

Enquiry Questions: Why do some people think life is like a journey? Where do we go? What do different people think about life after death?

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

Question 1: How do different religions see life as a journey?

Many Hindus see life as a journey. They believe that there are stages in life that most people go through. They call these stages 'ashramas'. The point where one stage ends and another begins is called a 'samskara'.

Question 2: How do different religions welcome babies?

-A baby is welcomed into the Christian faith during a Christening which is usually performed in a church.
-Muslims celebrate the arrival of a new child around 7 days after the baby is born in a ceremony called Aqiqah.
-Hindu birth traditions often begin before a baby is born. During pregnancy, there are several rituals that are performed for the health of the growing baby and the mother. Once the baby is born, a ritual called Jatakarma is performed where honey is poured into the child's mouth and whispering the name of God into the child's ear.

Question 3: How do different religions celebrate birthdays?

-A birthday celebrates the value of a person.
-In Christianity, Christmas celebrates the birthday of Jesus and the coming of God into the world as a human being.
-Muslims celebrate Muhammad's birth, the last and greatest of all Prophets, by giving to charity, offering food and telling stories.

The Journey of Life and Death

Question 4: How do different religions celebrate marriage?

Islamic wedding traditions: Nikkah is the legal contract signed by the bride and groom. Walima is the second part of the wedding where performances, speeches and feasting happens. Clothing is traditionally brightly coloured.

Hindu Wedding traditions:

Kanyadaan is where the father gives his daughter away to the groom. Saptapadi means 'seven steps', the bride and groom take seven steps around the holy fire as they say their vows in Sanskrit.

Christian Wedding Traditions:

Bridal veil shows the modesty of the bride and her respect for God. Vows from the couple are made in front of God, promising to love and cherish each other. Being pronounced husband and wife officially publicly declares that the two are now one in the eyes of God. Signing of the register is a legal requirement to certify the marriage. Exchanging of the rings represents eternal love (there is no beginning or end to a ring).

Question 5: What are the different concepts of afterlife?

-Hindus believe that human beings spend their time in a cycle of birth, life and rebirth.
-Christians believe that there is a life after earthly death
-Muslims believe the soul waits in barzakh (a place of waiting for Judgement Day). When judgement comes, God will deal with everyone according to their actions. After judgement, the dead are restored to their bodies, hence Muslims will not be cremated.



Religions:
Christianity
Hinduism
Islam
Non-religious worldviews such as Humanism

Key Vocabulary: Religion, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Humanist, beliefs, life after death, destiny, worship, ritual, soul, spiritual, commitment, values, heaven, paradise.