

IS IT BETTER TO EXPRESS YOUR RELIGION IN ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE OR IN CHARITY AND GENEROSITY?

Curriculum Subject - RE

Summary

You will learn in depth from two different religions about why their holy buildings and works of art matter to them as expressions of devotion to God and worship and about how they practice generosity and charity.

Muslim and Christian examples are sometimes criticised by non-religious people: this critique is examined too.



Facts

1. Places that are special for groups of people with faith are considered to be sacred places. For Muslims, mosques are a sacred place for worship and for Christians, churches.
2. In Islamic architecture there are no images of Allah, humans or animals as it is believed that they mislead rather than enlighten us. Instead geometric and natural pattern is used to create beauty.
3. In comparison to Islamic architecture, Christian architecture often depicts images of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, angels and others, important to their beliefs.
4. Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid are two of the biggest Muslim charities in the U.K. Christian Aid is one of the largest Christian charities.
5. Muslims practice Zakat - charitably giving money (about £1 out of every £40 earned) to those less fortunate. They believe that, in doing so, they are following the teachings from the Qu'ran.
6. Many Christians support charitable causes and in particular Christian Aid. Like Muslims, they believe that, in doing so, they are following the teachings of Jesus.
7. Christian Aid raised about £120,000,000 in 2019. Its money goes to local partners - the people working on the ground - rather than governments. That way, they say, corrupt governments can't misuse funds.
8. It is estimated that in 2019, during Ramadan alone, Muslims gave £130,000,000 to charity

Questions We Will Ask

1. What makes a place special? Are all places sacred? What is the value of a sacred place?
2. How do mosque buildings express Islamic beliefs and values? What makes a fine mosque?
3. Muslim calligraphy, painting and poetry: what is inspiring?
4. How do Christians use art in worship and in remembering Jesus? What do you admire about some works of art?
5. Can a Christian place of worship be a building for the 'Glory of God'? What does this mean?
6. How and why do Muslim charities try to change the world? How and why does Christian Aid try to change the world?
7. What matters more to Christians and Muslims: art and architecture or generosity and charity? What matters more to you?

Key Vocabulary

Calligraphy Decorative handwriting or lettering.
Salvation Deliverance from sin
Ummah The collective community of Islamic people
Zakat Tax that Muslims are expected to pay as a religious duty
Ramadan The 9th month of the Muslim year when fasting is observed