculous healing properties.
- Grotto, underground basilica and Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes all important features and places of worship.
- 6 million pilgrims each year, including 100,000 volunteers and 80,000 sick and disabled seeking a cure or the strength to cope with illness.

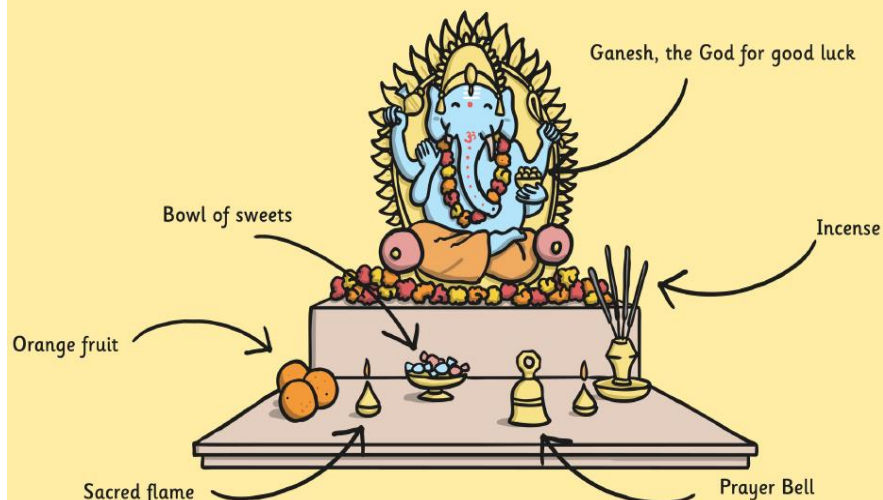


Hindus

- Hindus try to go on pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime, to show devotion to God, achieve forgiveness for doing wrong and help them feel a belonging to the Hindu faith.
- Hindus wash in the River Ganges to wash their sins away.
- Hindus believe all rivers are sacred and water can make miracles happen.
- Pilgrimage can help Hindus become pure in body and mind and bring them closer to Moksha.
- Hindu temple is called a Mandir. Many Hindus also have a shrine in their own home.



Inside a Mandir



Key Vocabulary

Kumbh Mela	Festival for ritual bathing in the River Ganges, held every 12 years
puja	Name for Hindu worship
Varanasi / Benares	City on the banks of the Ganges
Allahabad	City where Kumbh Mela festival is held
Moksha	Freedom from the cycle of death and reincarnation
Bernardette Soubirous	Girl who had visions of Mary, mother of Jesus
The Grotto	Location in Lourdes of Bernadette's visions of Mary
Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes	Three churches make up the sanctuary. In a vision, Mary told Bernadette that they should be built.