Hindu places of pilgrimage





L.O. To find out about important Hindu places of pilgrimage and understand why these places are sacred.

Let's recap...



A pilgrimage is a journey to a religious place.

It is different to going on holiday. People make their journey for different reasons; perhaps because they want to give thanks to God, ask for help or to say sorry and ask for forgiveness.

The people who go on these special journeys are called pilgrims.

Places of pilgrimage are special because of something that happened there.

In the Hindu religion pilgrimages are important.

Popular pilgrimage places are rivers, temples, mountains, and other sacred sites.

These are sites where the gods may have appeared or become manifest in the world.






Pilgrimages to the Ganges



Hindus believe that if they do good deeds in this life, their next life will be closer to **moksha** (when a person's soul becomes free from living and dying and returns to Brahman). If they behave badly in this life, they will be reborn further away from moksha, perhaps as an animal. This idea is called **karma**. Hindus believe it is good karma if they make a journey to a **holy** place to worship there. This type of trip is called a **pilgrimage**.



This clip explains why pilgrimage is important to feel closer to God

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/a-hindu-pilgrimage/z4ghf4j

As you watch the clip listen carefully to the explanations of

* the place of pilgrimage
* the importance of this place in Hinduism
* what people do when they go there
* how they travel
* why they visit



Once every 12 years, when the stars are in a special position in the sky, many Hindus make a pilgrimage to Allahabad. An enormous camp of tents springs up. Many pilgrims stay for a whole month to bathe in the waters and make offerings. This bathing fair is called Kumbh Mela.









Kumbh Mela

This clip explains the history of the festival

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtswHhvBSFY

The festival was last celebrated in 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwnfA79Ba3M

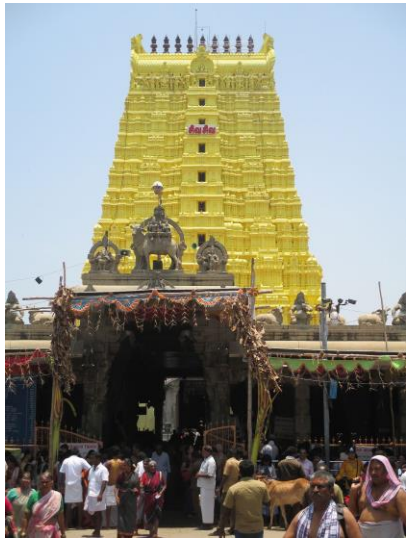


Hindus believe that the more effort they make on a pilgrimage, the more they improve their karma and move closer to moksha.

Some Hindus gather water from the River Ganges at Varanasi. Then they walk to the south of India to a famous temple at Rameshwar to offer the water to the god Shiva. This is a journey of 2400 miles.







River Ganges and Varanasi



Have a look at the pictures in these two clips which show and explain what is happening in Varanasi

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g297685-d319858-Reviews-Ganges_River-Varanasi_Varanasi_District_Uttar_Pradesh.html

https://www.girltweetsworld.com/varanasi-river-ganges-india/





Your task

You are going to make a pilgrimage to a Hindu scared site. Choose a Hindu place of pilgrimage (for example, Kumbh Mela or Varanasai or one of your own choice).

Create a fact file to tell me



* where you are going
* why the place is important
* what you will be doing
* what makes it special
* the benefits you will achieve by going there

Helpful website: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9c86sg/revision/2