

# Water in Religion



# Aim

- I can describe the symbolism of water in different religions and how it is used.

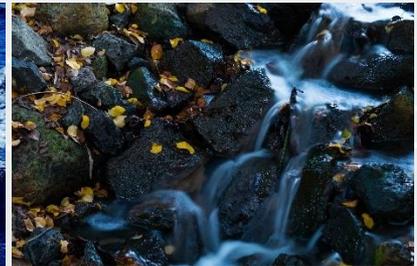
# Success Criteria

- Statement 1 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.
- Statement 2
  - Sub statement

# Water as a Symbol

A symbol stands for or represents something else. Water, and how it is used, is an important symbol in many religions for the following reasons:

- Water cleans, washing away impurities and making something look as good as new.
- It cleans a person on the outside, and symbolically, on the inside so they can start afresh, like a new person.
- Water is also important to our survival. Without water there is no life.



Water is used in ritual washing in Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and other religions.

### Did you know?

A ritual is a special religious ceremony that is performed in a particular order.

Some rivers or pools are considered special or scared to followers of religion.



### The River Ganges

The River Ganges is sacred to Hindus.



### The River Jordan

The River Jordan and the pools of Lourdes are sacred to Christians.



### The Well of Zamzam

The Well of Zamzam is sacred to Muslims.

# Water and Christianity

- Water is used in the Christian ritual of baptism.
- Baptism is an act of cleansing; washing away what is old and bad and starting a fresh.
- Baptism is also seen as a declaration of someone's faith or beliefs.



## Did you know?

- Baptism is mentioned in the Bible when Jesus was baptised by John in the River Jordan in Israel.
- For Christians, the baptism of Jesus is a significant event in the story of his life.
- In the Easter Story, after Jesus' resurrection, the Bible says that he commanded his disciples to baptise others in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

# Water and Judaism

- In Judaism, water is used in a ritual washing.
- The Torah talks of cleansing and immersion in water, which would happen in a Mikveh.
- A Mikveh is a pool of naturally gathered water (from either rain, river or sea) that is used for ritual cleansing.
- Every synagogue or Jewish place of worship has a Mikveh.

## Did you know?

Immersion means your whole body goes under water and when you come out, you are symbolically pure and fresh.

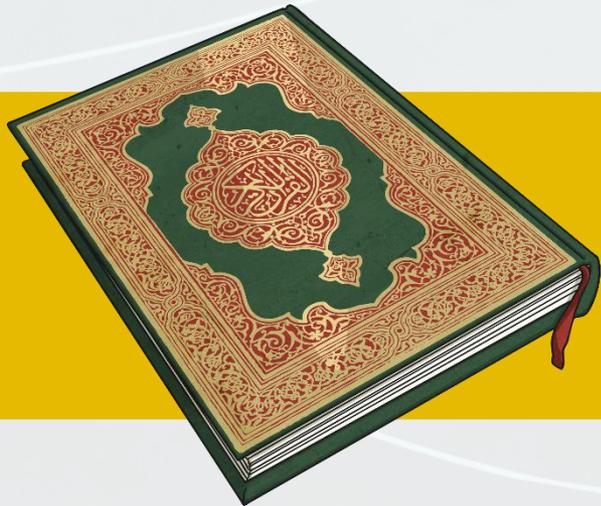
## Did you know?

The story of Noah and the flood in Judaism and Christianity symbolises water washing away all that is bad on Earth and life starting again.



# Water and Islam

- Muslims use water to wash before each of their five daily prayers or before handling the Qur'an. This is called Wudu.
- Wudu involves using pure water to wash the face, rub the head with water, wash the hands and arms up to the elbows and the feet up to the ankles.
- Every Muslim place of worship or mosque has running water available for Wudu.

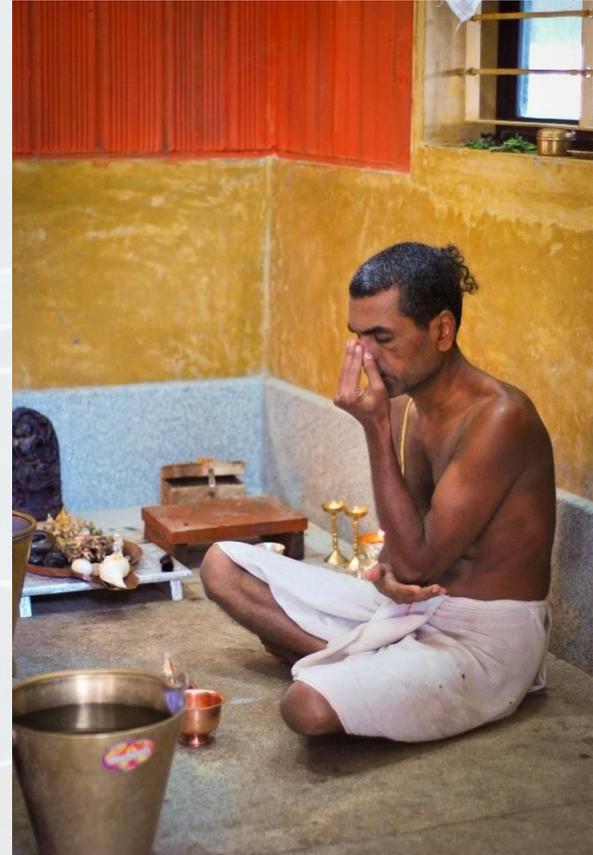


## Did you know?

Wudu originates from text in the Qur'an that says:  
**“O you who believe, when you prepare for prayer, wash your faces and your hands to your elbows; rub your head and your feet to your ankles”**

# Water and Hinduism

- To Hindus all water is sacred. It is seen as a purifier, cleanser and life giver and is used in many Hindu rituals.
- Hindu temples have a tank of water available which followers can wash in and therefore purify themselves before prayers.
- Water is also used in many Hindu rituals.

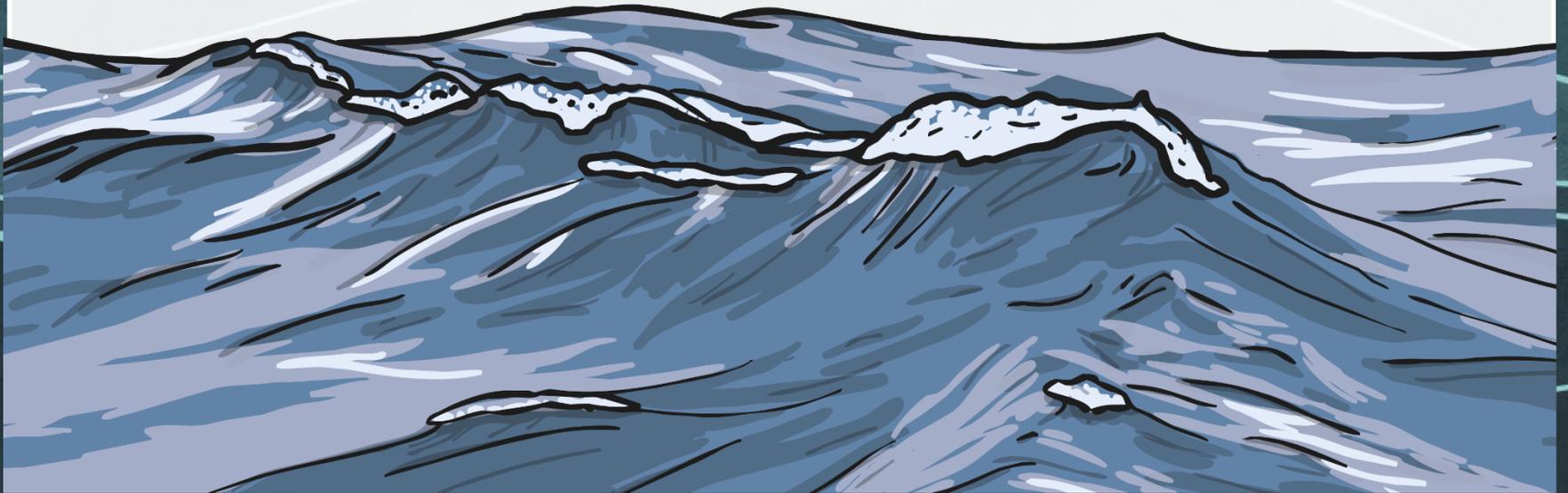


# Water in Religion

clean

pure

new



# How do you use water?

**List 10 ways you use water**



Why is water important?

Do you think we appreciate water?