

Sacred texts and special things

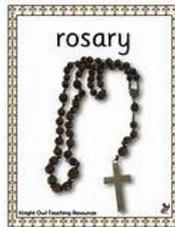


Christians

- Christian artefacts include the cross, candles, Bible, chalice, priest’s stole and rosary beads
- They are items used in worshipping God, usually in a church.
- Not many Christians worship at home in modern times.
- Saying Grace, bedtime prayers and Sunday school are all practices which are dying out.
- Each artefact has a special meaning.
- For example, a Baptismal candle represents the child passing from darkness into the light of God.
- Different types of Christians use different artefacts. Rosary beads are used by Catholic Christians.
- Bible stories often inform/teach the reader on how they should live their life e.g. sermon on the mount, parables.

Jews

- The Torah is also the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.
- It is written in ancient Hebrew. Torah means “teachings”.
- In around 1250BC, God spoke to Moses and what He said was written in the Pentateuch (first 5 books of Bible).
- Moses gave the Torah to the Jews, to guide their beliefs and lives.
- There are 613 rules from God in the Torah.
- It is hand written on scrolls of animal skin, not in a book – this is an ancient art. The scrolls are the holiest objects in Judaism.
- When a scroll is being written, any mistake is not allowed so if an error is made, the writer has to start all over again!
- The Torah scrolls are taken out from the Ark (Aron ha kodesh) and portions read in the synagogue three times each week.
- The reading is conducted using an ancient tune and is sung rather than spoken.
- The scrolls are not directly touched when unfurled on the Bimah (raised platform in middle of the synagogue). A pointer or Yad (hand) is used instead. This is in the shape of a hand with an outstretched finger.
- Stories from Torah teach reader to fear/respect God. 10 commandments = rules for life.



Christian artefacts



The Torah



Key Vocabulary

Hebrew	Jewish language
Pentateuch	The five books of Moses in the Torah
chalice	A special drinking cup, used for holding wine.
stole	The robes worn by a priest during a religious service
Rosary beads	A string of beads that show the number and type of prayers to be said by a worshipper.
Menorah	A multi-branch candle holder
Baptism	Person is sprinkled with holy water to become a Christian.