

## Places of worship

### What do places of worship teach us about religion?

Places of worship tend to demonstrate and achieve extremely high standards of design, craftsmanship and materials.



1. Why is this?
2. Why is so much money, time and effort spent on building them?
3. Why did each religion pay so much attention to detail?
4. What do these facts tell us about the status of religion at the time of its development and the construction of its structures?

**Task 1:** Have a read of these 5 statements then have a go at answering the 4 questions above. Try to use key words from the statements.



### **Task 2: What would your place of worship look like?**

*Statement 1: If you want to build a long - lasting monument that will remain for years to come, a beautiful place of worship is probably your best bet. Whether it be a church, mosque or temple make it worth building. By building a place of worship, it means that you think enough people are there to help fund it and that they will take care of it when you're long since dead.*

*Statement 2: I live in an area where the main industry was mining. The wages were low and due to a lack of education and religious and ethnic discrimination they had no opportunity for economic betterment. The local church obtained gold for fixtures during its construction through the donation of jewellery, from the local people. This donation represented a significant sacrifice for people who often had little or no other wealth, not even homes or land. Their motivation was strictly an expression of their religious faith and so as to have a house of worship.*

*Statement 3: The church building should be a symbol of status for all those who worship there, it should be a building with refined architectural monuments that demonstrates their commitment to their religion, spirituality and beliefs.*

*Statement 4: A temple (or mandir) can vary in size, from those too small for people to enter yet still house the deities, to those that are vast and cover acres of space. Some temples, for example those in southern India, will have a particular style, ornately decorated with the myths and stories of the gods.*

*Statement 5: Followers of religion gather and value what the holy Father thinks, therefore it matters in all aspects of life, it matters on art, it matters on craftsmanship, it matters in the furnishings, it matters in the ornaments—the places where He chose to dwell in His manifest glory, be worshipped, and reveal Himself to His people.*



*Statement 6: From the earliest times we observe that these craftsmen received the ready patronage of both royalty and nobility. Kings and ministers employed their craftsmen in the construction of palaces, temples and other places of worship to demonstrate their wealth and status. To promote their continued following, belief and faith.*