

Key Vocabulary

murtis	Images of gods. Hindus use them in their worship. They are often colourful and bright.
yantras	Drawings of the universe made with special colours and shapes.
karma	Consequences caused by people's actions.
bimah	A raised platform where the Torah is placed when read.
ark	A special place where the Torah is kept. It is often on the main wall of the synagogue.
font	These can be different shapes and sizes but all fonts hold water. This water is used for baptism, a special Christian ceremony.
Holy Communion	A special ceremony, involving bread and wine, which helps Christians to remember Jesus.

What Is Worship?

Worship involves showing love or respect to something or someone. People who belong to a religion often worship a god or gods. Worship can happen in many different ways. Some religious believers show their respect and love by looking at a picture of their god and giving special gifts to it. Other people pray or talk to their god while they worship.



What Is a Place of Worship?

A place of worship is a special place within a religion where believers may go to:

- pray
- worship their god or gods
- learn about their religion
- spend time together as a community

Many places of worship have special rules for people to follow as a way of showing respect.



Why Are Places of Worship Important?

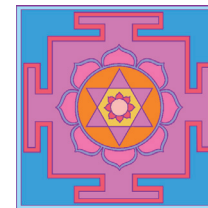
Communities often come together in these special places to spend time together or hold events. Many people mark important occasions in their lives at places of worship, e.g. weddings, baptisms, coming of age ceremonies and invitations into the faith.



Hinduism and Mandirs

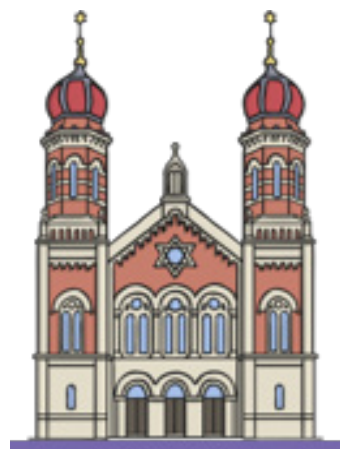
Hindus believe in a supreme god called Brahma. They also believe that people live more than one life and that if they have done good things in this life, **karma** will mean that they will have a good next life.

The Hindu place of worship is called a mandir, or Hindu temple. Not all Mandirs look the same but there are certain parts of the buildings that have special meaning. For example, the towers of a mandir remind Hindus that their spirits will reach heaven. Inside a mandir, you will find **murtis**. You might also find **yantras**.



Judaism and Synagogues

The Jewish place of worship is called a synagogue. Most people in a synagogue cover their heads. Men wear a special cap called a kippah. The Jewish special book is called the Torah. It is sometimes placed on the **bimah** or kept safe in the **ark**. An important set of rules in the Torah is the Ten Commandments, which Jewish people believe God gave to Moses. They try to keep all Ten Commandments throughout their lives.



Christianity and Churches

Christians believe in just one god. They believe that God created the world and all people. The special place of worship for Christians is called a church. Churches are often in the shape of a cross, as this is an important symbol for Christians. Inside a church, you will find a copy of the Christian holy book, the Bible. This is often placed on a lectern. There will also be an altar (where **Holy Communion** takes place) and a **font**.

