

Why is fire used ceremonially?

Religion and Worldviews | Years 3 & 4 | Summer Term 2025-26

Theology

To know that some people who follow the **Hindu** worldview use fire symbolically as part of some ceremonies and rituals.

To know that some people who follow the **Zoroastrian** worldview use fire as a symbol of purity and the light of God.

To know that holy means divine, sacred or connected to God.
To know that there are historical links and connections between religions.

Social Sciences

To know that candles or flames are sometimes used as a sign of remembrance.

To know that being part of a community with similar beliefs is important to some people.

To know that ceremonies involving water and fire are important occasions for some communities.

Philosophy

To know that the teachings of a religious or non-religious worldview often link with a follower's life choices.

To know that many factors affect our morals and life choices.

To know that stories and scriptures give insights about how to live.

- The **Yahrzeit** candle's flame travels upwards to heaven, reminding people of the souls of their loved ones.
- The **Ner Tamid** (eternal flame) reminds people of God's presence in the synagogue and the covenant made with Jewish people.
- **Shabbat** candles are lit to remember commandments.
- **Hanukiahs** remind people of the brave Maccabees and God's powerful miracle.



Vocabulary

Cleanse: to make something clean or fresh (free from dirt, guilt or impurities).

Divine: connected to God or gods, often seen as very special or powerful.

Eternal: lasting forever.

Purity: the state of being clean and free from bad things or sin.

Symbolise: to represent something like an idea, quality or belief.



Transformation: a complete change in the appearance of something or someone.



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Key Learning:

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| 1 |  What can fire symbolise?
Explore symbolism of fire, looking at different religious and non-religious ceremonies.
Discussions related to what it symbolises and how it makes us feel. |
| 2 | How is fire used in Hindu ceremonies?
Continuing looking at symbolism in specific ceremonies and meaning of purity.
Creating a freeze frame of a ceremony. |
| 3 |  Can fire be divine?
Sharing tale of Shiva's Cosmic dance. Discussion about 'renewal'.
Hindu deities exploration and acting out of story. |
| 4 | What is an eternal flame?
Zoroastrian religious worldview: exploring the Eternal Flame story.
Quotes from the story activity and using google maps to ask questions about Akash Bahram.
Exploring how fire is used in Zoroastrian ceremonies: Navjote. |
| 5 | How is fire used to remember?
Exploring how some candles are used in the Jewish faith.
Explore the Ner Tamid ceremony.
Share Hanukkah story.
Room activity to describe the symbolism of Jewish candles and reflect how they are used to remember. |
| 6 | What happens in the Easter vigil?
Tealight activity to reflect on how it makes us feel. Recap of the symbolism of fire this term.
'Light of the World' quote group activity.
Explore use of Paschal candle and the meaning behind the Easter vigil.
Compare different religious worldview's use of fire in ceremonies.
Personal perspective and viewpoints discussion. |