

## Glossary

### General

**Abrahamic** - in religion, Abrahamic religion is the designation used for monotheistic faiths emphasizing and tracing their common origin to Abraham

**Allegorical** - the representation of abstract ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form

**Assumption** – feast in honour of the reception of the Virgin Mary into Heaven

**Benevolent** - characterized by or suggestive of doing good

**Brotherhood** – community of feeling

**Calligraphy** – beautiful handwriting

**Canaan** – ancient name for West Palestine – land of promise

**Common Era** – Christian Era

**Community** – body of people having religion in common

**Compassion** – sympathy, mercy, tolerance, kindness, generosity, love, caring, cooperation, consideration, charity

**David** - king of Judah and Israel c.1000–c.962 BCE

**Elijah** –a Hebrew prophet 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE

**Ethics** – set of principles, morals – rules of conduct

**Fellowship** – sharing, community of interest

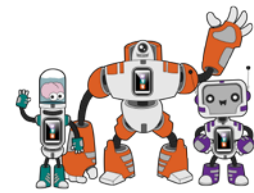
**Gabriel (Jibrail)** – one of the archangels, appearing usually as a divine messenger - *Islam* the angel of revelation and the intermediary between God and Muhammad

**Gandhi** - Mahatma (1869–1948 CE), Indian nationalist and spiritual leader

**Hell** - a place regarded in various religions as a spiritual realm of evil and suffering where souls are separated from God after death

**Integrity** - The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

**Hagar** - The mother of Ishmael (Ismail), son of Abraham



**Holy Land** - a region on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, in what is now Israel and Palestine. A region similarly revered, for example, Arabia in Islam

**Iran** - Formerly Persia. A country of southwest Asia

**Isaiah** - a major Hebrew prophet of Judah in the 8th century BCE

**Jacob** - a Hebrew patriarch, the younger of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca

**Jerusalem** - a city in east central Israel. Holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims

**Jonah** - a Hebrew minor prophet.

**Justice** - the quality of being fair and reasonable.

**Liberal** - open to new behaviour or opinions and willing to discard traditional values

**Mesopotamia** - an ancient region of southwestern Asia in present-day Iraq

**Mohammad Ali** - (1769–1849), Viceroy of Egypt 1805–49 CE. He modernised Egypt's infrastructure

**Monotheism** – the doctrine or belief that there is only one God

**Morality** - principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour

**Mount Sinai** - Sinai: a mountain peak in the southern Sinai Peninsula - it is believed to be the peak on which Moses received the Ten Commandments

**Noah** - a patriarch, who according to a story in Genesis, made the ark that saved his family and specimens of every animal

**Observant** - adhering strictly to the rules of a particular religion, especially Judaism

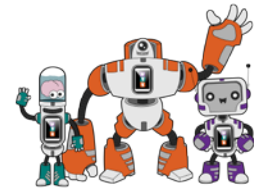
**Orthodox** - conforming to what is generally or traditionally accepted as right or true; established and approved

**Paradise** - in some religions - Heaven - as the final place of the just where souls will be united with God after death

**Pilgrimage** - a journey to a sacred place or shrine

**Prayer** - a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship

**Prophet** – a person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God



**Respect** - to feel or show deferential regard for; esteem - also to avoid violation of or interference with

**Responsibility** - the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something

**Revelation** - a surprising and previously unknown fact, especially one made in a dramatic way

**Sacred texts** - writing that is venerated or given great respect for the worship of a deity

**Semitic** - relating to a family of languages or people who speak those languages that include Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic

**Solomon** - son of David; king of Israel c.970–c.930 BCE

**Stereotype** – a widely held but fixed and over simplified view, image or idea of a particular type of person or thing

**Symbols** – a thing that represents or stands for something else, esp. a material object representing something abstract

**Tessellation** – a tessellation is created when a shape is repeated over and over again covering a plane without any gaps or overlaps

**Theology** - the study of the nature of God and religious belief

**Ur** - an ancient Sumerian city, formerly on the Euphrates River, in southern Iraq

**Winston Churchill** - British statesman and leader during World War II

**Wisdom** - The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise

**Worship** - the feeling or expression of reverence/deep respect and adoration for a deity

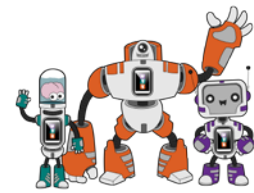
## **Judaism**

**Abraham (Abram)** - the Hebrew patriarch from whom all Jews trace their descent

**Adon Alam** - is one of the few strictly metrical hymns in the Jewish liturgy

**Bagels** - a dense bread roll in the shape of a ring, made by boiling dough and then baking it

**Bar Mitzvah** – the religious initiation ceremony of a Jewish boy who has reached the age of 13 and regarded as the age of religious maturity



**Bat Mitzvah** - a religious initiation ceremony for a Jewish girl aged twelve years and one day, regarded as the age of religious maturity

**Bimah** - a raised platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read

**Challah** – enriched bread used particularly on Shabbat and during festivals

**Circumcision** – religious rite performed by a qualified ‘mohel’ on all Jewish boys usually on the eighth day after birth

**Covenant** – an agreement

**Dreidel (Sivivon)** - a small four sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side

**Elijah** - a Hebrew prophet 9<sup>th</sup> century BCE

**G-d** - written designation for the Most High; this designation is used by Jewish writers. The words "God" and "Lord" are often written by many Jews as "G-d" and "L-rd" as a way of avoiding writing any name of God and to avoid the risk of the sin of erasing it. It is understood that one should not erase or blot out the name of God

**Hamantashen** – a three cornered pastry with a filling such as poppy seeds or prunes traditionally eaten during the Jewish holiday of Purim

**Hanukah (Chanukah)** - lesser Jewish festival, lasting eight days from the 25th day of Kislev (in December) and commemorating the rededication of the Temple in 165 BCE by the Maccabees after its desecration by the Syrians. It is marked by the successive kindling of eight lights

**Ha Shem** - Literally, The Name. The Name of God, which is not pronounced. The phrase "ha-Shem" is often used as a substitute for God's Name

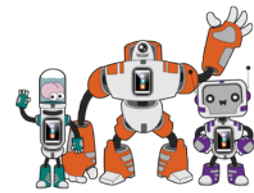
**Hebrew** – ancient Semitic language; language of the Tenakh – Hebrew scriptures and used by Jews for prayer and study. Everyday language in Israel

**Isaac** - a Hebrew patriarch, son of Abraham and Sarah and father of Jacob and Esau

**Ishmael** - A son of Abraham, by his wife Sarah's maid, Hagar, driven away with his mother after the birth of Sarah's son Isaac. **Ishmael** (or Ismail) is also important in Islamic belief as the traditional ancestor of Muhammad and of the Arab peoples

**Jew (Jewish, Judaism, Judaic)** - member of the people and cultural community whose traditional religion is Judaism and who trace their origins through the ancient Hebrew people of Israel to Abraham

**Kosher** – foods permitted by Jewish dietary laws



**Latkes** - a pancake, especially one made with grated potato

**Messiah** - the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation prophesied in the Hebrew Bible

**Mitzvah** – commandment – usually describing a good deed

**Modeh Ani** - (יגא הדומ); "I give thanks," the first words of the prayer) is a Jewish prayer that observant Jews recite daily upon waking, while still in bed.

**Moses** - Hebrew prophet and lawgiver; brother of Aaron, born in Egypt and led the Israelites across the desert toward the Promised Land. During the journey he was inspired by God on Mount Sinai to write down the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone

**Passover or Pesach** – a major Jewish spring festival that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, lasting seven or eight days from the 15th day of Nisan. One of the three pilgrim festivals

**Purim** – festival commemorating the rescue of Persian Jews as told in the book of Esther.  
**Rabbi** – my teacher – an ordained Jewish teacher. Often the religious leader of a Jewish community

**Reform** – a form of Judaism, initiated in Germany by the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn (1729–86 CE), that has reformed or abandoned aspects of Orthodox Jewish worship and ritual in an attempt to adapt to modern changes in social, political, and cultural life

**Rosh Hashanah** – Jewish New Year

**Sabbath (Shabbat)** – day of spiritual renewal and rest starting at sunset on Friday and ending at nightfall on Saturday

**Shalom** – used as salutation by Jews at meeting or parting, meaning “peace.”

**Shema** – major Jewish prayer affirming belief in one God, found in the Torah

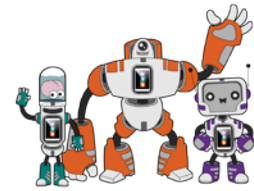
**Shavuot** – one of three pilgrim festivals. Celebrated in summer seven weeks after Pesach.

**Sukkot** – one of three pilgrim festivals celebrated in autumn – sukkah or temporary booths/tabernacles are used during sukkot.

**Synagogue** – building for Jewish public prayer, study and assembly

**Tallit** – prayer shawl – four corned with fringes

**Talmud** – collected together



**Tefillin** – small leather boxes containing passages from the Torah, strapped on the forehead and arm for morning prayers on weekdays

**Tenakh** – the collected 24 books of the Jewish Bible made up from three sections Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim (Te;Na;Kh)

**Ten Commandments** - The divine rules of conduct given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai

**Torah** – Law; teaching. The Five Books of Moses

**Western (Wailing) Wall** – a high wall in Jerusalem said to stand on the site of Herod's temple, where Jews traditionally pray and lament on Fridays

**Yom Kippur** – Day of Atonement. A fast day occurring on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah

## **Christianity**

**Abraham** - in the Bible - The Hebrew patriarch from whom all Jews trace their descent

**Advent** – The period beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas

**Aramaic** - Semitic language, a Syrian dialect of which was used as a common language in the Near East from the 6th century BCE. It gradually replaced Hebrew as the language of the Jews in those areas and was itself replaced by Arabic in the 7th century CE

**Armenia** - one of the earliest Christian kingdoms, situated in eastern Anatolia and the western Caucasus and occupied by speakers of the Armenian language

**Bible** – the Christian scriptures, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments

**Christ** – the anointed one – Messiah, also treated as a name, given to Jesus of Nazareth

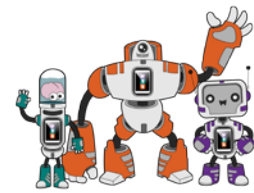
**Christening** – give (a baby) a Christian name at baptism as a sign of admission to a Christian Church

**Christian (Christianity)** – from the word Christ

**Christmas** – festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ – 25<sup>th</sup> December in most churches

**Church** – the whole community of Christians; a building used for public Christian worship; a particular denomination

**Cross** – the **cross** on which Jesus was crucified or a representation of it, as an emblem of Christianity



**Coptic** – refers to Egyptian Christians and their language

**Crucifix** – a representation of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it

**Easter** – central Christian festival which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

**Eucharist** – thanksgiving - a service celebrating the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ using the elements of bread and wine – Holy Communion – recalls the last meal of Jesus.

**Good Friday** – Friday in Holy Week. Commemorates the day Jesus died on the cross

**Hallowed** - honour as holy

**Holy Week** – the week before Easter when Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life

**Hot cross bun** – a bun marked with a cross and containing dried fruit, traditionally eaten during Lent

**Iona** – a small island in the Inner Hebrides, off the western coast of Mull. It is the site of a monastery founded by St. Columba in about 563 CE

**Jesus** – the central figure of Christian history and devotion. The second person in the Trinity

**Latin** – the language of ancient Rome and its empire, widely used historically as a language of scholarship and administration

**Lent** – 40 days leading up to Easter – when Christians feel sorry for their sins

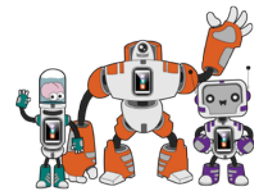
**Levite** – a member of the Hebrew tribe of Levi, especially of that part of it that provided assistants to the priests in the worship in the Jewish temple

**Lord's Prayer** - The prayer taught by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. It begins with the phrase "Our father. . ." and is the most common Orthodox prayer

**Meditation** – a written or spoken discourse expressing considered thoughts on a subject

**Messiah** – Jesus regarded by Christians as the Messiah of the Hebrew prophecies and the saviour of humankind

**New Testament** – collection of 27 books forming the second section of the Christian Scriptures



**Old Testament** – the part of the Christian Scriptures that the Church shares with Judaism – 39 books covering the Hebrew and in some cases some books of the Apocrypha – the Greek but not Hebrew

**Ordination** – the action of ordaining or conferring holy orders on someone

**Pannetone** - an Italian cake traditionally served at Christmas time. It's made from dough that's studded with raisins, candied fruit, and pistachios

**Pastor** – a minister in charge of a Christian church or congregation

**Peace** – a ceremonial handshake or kiss exchanged during a service in some churches (now usually only in the Eucharist), symbolizing Christian love and unity; freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquillity

**Pentateuch** – the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Traditionally ascribed to Moses, it is now held by scholars to be a compilation from texts of the 9th to 5th centuries BCE

**Pentecost** – The Greek name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks or Shavuot, which comes seven weeks after Passover. On this day the followers of Jesus received the gift of the Holy Spirit

**Priest** – an ordained minister of the Catholic, Orthodox, or Anglican Church having the authority to perform certain rites and administer certain sacraments

**Redemption** – the work of Jesus in setting people free through his death

**Salvation** - deliverance from sin and its consequences, believed by Christians to be brought about by faith in Christ

**Samaritan (Good)** – person who voluntarily offers help or sympathy in times of trouble – from the parable told by Jesus in which a man from Samaria rescues a Jewish man

Simnel Cake – a rich fruitcake, typically with a marzipan covering and decoration, eaten esp. at Easter or during Lent

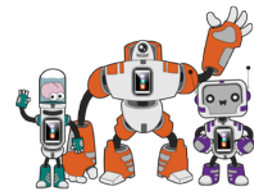
**Tenebrae** – in the Roman Catholic Church - Matins and lauds for the last three days of Holy Week, at which candles are successively extinguished. Several composers have set parts of the office to music

**Temptation** – a desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise also the tempting of Jesus by the Devil

**Trespasses** – commit an offence against a person or a set of rules

**Trinity** – three persons in one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit





## Islam

**Alim** - a learned person in Islam, scholar

**Arabic** – the Semitic language of the Arabs, spoken by some 150 million people throughout the Middle East and North Africa

**Ayat** - literally translates as "miracles or signs". This refers to several verses in the Holy Quran

**Dome of the Rock** – an Islamic shrine in Jerusalem, for Muslims the third most holy place after Mecca and Medina. It surrounds the sacred rock on which, according to tradition, Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac and from which the prophet Muhammad made his miraculous night ascent into heaven (the Night Journey)

**Eid** – a Muslim festival, in particular

**Eid ul-Adha** - "Festival of Sacrifice" or "Greater Eid" is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide to commemorate the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his son Ishmael (Isma'il) as an act of obedience to God, before God intervened to provide him with a sheep— to sacrifice instead

**Eid ul-Fitre** - a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting

**Five Pillars** - five duties expected of every Muslim: profession of the faith in a prescribed form, observance of ritual prayer, giving alms to the poor, fasting during the month of Ramadan, and performing a pilgrimage to Makkah/Mecca

**Hadith** – saying – the sayings of the prophet Muhammad are a major source of Islamic law

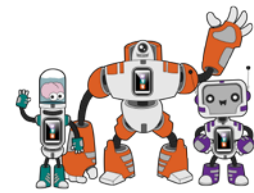
**Hajj** – annual pilgrimage to Makkah

**Ibrahim (Abraham)** - Ibrahim (إبراهيم, Ibrāhīm) is the Arabic name of the prophet Abraham. In Muslim belief, Abraham fulfilled all the commandments and trials which God tried him with over his lifetime. As a result of his unwavering faith in God

**Imam** – the person who leads prayers in a mosque

**Ishmael** - a son of Abraham, by his wife Sarah's maid, Hagar, driven away with his mother after the birth of Sarah's son Isaac. **Ishmael** (or Ismail) is also important in Islamic belief as the traditional ancestor of Muhammad and of the Arab peoples

**Jibrail (Gabriel)** - the angel who delivered the Commands of Allah to His Prophets. He delivered the Ayats of the Holy Quran to our Holy Prophet Muhammad



**Makkah (Mecca)** - (occasionally Bakkaḥ) (مَكَّة Makkah and in full: مَكَّة مَكْرَمَة transliterated Makkah Al Mukarramah) is a city in Saudi Arabia, and the holiest meeting site in Islam, closely followed by Medina. The city where Prophet Muhammad was born and where the Ka'bah is located

**Mosque** – a Muslim place of worship

**Muhammad** - (c.570–632 CE), the final prophet and founder of Islam. In c.610 CE, in Makkah, he received the first of a series of revelations that, as the Quran, became the doctrinal and legislative basis of Islam

**Mullah** - Muslim religious scholar and teacher

**Muslim (Islam)** – a follower of the religion of Islam who professes the Shahadah

**People of the Book** - (Arabic: الكتاب لهأ 'Ahl al-Kitāb) is a term used to designate non-Muslim adherents to faiths which have a revealed scripture called, in Arabic, *Ahl-Al-Kitab* (Arabic: بائكفلا "the people of the Book" or "people of the Scripture"). The three types of adherents to faiths that the Quran mentions as *people of the book* are the Jews, Sabians and Christians

**Quran (Koran)** - the sacred writings of Islam revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad during his life at Makkah and Medina

**Ramadan** – the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, during which fasting is required from just before dawn until sunset

**Shahadah** – declaration of faith - 'there is no god except Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah'

**Sufism** – practised by a Muslim who represents the mystical dimension of Islam; a Muslim who seeks direct experience of Allah; mainly in Iran

**Surah** – a division of the Quran

**Wudu** – washing/ablution before the five daily times of salah (communication with and worship of Allah)