

# Beliefs - RE and PSHE



## Aim:

To explore the idea of questioning beliefs

## Activity description

- Pupils will carry out research into the founders of either Buddhism or Sikhism to help them reflect on the importance and impact of questioning beliefs.

## Main activity:

Either:

Explore the story of Siddhartha Gautama. Who was he? When did he live? What was his early life like? What challenges did he face in his early life? What decisions did he make about how he wanted to live his life?

What different belief systems did Siddhartha Gautama encounter in his early life? How did this shape his own search for truth, meaning and purpose?

How important was questioning beliefs for Siddhartha Gautama? What might have been different if he hadn't questioned beliefs?

Or:

Find out about the historical context of India in the late 15th century. What different religious communities existed in India at this time? Who was in authority at this time and what did this mean for these religious communities?

Carry out research about Guru Nanak and the origins of Sikhism. What influence did Islam and Hinduism have on his own beliefs? How did this shape Sikhism? How important was questioning beliefs for Guru Nanak? What might have been different if he hadn't questioned beliefs?

Explore different key beliefs from Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam. What connections can you find between Sikh and Hindu/Muslim beliefs? How is Sikhism different from Hinduism and Islam? Can you connect this to the historical origins of Sikhism?

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Produce a visual overview of the ways in which Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam connect and are different from each other.

## **Extension activity:**

Look at the script/video of *Our Place*. Identify three situations in which characters question beliefs. What impact does this have on them? Is this an easy thing to do? What decisions do they make as a result of questioning beliefs? What would have been different if they had not questioned these beliefs?

You could do this through role-play, hot seating, silent conversation, etc.

## **Time required:**

60 minutes

## **Materials required:**

Paper, pens, access to the internet, access to film/audio clips and script of *Our Place*.

## **Additional Resources:**

[BBC Bitesize KS3 Religious Studies](#)

[Guide to Sikhism](#)

[Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education RE Concept Maps](#)

[National Association of Teachers of RE \(NATRE\)](#)

[RE:Online](#)

[RE:quest](#) (Christianity only)

[TrueTube](#)

[Understanding Humanism](#)

[Using Hermeneutics](#) (Textual Analysis of Sacred Texts) in the Classroom