

## Knowledge organiser – Spirituality through the Arts

This unit of work is very different from the others – you will be preparing to enter a national competition called Spirited Arts which is run by the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE).

You will complete a piece of creative work on a spiritual theme which can express your own views but which should also show you have an appreciation of how religious people express their beliefs in different ways.

You will also be asked to add an explanation of your work.

The link below takes you to the NATRE Spirited Arts website so you can explore some entries from previous years to help you to be familiar with the kind of work you should be aiming to produce.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2022/?ThemeID=99>

Some examples of how religious people express their spirituality are below:

### Trinity symbols in Christianity

In year 7, you studied Christian beliefs about Trinity – that there is one God who is three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christians use imagery and symbols to represent this belief.



**Christian poetry in the Psalms.** These are poems expressing important Christian beliefs which can be found in the Bible. One of the most well-known psalms is below. It describes God in a metaphor as a Shepherd who cares for his people.

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup>

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

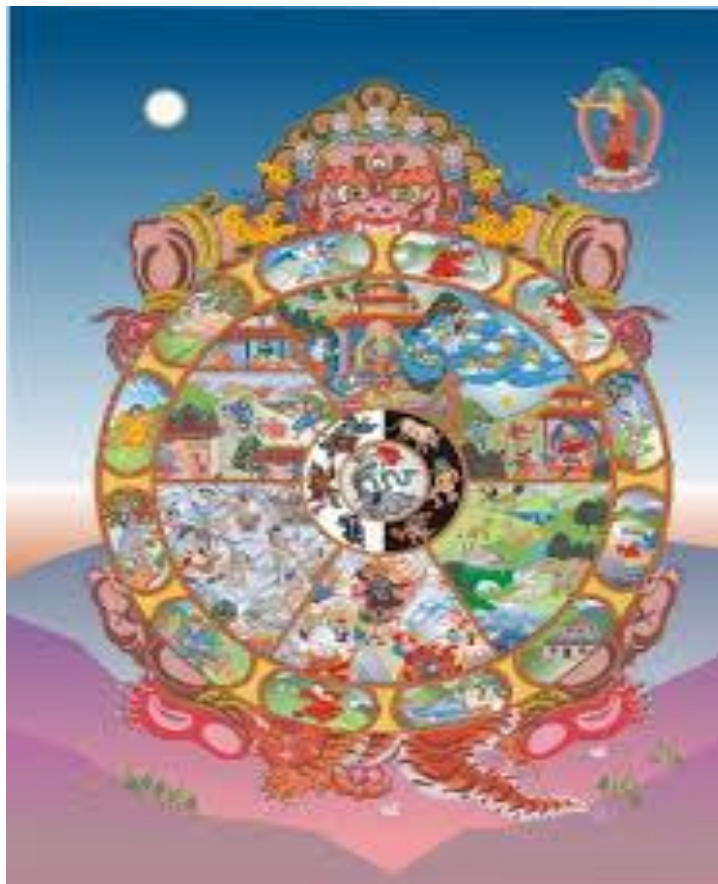
## The Buddhist Wheel of Life

Buddhists believe in rebirth - we are born many times into different lives. How we are reborn depends on the karma we have gathered in our previous life. Karma is the effect of our deliberate actions (good and bad).

Buddhists aim to become free of rebirth by overcoming the three poisons of greed, hatred and ignorance.

The outer parts of the wheel represent the six different realms of existence we can be born into.

In the centre are symbols representing the three poisons.



## Islamic Art

Muslims use beautiful patterns and calligraphy (artistic writing) to express their beliefs. A repeating pattern like the ones below show God's wholeness, perfection and infinite nature.



Remember, you are free to express your ideas in any way you like! Be as creative and original as you can and produce a piece of work that is thoughtful and well-explained.