



Year 2 RE: Why do we celebrate births?

During this unit, we learn about how different religions celebrate new births and naming ceremonies.

What I Already Know

I know that religions have different ways of celebrating events.

Key Questions

- Do you belong to a religious faith?
- How do people know you belong to that faith?
- What is a naming ceremony?
- Does your name have a meaning?
- What do the naming ceremonies have in common?
- How do you celebrate a new member of your family?
- What do different religions do when a baby is born?
- Why do they perform those rituals?
- Are there any similarities between the religions?
- Why is a name so important?



Key Vocabulary

Adhan	Adhan (in Arabic) is the Islamic call of prayer from the mosque five times a day.
Aqiqah	Aqiqah is the Islamic tradition of the sacrifice of an animal on the occasion of a child's birth. It is a ceremony to thank God for the arrival of the baby.
Baptism	When the baby is welcomed into the Christian church. Baptism is a kind of rebirth, a washing away of original sin and a purification of the soul.
Godparents	Godparents have the role of looking after the religious journey of the child. They may also support the parents in bringing up the child in the Christian faith.
Guru Granth Sahib	The holy book in Sikhism . It is a collation of many hymns, poems and prayers of the Sikh religion. Guru Granth Sahib means a Master Book by the Teacher.
Identity	The distinguishing character or personality of an individual: INDIVIDUALITY
Jatakarma	A Hindu celebration to welcome the child into the family. It is a rite of passage that is observed by new parents, relatives of the baby and close friends.
Naam Karan	The ceremony Sikhs hold to name their child and give them an identity.

Key Facts

- Different religions have special ways of celebrating the birth of a baby.
- Some Hindu and Muslim babies have their heads shaved.
- Some Christians Baptise their babies and some adults choose to get Baptised.



Useful Websites

Video clip of a Christian Baptism:

[A Christian baptism \(pt 2/2\) - KS1 Religious Education - BBC Bitesize](#)

Video clip of a welcoming ceremony for a Muslim baby:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya5wYKKT4kc&ab_channel=TrueTube

Video clip of a Hindu naming ceremony:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02npp3n>

Video clip of a Jewish ceremony for a baby boy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0fkpHV4TxM&ab_channel=BimBam

Video clip of a Sikh naming ceremony:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH89kg1KORQ&ab_channel=TrueTube

Home Learning Suggestions

Research the meaning of your name. Where does it come from? Why was it chosen for you? Did you have a naming ceremony? What happened at the ceremony?

Essential Information

Baptism: Most Churches baptise babies. A baby cannot speak for itself so its parent decides to have a baptism as a promise to bring the child up as a Christian and welcome them into Christianity. The priest will hold the baby's head over the font and then sprinkle the baby with holy water. The priest will say the words: '**I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**' The priest prays the child will be safe from evil and makes the cross sign on their head with oil. A lighted candle is given as a present by the Church to say 'shine as a light in the world'.

Aqiqah, is an Islamic ceremony performed seven days after the birth when the baby's hair is shaved off. It is then weighed and the amount is given in money to the poor. Next, the baby is given a name. This may include one of the ninety-nine names of God or the prophet's name or the name of someone in his family. The first words a baby hears are of the call to prayer in Arabic, called the **Adhan**. It is spoken in the right ear by the father or family elder. Finally, a goat or sheep is sacrificed.

Jatakarma, in Hinduism is when the father of the child welcomes the baby by touching the baby's lips with honey and ghee (clarified butter) and whispers the name of God in their ear.

Naam Karan is the Sikh naming ceremony which happens at the **Gurdwara** around two weeks after the birth of the child. The middle name is the religious name; boys are called **Singh** (a lion) and girls **Kaur** (a princess).

