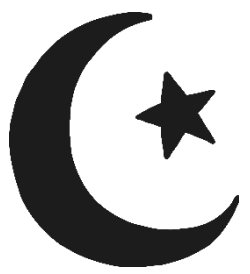


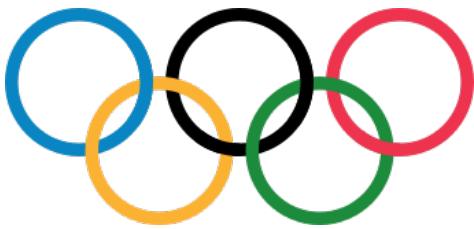
Religious
symbols



What is a symbol?

A symbol is a mark or character used to represent something.

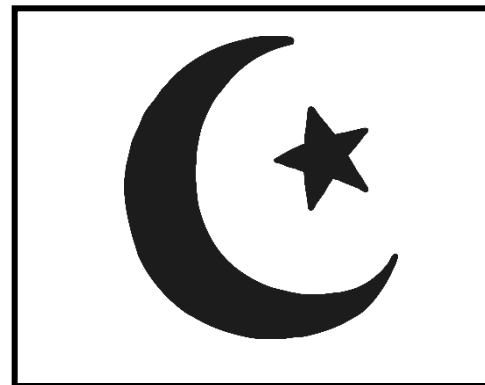
Do you know what each of these symbols represents?



Religious symbols of Islam

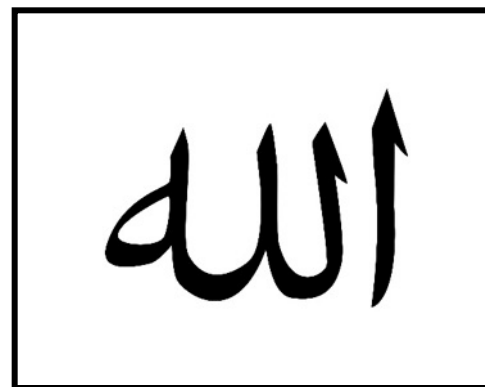
The Star and Crescent

This symbol features on the flags of Muslim countries such as Turkey and Pakistan.

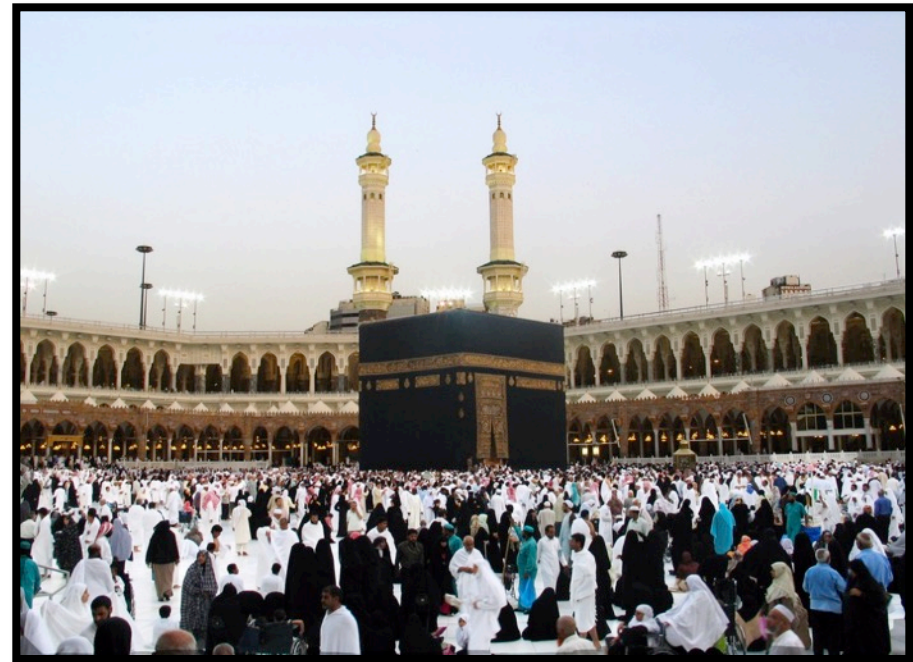


The name 'Allah'

This is very important. Certain words in Arabic script are symbols which represent Islam and this is one of them.



The Kabah also known as the Sacred House. This is the most sacred point within the most sacred mosque in the world. It can be found in Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Wherever they are in the world, Muslims are expected to face the Kabah when worshipping. As long as they are physically able to do so, every Muslim is required to make the pilgrimage here at least once in their lifetime. According to Muslims it was built by Prophet Ibrahim and the first house built for humanity to worship Allah.



How would you feel to be there?

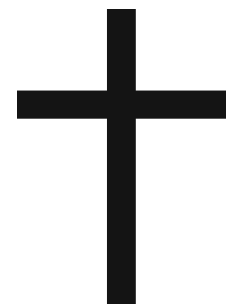
Symbols on prayer mats

What can you see?



Religious symbols of Christianity

The cross is the most common symbol associated with Christianity. It stands for Jesus' death and suffering on the cross during the crucifixion. It also symbolises the resurrection.



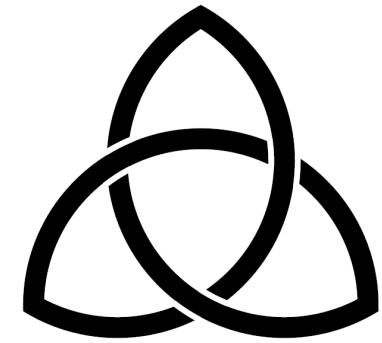
The fish is another sign of Christianity. It was originally a secret sign used by early persecuted Christians to show they believed in and followed Jesus.



The dove is a Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit. In the Bible story, a dove returned to Noah with an olive branch and so the dove is seen as a sign of hope.

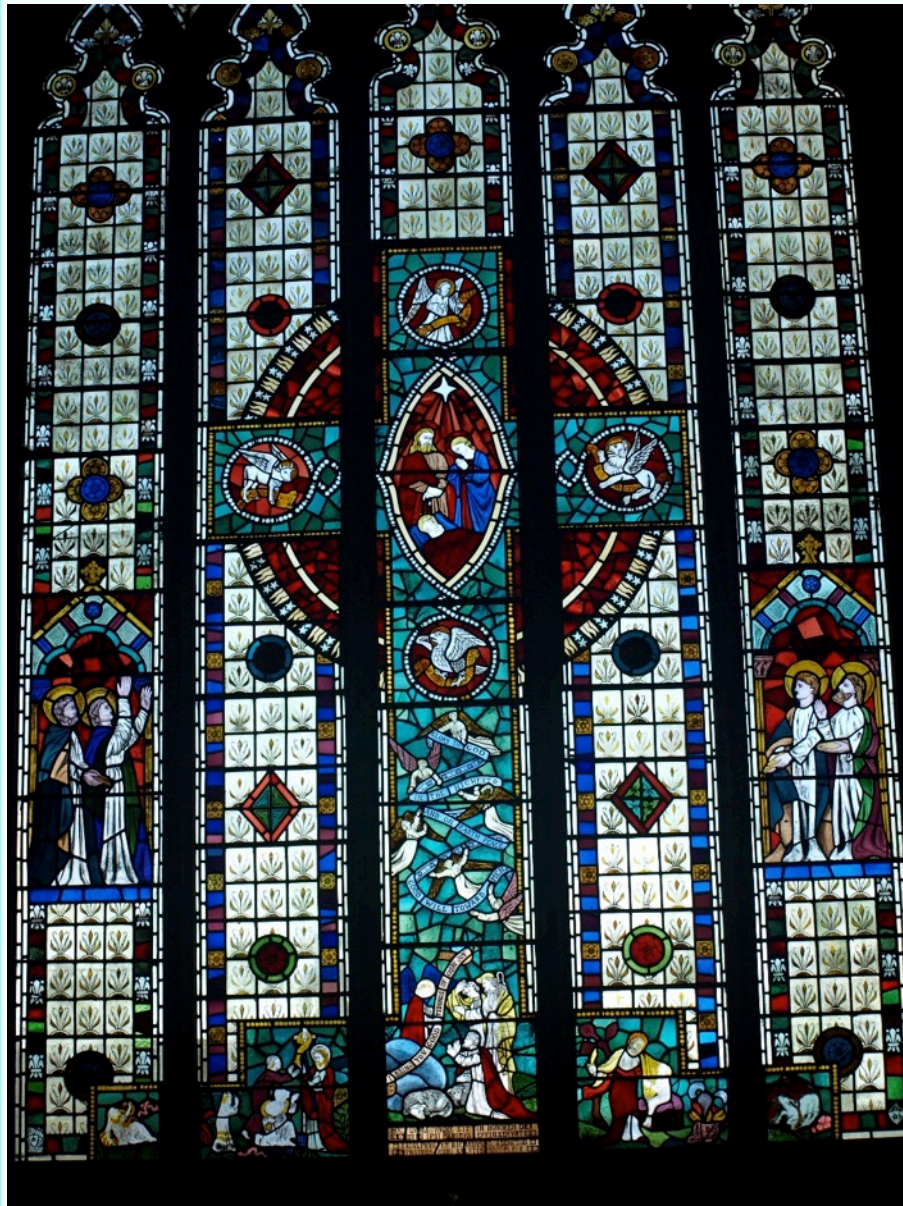


The Holy Trinity symbolises the Christian belief that there is one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



The candle flame is another symbol as Jesus is known as the light of the world. It is seen as a symbol of hope in dark times. The Paschal or Easter candle is lit in church at Easter time to represent the light of Christ coming into the world.





Can you spot any Christian symbols in the stained glass windows?

What do you think each image symbolises?

Religious symbols of Sikhism

The Khanda is the symbol of Sikhism.

The double-edged sword known as a Khanda, appears in the centre of the symbol which represents divine knowledge. The circle around it is known as the Chakar which represents God as eternal perfection. The Chakar is surrounded by two curved swords called kirpans which represent responsibilities to society and spirituality.



Nishan Sahib is the name given to the flag flying outside every gurdwara. It is an orange triangular shape with the Khanda in the centre.



Prayer

A way of worshipping God. It can take place individually or with others. It may involve words and song. Prayers can be those of help, forgiveness or thanks.

