



A Class Act: Faith and the Arts

Why is it sometimes easier to express our inner feelings through the expressive arts?

Why and how do religions use expressive arts?

People often express their ideas, opinions, beliefs and/or emotions verbally. Sometimes, this is not possible or appropriate and therefore, people may use the arts in order to express themselves. This can be in the form of: dance, drama, paintings, poetry, music, and tapestry.

How do different religions use the arts to portray their beliefs?

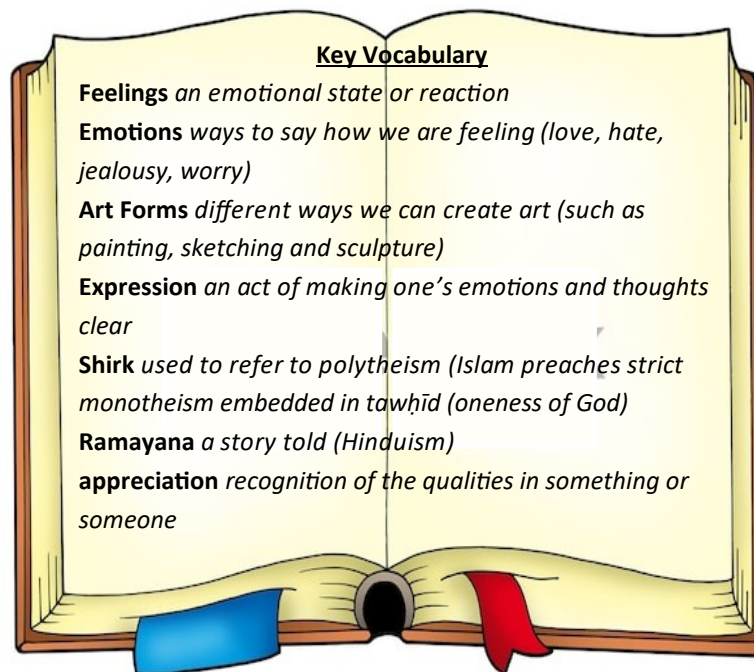
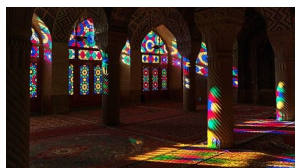
Christianity - stained glass windows

Hinduism - Rangoli patterns

Buddhism - Mandala

Islam - mosques and prayer mat

Judaism - Synagogues decorated with pictures of plants



Key Vocabulary

Feelings an emotional state or reaction

Emotions ways to say how we are feeling (love, hate, jealousy, worry)

Art Forms different ways we can create art (such as painting, sketching and sculpture)

Expression an act of making one's emotions and thoughts clear

Shirk used to refer to polytheism (Islam preaches strict monotheism embedded in tawhīd (oneness of God))

Ramayana a story told (Hinduism)

appreciation recognition of the qualities in something or someone

Why can expressive be a useful way to explain mysteries in life?

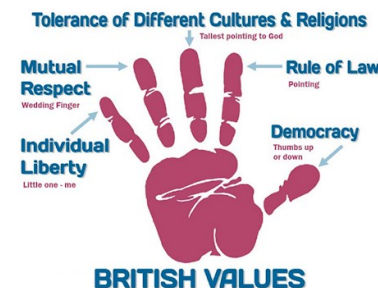
Expressive arts may be used as a communication tool to explain mysteries in life when it is difficult to use words.

Why are expressive arts a useful vehicle for conveying deeply held beliefs and values?

Drawing, role-play, art, singing, painting and music can be a communication tool for people that may find it difficult to express their feelings and emotions through words.

Applying Past Knowledge

This learning links with the lessons you had in Autumn 1 Year 6, learning about Hinduism and Diwali.



Do all religions use expressive arts to show faith in and belief in the same way?

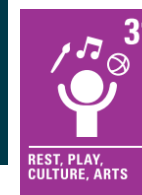
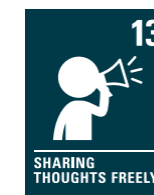
Art in **Hinduism** has important connections to worship and devotion.

Buddhists will often have a shrine around a statue of the Buddha, which helps them to meditate at home or in their temple (often called a vihara).

The **mandala** is an important art form in Buddhist tradition.

Churches in **Christianity** are often highly decorated with gold and vibrant colours, designed to give worshippers a glimpse of what heaven may be like.

Muslims and the Jewish community believe that God is too great to try to capture in pictures or sculptures, and so they find other ways to adorn their holy spaces and make them look beautiful: **mosques** will have beautiful calligraphy and geometric patterns, while **synagogues** are often decorated with pictures of plants, trees and religious symbols.



RELIGIOUS
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