

# YEAR 7 ETHICS UNIT 1: WHAT IS BELIEF?

## Overview

This unit introduces the idea of belief – whether it has to be religious or not; the place of belief in the modern world and how we use symbols to show our beliefs.

## Belief/Fact/Opinion

Beliefs are those personal views which make us different to other people. We do not have to prove our beliefs to anyone but Facts are based on data/the senses to proven true and opinion is a viewpoint.



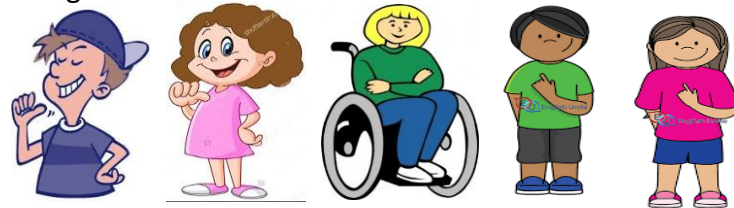
## How did religions begin, and spread ?

There are 6 major religions in the world – Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism that have spread throughout the world over 4000+ years.



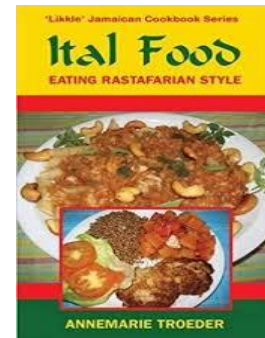
## Identity and how has it developed

We all have an identity and is made up of various factors such as what we look like, our personality and our likes and dislikes. We see ourselves one way but someone else may view us differently because of those things.



## What does it mean to be a Rastafarian?

Rastafarianism is a faith from Jamaica that developed in the 1930s. Rastafarians believe that the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie was the Second Coming of Christ, sent to redeem all black people from slavery.



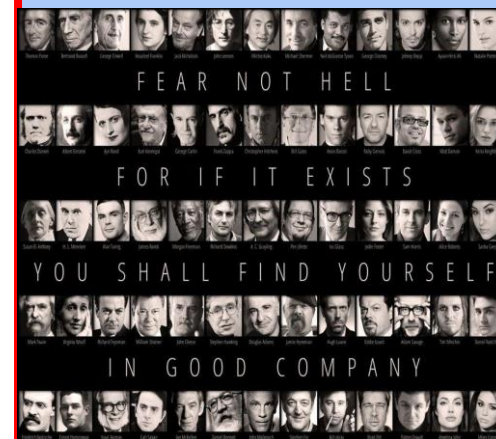
## Key Words

Belief  
Believe  
Opinion  
Faith  
Identity  
Christianity  
Christians  
Islam  
Muslims  
Sikhism  
Sikh  
Judaism  
Jewish  
Buddhism  
Buddha  
Buddhist  
Hinduism  
Hindu  
Rastafarianism  
Rastafarian  
Humanism  
Atheism  
Agnosticism  
Secular  
Symbol  
Symbolism  
Symbolic  
Icon  
iconography  
Trimurti



## Humanism

Throughout history there have been non-religious people who have believed that this life is the only life we have, that the universe is a natural phenomenon with no supernatural side, and that we can live ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity. These people have trusted to the scientific method, evidence, and reason to discover truths about the universe and have placed human welfare and happiness at the centre of their ethical decision making. Today, people who share these beliefs and values are called humanists and this combination of attitudes is called Humanism.



## Symbols and how they are used.

Symbols are an important method of communication and can be expressed in lots of different ways which means that symbols have to be interpreted carefully to avoid confusion and conflict.

Symbols can be used to express ideas, beliefs and feelings.



## Beliefs through symbolism

A mandala is a symbol which originated in Buddhism and was a way to express beliefs about mindfulness and the teachings of the Buddha. A mandala has a repeating pattern and can be quite simple or very intricate depending on the beliefs being expressed and the individual who is expressing them.

