



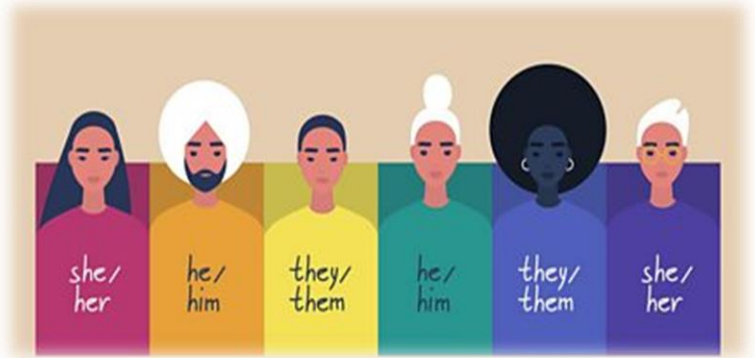
During this unit, we learn about our identity and the viewpoints of other religions about the concept of the 'soul'.

### What I Already Know

I know that I'm a human being, humans believe in different religions and faiths and some people do not have a religion or faith.

## Key Questions

- What is a human being?
- What is a person's identity?
- What is a soul?
- Do all religions believe in the soul?



**Identity**

## Key Vocabulary

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Consciousness</b> | A person's awareness of everything around them; their sensations, feelings and thoughts.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Identity</b>      | The fact of being who or what a person or thing is.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Soul</b>          | The spiritual or immaterial part of a human being or animal, regarded as immortal. A soul is something that many people believe is inside us that makes us who we are. Some people believe our souls live on, in some form, after death. |
| <b>Human</b>         | Belonging to a person or to people as opposed to animals.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Immortal</b>      | Living forever, never dying or decaying.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Impermanence</b>  | The state of not lasting for ever or not lasting for a long time: the impermanence and fragility of life.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Neshama</b>       | Is the Hebrew word used by the Jews for the Soul or spirit, the "breath of life" that God breathed into Adam and Eve, the first people.                                                                                                  |



**Ideas about the Soul**



## Key Facts

**Identity** is who you are, the way you think about yourself, the way you are viewed by the world and the characteristics that define you. An example of one aspect of people's identity is their name.

Identity also helps us to make decisions and to know how to behave.

Characteristics of identity would include such elements as race, gender, age, physical attributes, personality and religious beliefs.

## Images



## Additional Information

For Christians, Jews and Muslims there is a belief in a soul and an afterlife in a place other than Earth (often called **Heaven** or **Paradise**).

For Hindus, the soul (called the **atman**) is reincarnated, and lives on, after life on Earth, in different bodies.

Sikhs believe that the body is just clothing for the soul and, like Hindus, believe strongly in reincarnation.

For some Buddhists, there is no soul, as nothing lasts and therefore there is nothing substantial to continue into an afterlife. The Buddha taught that people should not agonise over such matters, as there are more important things to attend to in this life. However, Buddhists believe that a person's stream of mental energy (sometimes called the **consciousness**) is reborn into new bodies until enlightenment is reached.

In the classical Jewish tradition, there are teachings on life after death. These include the idea that humans have a soul which will one day return to God. Other teachings suggest that there will be a future judgment when some will be rewarded and others punished.

## Useful Websites

Video showing how different faiths view the concept of 'soul'

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/charlie-and-blue-do-some-soul-searching>

## Home Learning Suggestions

Ask adults at home if they believe in the idea of a 'soul'.  
Draw what they think the soul might look like and what it means to have a soul in your faith.