

Pilgrimage to the River Ganges

LC: Can I explain whether visiting the River Ganges would be special to a non-Hindu?

There are 2 parts to today's activity. Start with **activity 1** and once complete, then move onto **activity 2**.

Activity 1

In previous weeks, we have learnt about why the River Ganges is important to Hindus and the rituals they may perform on pilgrimage such as bathing, praying, lighting Diva lamps and visiting a Mandir (Temple).



We watched 14-year-old British girl Simran and her friends describe their own experiences on a Hindu pilgrimage, saying it made them thankful to God, feelings of excitement, joy and peace and being in the River made her feel closer to God.

This week we are going to think about and discuss whether visiting the River Ganges can be special to someone who does not follow a Hindu religion. Instead, they may be Christian, Muslim, or may not follow religion at all.

Do you think a non-Hindu would want to visit the River and the town of Varanasi in India if they want to?

What do you think might be a reason they want to visit?

Once you have written your reasons down, then move on to **activity 2**.

Activity 2

Hopefully, some of your reasons why a non-Hindu may visit will match mine – you may even have some reasons that I don't and that's great because remember, it is totally your own thoughts and opinions.

A non-Hindu may visit the River Ganges to..			
Visit a new place and visit a new country	Learn about the Indian culture and way of life	See if it feels like a Holy place or feels different	Holiday
See buildings over thousands of years old	See where the river begins and ends	Join in with the festival and celebrations	Eat Indian food and try new foods
Watch the beautiful sun rises and sets by the river (very peaceful and relaxing)	Boat ride on the river	Tour in the mountains where the river flows from (Shiva's lock of hair)	Tour a Mandir

Now, here is for the BEST bit...

This week you are going to design a poster to invite Hindus AND non-Hindus to visit the river Ganges and town of Varanasi! Using your reasons for visiting (and some of mine from above, if you wish) really sell Varanasi to me and tell me what a great journey it is!

Here are some facts about the river and the town of Varanasi you may also want to include..

It is the third largest river in the whole world!	The river flows through 29 cities	It's soil is very fertile – great for growing crops for delicious meals!	Ganga is the home for fresh water dolphins and Ganges sharks , both of which are endangered species with Ganges shark being critically endangered! Wow!
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Use plenty of colour (felt tips included), bubble writing, pictures and facts! I cannot wait to see them! Tweet me [@MissVjGrogan](#)

