



# What makes places special?

## Topic Overview

- **The World**
- Christians believe God made our wonderful world and so we should look after it. They believe God put humans in charge of caring for it.
- **A Church** is a special place for Christians to feel close to Jesus and God.
- Christians worship and pray in Churches. They show that God is important to them by singing His praises and thanking Him for all he does and all he has made.
- Inside a church, you might find: an altar, lectern, pulpit, pews, a font, stained glass windows showing Bible stories, an organ or piano, a cross and statues of religious figures.
- **Mosques** are special places for Muslims.
- They are used by Muslims to worship and pray to Allah (God).
- Men and women pray in different prayer halls.
- Muslims take off their shoes and wash themselves before they pray.
- Most Muslims cover their heads before entering the mosque.
- There are no seats inside as Muslims worship and pray on the floor.
- Inside a mosque, you might find: a dome, minaret, prayer hall, washing area, minbar and mihrab.
- There are no images or statues of Allah inside a mosque.
- Patterns are used to decorate mosques.
- **Synagogues** are special places for Jews where they worship and pray to God.
- Jews wear special clothes during worship, for example: a kippah (a small cap worn to show respect to God), tefillin (2 leather boxes on the arm and head to show God is in their thoughts and heart) and tallit (a prayer shawl to remind Jews of the rules they have to follow).
- Inside a synagogue you might find: an aron hakodesh, ner tamid and bimah.
- There are no pictures of God or people.
- Sometimes men and women sit apart during worship.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
Home	The place where a person or animal lives.
Worship	Showing how special God is to you.
Pray	To thank, ask, or speak to God.
Service	When all the Christians at church get together, usually on a Sunday, to sing and pray to God and learn from the Bible together.
Bible	Christian holy book.
Torah	Jewish holy book.
Imam	Religious leader in the Islamic faith.
Mecca	Holy city in the Islamic faith.
Special	Different from others.
Wudu	Washing before prayer in the Islamic faith.

<b>Altar;</b> a raised table used during church services.	<b>Lectern;</b> a stand where the Bible is read from.	<b>Pulpit;</b> where the priest stands and speaks.
<b>Cross;</b> to remind Christians of Jesus' death and resurrection.	<b>Pews;</b> where everyone sits in rows on benches.	<b>Font;</b> a large stone bowl filled with holy water used to baptise people.
<b>Aron hakodesh;</b> a large cupboard where the Torah is kept.	<b>Ner tamid;</b> a light above the aron hakodesh that never goes out.	<b>Bimah;</b> a raised platform with a reading desk where the Torah is read from.
<b>Dome;</b> to remind Muslims about the universe Allah created.	<b>Minaret;</b> a tall tower where the call to prayer is heard from.	<b>Prayer hall;</b> a large hall that Muslims men use for worship.
<b>Washing area;</b> so Muslims can wash themselves before they worship.	<b>Minbar;</b> a platform from which the imam stands and speaks during worship.	<b>Mihrab;</b> shows the direction of Mecca.