

**Topic: Landmarks in Life**

**Phase: Lower KS2**

**Strand: Investigating**

**What should I already know?**

- I can name one or two celebrations that are important to believers of different religions.
- I can reflect upon my life as a journey so far, and can talk about the choices that I have made. I know this journey is different to others’.
- I can use basic research skills to find and select information which will help me learn more about a subject.

**At the end of the unit I will be able to:**

- I can name a range of celebrations that are important to believers.
- I can reflect upon important celebrations in my life so far, and some that I am looking forward to in the future.
- I can use enhanced research skills to find out useful information.
- I can present the information I have found to my peers. I can link my knowledge of religious celebrations to compare how landmarks in religious lives are similar. I can reflect on how I celebrate events in my own life.
- I can work with others to create a new way of celebrating events.

**Important things to know...**

Many people choose to go through ‘rites of passage’ at different times of their lives. These can be for many reasons, but there are lots of different religious ceremonies which people can take part in at different ages to enter or become a confirmed member of a religion. These ceremonies can include;

- Confirmation - Christianity
- Upanayana – Hinduism
- Naam Karan – Sikhism
- Marriage – all faiths and none!!
- Funerals – all faiths and none!!

Some ‘rites of passage’ aren’t based in religion and can include starting school, passing a swimming badge or graduating from university. The different ‘rites of passage’ that a person goes through can help to develop who they are as an individual person, and are part of what makes everyone different.

**We are MANOR!  
As learners we will ...**

**Manners**

Develop a respect and understanding for the views and opinions of other people and share ideas about our own ideas and thoughts in a respectful manner. We will celebrate good work, value others’ contributions, and discuss and debate opinions.

**Aspiration**

Learn by being challenged in a series of well-designed and interesting activities designed to deepen our understanding of the world and broaden our horizons. We will be aspirational in developing knowledge and conceptual understanding through practical activities and discussions.

**Nurture**

To recognise that we live in a wonderful world made up of many different people and ways of living. We will develop an appreciation and respect for the diverse world and environment in which we live, showing care and compassion for the people and beliefs around us.

**Open-Mindedness**

We will be open-minded so that we can learn more about others and the way in which they live their lives. We will listen respectfully to each other and not laugh at or make fun of what other people say.

**Resilience**

Engage confidently with the RE curriculum and learn that anything is possible and failure is not something to fear but to learn from. We will support each other to learn new things and share what we know so that we might help others.

## Confirmation

Most Christians are baptised when they are a baby. It is a ceremony that shows the baby will grow up in the light of the church, and that they are now part of God's family. But the Confirmation ceremony is held when the child (usually a teenager) actually decides for themselves that they want to be part of the Christian family. Confirmation is a sign that a person has reached maturity and is now able to take responsibility for their own faith. It also strengthens and deepens the connection to the Church that is established at baptism.



## Upanayana (Sacred Thread Ceremony)

The Sacred Thread ceremony is a ceremony for boys in some Hindu communities to confirm they are of an age to take on religious responsibility. Girls are sometimes honoured in the same way, but it is rare for them to receive and wear the thread. In some Hindu communities, the male participant's head is shaved for the ceremony, symbolising a cleansing from their old ways of living. New clothes are put on after bathing. Gifts and blessings from family and friends are often received. In some communities, the person asks family and friends for alms to show that they no longer expect the family to automatically provide for them now they are an adult.



## Naam Karan

Sikhs celebrate the birth of a child through a naming ceremony called Naam Karan. This is a special ceremony that happens at the gurdwara around two weeks after the birth of the child. The granthi then opens the Guru Granth Sahib at random. The granthi reads the first line of the page, and the first letter of the first word on that page decides the first letter of the child's name. The parents then choose the name, which is announced by the granthi to the congregation.

Although many Sikhs use their family name, some decide to use the names Kaur or Singh. This is to follow Guru Gobind Singh's practice of calling all men Singh and all women Kaur to remind Sikhs of the oneness of humanity.

Many Sikhs choose to give their children these names at the naming ceremony. Children who are not given these names may adopt them later if they choose to undergo the Amrit Sanskar ceremony as adults.



## Funerals

In almost all faiths, when someone dies, there is a special ceremony to mark the event. Sometimes this is a religious ceremony where God is thanked for the gift of the person's life and prayers are said to help them reach the afterlife. At some non-religious funerals, the people themselves are the focus of the ceremony and often, friend and family will share their memories of the person who has died. There would be no prayers or hymns sung at a non-religious funeral.

## Islamic Marriage Ceremony

Most Muslims believe marriage is a fundamental building block of life. Marriage is a contract between a man and woman to live together as husband and wife. The marriage contract is called a nikah. For most Muslims the purpose of marriage is to:

- keep faithful to each other for the rest of their lives
  - have children and bring them up in the Muslim faith
- Marriage is mentioned many times in the Qur'an, which Muslims believe is the word of God, as revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, and therefore, they follow its teachings on marriage. Muslims also regard the teachings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad as a source of authority. In the Qur'an it says that the Prophet was married, and therefore most Muslims look to follow his example.

In the Qur'an, Muslim men are allowed up to four wives, as long as they can treat each one equally. This practice is known as polygamy. However, if they cannot treat their wives equally, Muslim men are advised to have just one wife, and this is the practice in most modern Islamic societies. Women can only have 1 husband. Polygamy is not allowed in the UK.



## Vocabulary

<b>landmark event in life</b>	An event marking an important stage or turning point in someone's life
<b>journey</b>	The process of travelling from one place to another
<b>coming of age ceremony</b>	The age or occasion when one formally becomes an adult.
<b>priorities</b>	A thing that is regarded as more important than others.
<b>rite</b>	A religious or other solemn ceremony or act.
<b>nikah</b>	a religious ceremony for a Muslim couple to be legally wed under Islamic law.
<b>Granthi</b>	a ceremonial reader of the Guru Granth Sahib.

## Landmarks in Life Quiz

- 1). True or false, rites of passage **ALWAYS** involve religious ceremonies.
- 2). How many wives can a Muslim man have if he lives in a Muslim country?
- 3). Who chooses the name for a Sikh baby – the parents or the Granthi?
- 4). Look at the picture showing Confirmation. Why do you think the people going through the ceremony are all wearing white clothes?
- 5). Can you name three things that happen at an Upanayana ceremony?