

RE / PSHE · Y4–Y6

# The Environment & Faith

RE Ethics — Y4–Y6

## What do different faiths teach about the environment?

### 1 Christianity

Genesis describes humans as 'stewards' of creation — responsible for caring for the Earth, not owners of it. Many Christians see environmental care as a religious duty.

*Example: 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1)*

### 2 Islam

Humans are 'khalifah' (stewards/trustees) of the Earth, accountable to God for how they care for it. Wasting resources and causing unnecessary harm is discouraged.

*Example: 'Do not cause corruption on Earth after it has been set in order' (Qur'an 7:56)*

### 3 Judaism

'Tikkun Olam' (repairing the world) — a Jewish concept of responsibility to improve the world. 'Bal tashchit' (do not waste/destroy) prohibits unnecessary destruction.

### 4 Hinduism

All living things contain 'Brahman' (divine spirit) and are interconnected. Ahimsa (non-violence and respect for life) extends to the natural world.

### 5 Buddhism

Interdependence (all things are connected) implies care for the environment. The First Precept (non-harming) extends to all living beings and ecosystems.

### 6 Sikhism

'Sarbat da Bhala' — welfare of all — extends to the natural world. The Guru Granth Sahib describes nature as God's creation to be respected.



## Discussion questions

1. Do you need to be religious to care about the environment?
2. What does 'stewardship' mean? Do you think humans are good stewards of the Earth?
3. Is there a difference between 'owning' the Earth and 'being responsible for' it?
4. What might these teachings mean practically for a person of each faith?
5. What do you think your own responsibility to the environment is?

