What Is a Ritual?
What Is a Ritual?
Aim

To understand what a ritual is.

Success Criteria

• I can discuss the features of a ritual.
• I can sort activities, identifying whether they are rituals or not.
• I can discuss why rituals are used in religions.
Every Day

What things do you do the same way every day?

What things do you do the same way every week?

Talk about these things with a partner.
What Is a Ritual?

What do you think a ritual is?

A ritual is similar to a ceremony. In a ritual, a series of things is done in a special order. Rituals are sometimes done every week, or every day, or at special times.

Is a ritual the same as a routine?

A routine includes a series of actions that happen often, perhaps every day. A ritual has this, too, but also has a religious or spiritual significance. Washing your hands before you eat is a routine. Washing your hands in a special way before you pray is a religious ritual.
What Does a Ritual Look Like?

A ritual often includes certain things:

• Repetition of actions or words.
• Special objects used in a particular way.
• A special order in which things are done.
• A focus or theme, perhaps praying to God.
Can you tell the difference between a ritual and a routine?

In your groups, sort the picture cards and decide which show a routine and which show a ritual.

Talk in your groups. Can you explain how you knew which events were rituals?
Ritual or Routine?

How did you sort your picture cards? Here are some possible answers you might have found.

**Ritual**

- [Image of religious activities]

**Routine**

- [Image of daily activities]

How do you know that these are rituals and not routines?
Religious Rituals

Can you remember what a ritual is?

In a ritual, a series of things is done in a special order. Rituals are sometimes done every week, or every day, or at special times.

Why might there be rituals in religion?

Rituals are used in religion to:
• help people remember things;
• help believers focus on God or an important idea from their religion;
• pray to, or worship, their god.
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