

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITY ONE: BURIALS IN WAR – EXPLORING BURIAL TRADITIONS FOR DIFFERENT FAITHS

### Learning Objectives

- To learn about different religious observances of death and funeral rites;
- To explore the First World War cemeteries in the context of comparative religion.

### Resources

[BBC Bitesize Religious Studies Death](#)

[First World War Cemeteries](#)

[Great War Graves and Cemeteries](#)

[Chattri Memorial to Sikh and Hindu soldiers Brighton](#)

Account of a Sikh Burial in the accompanying PDF Download

### Introduction

Discuss the importance of funeral rites both in a religious context that burial must be done in a certain way in order to conform to religious beliefs such as people going onto an after life, and to enable family and friends to go through a mourning process to help them grieve.

### MAIN TASKS

1. Research different burial traditions.
  - Christian
  - Hinduism
  - Islam
  - Judaism
  - Sikhism
2. Make a comparison of 2 or more of the above faiths listing all the differences of the beliefs and traditions.
3. What happens to soldiers who die on the battlefield? How are their religious rites observed? Discuss the complexities of carrying out the different types of funerals in a war zone thinking too about families who can't be present.
4. Look at some First World War Cemeteries using the links above. Make a comparison of the different types of burial grounds and religious symbols used to identify each soldier's religion.

### Review

Discuss the Government has funded two students from every secondary school to visit some First World War cemeteries. How important and meaningful might this visit be for students today?