



**Oide**

Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim  
Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí  
Scoile agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional  
Learning of School Leaders  
and Teachers

# Sources of Information on Sacred Artefacts

Linked Learning Outcomes  
1.6, 1.8, 2.2, 3.3

# Child of Prague



## What is the story behind the Child of Prague?

The legend is that a Spanish noble lady was gifted the Child of Prague statue by St. Teresa of Avila and that it was then brought to Prague in 1556. It was then gifted to Princess Polxena von Lobkowitz, on her marriage, who in turn presented it to the Carmelite Friars in Prague.

**Where is it now?** It was given pride of place in the oratory of the monastery of Our Lady of Victory in Prague. The Friars were told to pray to the Child of Prague to help restore their good fortune.

## Why do people pray to the Child of Prague?

It is believed that when a person prays in front of the Child of Prague statue, they receive many blessings. A person of faith asks for spiritual growth so they can feel closer to God when they pray to this statue.

Pope Benedict XVI said: “The figure of the Child Jesus, the tender infant, brings home to us God's closeness and his love”.

[Child of Prague video link](#)



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# Child of Prague



A **novena** is a spiritual devotion, when a believer says a set form of prayer (or ritual) over a period of nine days. People can pray a novena to the Child of Prague. Click on the link below to learn more

[Novena to the Child of Prague](#)



## Questions

1. What is a novena?
2. If I pray these words, how might I be expected to act?
3. Why do people of this faith pray with this sacred artefact?



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# The Rosary



Our Lady said to the children of Fatima:  
“I am the Lady of the Rosary. I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. People must not continue to offend our Lord, already so deeply offended. They must say the Rosary.”  
Oct 13th, 1917.

## What are Rosary beads?

Along with the cross and the sacred holy water fonts, the small beads that make up **Rosary beads** are one of the most familiar and recognised symbols of Catholic faith.

## When did the tradition start?

According to Catholic tradition, the rosary was said to be asked for by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself. In the 13th century, she is said to have appeared to St. Dominic, given him a rosary and asked that Christians pray the *Hail Mary*, *Our Father* and *Glory Be* prayers instead of the Psalms. The original Rosary of St. Dominic had 15 decades. A decade is a group of ten Hail Marys, with an Our Father to start and a Glory Be to finish.

## Why do people pray the rosary?

The purpose of the Rosary is to remember important events in the life of Christ, for example his birth, baptism, suffering and the miracle he performed

## How many beads are on a Rosary?

There are 59 beads in a Rosary.

To find out how Catholics recite the Rosary you can click on this link [Reciting the Rosary video](#)



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# The Rosary



The Rosary is often prayed as a **Novena**.

Perform the Holy Rosary Novena by praying the rosary once a day for 9 days. This novena asks Mary to intercede on your behalf for forgiveness for sins, and also offers an opportunity to ask for other special requests.



## Questions

1. What is a Novena?
2. If I pray these words, how might I be expected to act?
3. Why do people of this faith pray to the Rosary?

# Diwali Lamp



**Diwali is the festival of lights and marks the triumph of good over evil. Lord Ganesha is one of the Gods who is worshipped during Diwali.**

Though Lord Ganesha has a huge physique, he is humbler than any other deities. He rides a puny mouse that symbolises the fact that he is humble and reverent even towards a tiny creature.

Being humble (not being proud) and being respectful to those smaller than us is a quality that needs to be learned from Lord Ganesha.



## **What is the prayer to Ganesha?**

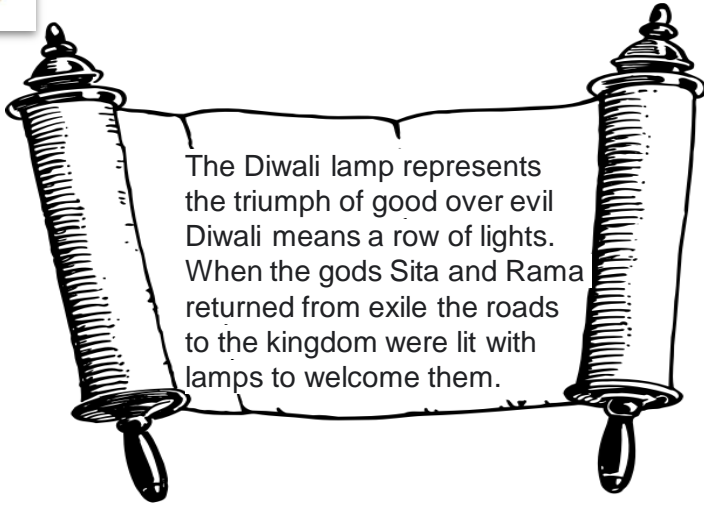
The lamp is lit, and the prayer is said- O Lord who destroys the obstacles of His devotees, grant me protection, guidance and help in this hour of need. (The believer states his need or trouble.) Aum, Ganesha Sharanam. Grant me Your grace, Sharanam Ganesha.

## **What colour is associated with Ganesha?**

Lord Ganesha is usually portrayed wearing red and yellow clothes. **Why these colours?**

Yellow symbolises purity, peace, a sense of control, and truthfulness. Red symbolises activity in the world.

# Diwali Lamp



## When you pray to Lord Ganesha - what happens?

So, when you worship Lord Ganesha with complete faith, he guides you towards the right path. He gives you the courage to conquer your fears and overcome all obstacles in your life. You gain wisdom.

### [What is Diwali video link?](#)



## Questions

1. What is Diwali?
2. If I pray these words to the God Ganesha, how might I be expected to act?
3. Why do people of this faith pray with this object?



# Kippah



## What is a Kippah?

A kippah (plural: kippot), yarmulke, skullcap, or Koppel is a brimless cap, usually made of cloth.

## Why do they wear it?

Traditionally worn by Jewish men to fulfil the customary requirement that the head be covered and to show respect.

**When is it worn?** It is worn by all men in Orthodox Jewish communities during prayers and by most Orthodox Jewish men at all other times. Kippot (plural) are worn at the top of a person's head.



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## What is the Torah?

The Torah is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, given to Moses on Mt Sinai. The Torah guides the lives of the Jewish people.



## How is wearing the Kippah a sign of the Torah?

Wearing a kippah is a big statement, and the wearer is expected to live up to a certain standard of behaviour. When a Jew wears a kippah, they must think about what the Torah says, and act in a certain way. Their behaviour reflects on all Jews. The actions of someone wearing a kippah can create a *Kiddush Hashem* (sanctification of God's name, that is, make God's name holy) or a *Chillul Hashem* (to disrespect God)

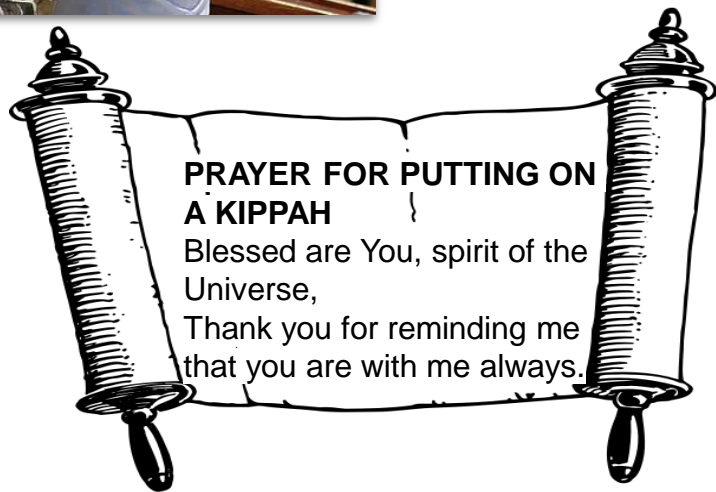




## How is wearing the Kippah a sign of the Torah?

When a Jew wears the Kippah, they are letting others know that they are guided by the Torah.

[Jewish kippah video link](#)



## Questions

1. What is the Kippah?
2. If I pray these words, how might I be expected to act?
3. Why do people of this faith use this object?

# Prayer Wheel



## When are Prayer Wheels used?

Prayer wheels are used by many Tibetans every day, sometimes for hours on end. Worshippers turn prayer wheels to accumulate merit, to help all beings in the world and to purify their karma (to make sure the act in proper way).

They are used as part of rituals in the temple.

[Prayer wheels](#)

## How are Prayer wheels made?

They are typically made of metal, wood, or cloth and contain a mantra written on paper, inscribed on metal plates, or embossed into an object.

Buddhists believe that spinning a prayer wheel brings them closer to enlightenment.

Enlightenment means an end to the cycle of suffering and rebirth. This is called Nirvana.



# A Prayer Wheel



## What happens if we chant OM MANI PADME HUM?

By reciting OM MANI PADME HUM, you can achieve all your wishes for happiness, not only for the happiness of this life but for the happiness of all your coming future lives.

### [How to use a prayer wheel](#)



The most common text used in prayer wheels is "Om Mani Padme Hum" which means '*Praise to the jewel in the lotus*' (which is not easy to understand) but the Dalai Lama says that with right intention and wisdom, we can achieve the pure body, speech and mind of a Buddha

### Questions

1. What is a prayer wheel?
2. If I pray these words, how might I be expected to act?
3. When and why do people of this faith use this object?

# The Qibla Compass



## What is the meaning of Qibla?

The literal meaning of the Arabic is '**direction**' in the Islamic context is the direction Muslims face when performing their prayers. In Ireland that means generally they face East. A Qibla compass points the direction to Mecca.

## How often do Muslims pray?

Muslims are called to pray 5 times a day. They use a prayer mat and a Qibla compass. They perform special movements called Rakkah.

[Muslim prayer video link](#)



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## How do Muslims begin their prayers?

To begin the act of prayer, they say 'Allahu Akbar' meaning God is great, raising the hands to the ears or shoulder.

## What is the most important prayer?

Many Muslims pray five times a day every day, but the most important prayer of the week is "jum'ah," or the day of gathering, on Friday.

## When do Muslims perform WUDU?

Wudu, or ritual washing, is performed before prayers. This is to ensure that they are ready to pray respectfully to Allah.



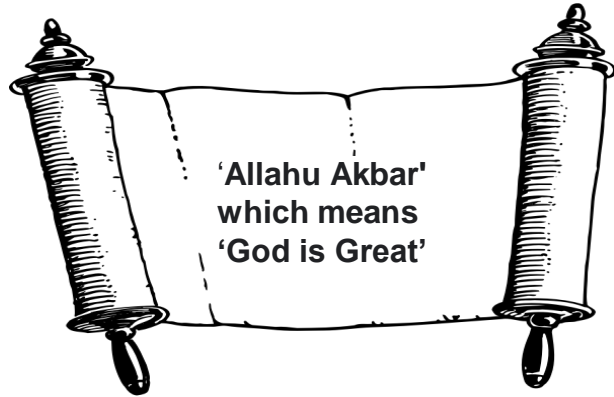
# The Qibla Compass



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[Research more about Wudu video link](#)



## Questions

1. What is the Qibla?
2. If I pray these words, how might I be expected to act?
3. Why do people of this faith use this object?