

Year 4 RE

How do religions welcome babies into the world?



In today's lesson, we'll be looking at and comparing the different ways that religions welcome babies into the world.

What different religions can you think of?

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Today we will be looking at the following religions:

- Christianity
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Sikhism

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Christianity

In Christianity, babies are baptised in an event called a christening. This often involves the baby having water sprinkled on their head. This plays a part in welcoming the baby into the world and committing them to Christianity.

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Christianity



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Islam

Muslims call to prayer and these are the first words a new-born Muslim baby should hear. They are whispered into the right ear of the child by their father. The baby's first taste should be something sweet. Often, parents may chew a date and rub the juice along the baby's gums.

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Islam

After seven days, the baby's head is shaved. It is also tradition to choose a name for the baby in the seventh day. In Britain, Muslims also share meat with relatives and neighbours as well as giving some to the poor.

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Hinduism

Once the child enters the world, Jatakarma is performed to welcome the baby into the family. This involves putting some honey in the child's mouth and whispering the name of god in the child's ear. There is also a naming ceremony called Namakarna.

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Hinduism

In the early year's of a child, there is also an ear piercing ceremony (Karnavedha) and also the first haircut (Mundan) as head shaving is connected to the removal of impurities (bad feelings).



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Judiasm

Ceremonies differ for boys and girls. For boys, the ceremony Brit Milah traditionally takes place on the 8th day of life, and includes words of blessing and the giving of a name. For girls, the Simchat Bat can take place on a variety of days, and includes footwashing and being wrapped in a tallit (prayer shawl).

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Judiasm



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Sikhism

Sikhs believe that the birth of an individual is a special gift from God and should therefore be celebrated. They also believe that a person has many reincarnations. The birth of someone as a human is special as it provides the opportunity for the person to become closer to God.

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Sikhism

Sikhs celebrate the birth of a child through a naming ceremony called Naam Karan.

This is a special ceremony that happens at the gurdwara around two weeks after the birth of the child.

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Task 1

Using the information on these slides (and feel free to find out more!) write a comparison of how the different religions welcome babies into the world.

What is similar?

What differences do you notice?

Which religion do you think welcomes babies into the world in the best way?

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Task 2

Imagine you were the leader of your own religion, and describe how your religion would welcome babies into the world:

- What ceremonies would take place?
- What would these involve?
- How would parents decide on the names of their children?