

Summer 2 Week 10 RE

Lesson 3

Can I explore different religious buildings across the world?

Religious buildings

Religious buildings and places of worship are some of the most cultural buildings with beautiful architecture. The architecture varies depending on the location and the religion that it belongs to.

Today we're going to explore different religions' places of worship and see how they are similar and different!

Which of these do you think look like a church?



Which of these do you think look like a church?



They are actually all churches! Even though they look very different, they are all religious buildings for Christians!

Today we are going to look at how religious buildings can look very different even if they're within the same religious faith.

Christianity - Temppeliaukio Church (the Rock Church) Helsinki, Finland.

The Rock Church, given its name for being built into the rock, was built in 1969. This is a relatively contemporary (new) built church - most churches that we are familiar with in England were built a much longer time ago!

You can see that the interior is much more modern than more traditional churches.



Christianity - Mont Saint-Michel, Normandy, France.

This looks more like a traditional church. The main facade of the church was first reinforced in the 12th century, and has been developed throughout the years.

This church has an affiliation (link) with the Roman Catholic denomination. Catholic church interiors and exteriors are commonly extravagant and luxurious. We can see from the architecture here that it is extravagant with its high turrets and spires.



Christianity - Temple of the Sagrada Familia, Barcelona, Spain

The Temple of the Sagrada Familia also has an affiliation to the Roman catholic denomination of Christianity. Construction started in 1882.

Similar to the Mont Saint-Michel, we can see extravagant architecture with large spires.

How are the Temple of the Sagrada Familia and the Mont Saint-Michel different to the Rock church in Helsinki?



Islam - The Nusrat Djahan Mosque, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Nusrat Djahan Mosque is a mosque built on the outskirts of Copenhagen, Denmark. The Nusrat Jahan mosque was the first mosque to be built in Denmark; it was built in 1967.

Even more remarkably, this mosque was financed solely by female members of the islamic community in Denmark.

It still has the traditional round roofed architecture, but it is much more contemporary.



Islam - Dome of the Rock Mosque, Jerusalem, Israel

The 'Dome of the Rock' Mosque in Jerusalem is a traditional architectural mosque, located in a significantly religious area of the world.

It is considered to be the first monumental building in Islamic history and has architectural importance; it is rich with mosaic, faience, and marble, much of which was added several centuries after its completion.

It was originally built between 685 AD and 691 AD, but has been maintained throughout.



Islam - Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey

The 'Sultan Ahmed Mosque', also known as the 'Blue Mosque', was constructed between 1609 and 1616 and remains a fully functioning mosque today.

You can see from the picture that it still has the dome roof like the previous mosque examples. Domes have significance within a mosque as it is a symbolic representation of the vault of heaven.



Hinduism - Prambanan Temple Compound, Indonesia.

Prambanan is the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia, dedicated to Trimurti, the three highest gods in Hinduism. The temple compound is arranged in a mandala layout. With combined numbers of over 500 temples, the Prambanan Temple Compounds represents an architectural and cultural treasure.



There are also Buddhist temple sites in the surrounding area. They are both also an example of religious harmony and peaceful cohabitation between faiths in Indonesia's past.

Hinduism - Kashi Vishwanath Varanasi, India.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples, located on the western bank of the holy river Ganga, in India. The Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Shiva, has been referred to in Hindu scriptures for a very long time as a central part of worship in the Shaiva Philosophy.

The temple complex consists of a series of smaller shrines. The main temple is quadrangle and is surrounded by shrines of other gods.

The complex layout of multiple shrines and temples is similar to the Prambanan Temple Compound in Indonesia.



Buddhism - Potala Palace, China

Construction of the Potala Palace, China, began in 1645. The Potala Palace is on high hill, the walls are sloping and there are flat roofs at various levels.

This central member of Potala is called the "red palace" from its crimson colour, which distinguishes it from the rest. It contains the principal halls and chapels and shrines of past Dalai Lamas. Inside, there are rich, decorative paintings with jewelled work, carving and other ornamentation.



Buddhism - Wat Arun ('Temple of Dawn'), Thailand

The Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn) is in Bangkok, Thailand. The temple gets its name from the Hindu god Aruna who is often shown as rays of the rising sun. The temple was constructed in the 17th Century, but its famous spires were built in the early 19th Century.

The architecture looks similar to that of the Buddhist Potala Palace in China. Both Temples are placed on hills, and rise high into the sky line. They are also both colourful.



Sikhism - Sri Harmandir Sahib Amristar, India

The Sri Harmandir Sahib Amristar, located in India, is a Sikh place of worship also known as 'The Golden Temple'. It gets its name from the beautiful and elaborate golden architecture.

The temple was constructed in approximately 1577. The intricate architecture sees a contrast of white buildings, with the gold temple and gold domed shape turrets.



Sikhism - Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sahab, England

The Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sahab, in England, is the largest Sikh temple in London. It opened as a place of worship after being constructed in 2003 and it was funded by donations from the local Sikh community.

It is similar to the 'Golden Temple' in design however it is far less elaborate. They share the same colour palette of white and golden domed shape turrets. As well as being less elaborate, it is also less grand and much smaller in size.



Judaism - Jubilee Synagogue, Prague Czech Republic

The Jubilee Synagogue, also known as the 'Jerusalem Synagogue', in Prague, Czech Republic was built in 1906.

The synagogue's exterior boasts vibrant colours, elaborate patterns, turrets, and the Star of David placed centrally above the main entrance.

Inside, the detail remains just as elaborate and colourful.



Judaism - Eldridge Street Synagogue, New York USA

The Eldridge Street Synagogue in New York (USA), was built in 1887 and is one of the first synagogues to be built in the USA by Eastern European Jews.

When compared to the Jubilee Synagogue in Prague, the exterior looks much less plain as it is not colourful. However, they share similar style windows especially the large, central circular one above the entrance.

The two synagogues are very similar inside. They are both warm and inviting, with intricate detail and have similar circular windows.



Activity:

Using the information from the slides, create a leaflet exploring religious buildings from one religion.

Red - Use the facts to help you create your leaflet.

Yellow - Use the prompting questions to help you create your leaflet.

Green - Create your leaflet exploring a religion's religious buildings. Use the examples of buildings from this lesson, or you can research more of your own - maybe there is a local place of worship that you could explore too?