



Music



Music



Can you imagine a world without music?

Music can be used to express or communicate emotion: happiness, fear, etc.

We don't all feel the same way when we hear a piece of music. Sometimes we are affected by our own experiences, where we are when we hear the music, our own beliefs and our own musical tastes.

celebrations

happy memories

holidays

favourite films

times with friends
or relatives

Are there any songs or pieces of music that you associate with certain times in your life?

Are there any pieces of music and/or songs you already link to worship or a certain religion?

Worship



Islam



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Worship



Judaism



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Worship



Christian



Worship



Christian



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Worship



Sikhism



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Worship



Hinduism



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Worship



Buddhism



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Music in Worship



Use the Music in Worship Cards.

Read the cards one at a time and complete your Music in Worship Activity Sheet. The information on the cards will tell you how each religion uses voice and instruments in worship.

Islam

Music used for worship in Islam is very different to the music used in other religions. It includes the call to prayer and the reciting of the **Qur'an** and contains only a single voice. It is focused on rhythm, the shaping of words and variations of tone in the individual's voice, rather than using any instruments or a singing voice.

Christianity

Music is an important part of Christian worship. Praise is mentioned in the Bible many times, where it is presented as joyful and free. Christian worship includes hymns, psalms, instruments, kneeling, dancing and the raising of hands. Sometimes, this is done in an attitude of praise and sometimes, in humility, it portrays how worshippers feel towards God. Christians believe that worship is an attitude of the heart and by singing together, they are worshipping God with one voice. Church services often start with joyful praise, moving to quieter, more reflective moments. Singing is usually accompanied by instruments. Some denominations are quieter, whilst some are more exuberant with members of the congregation dancing, clapping, shouting out and waving their arms in the air.

Hinduism

Hindu worship (**pooja**) may be through words, music, dance, silence and meditation. Indian classical music is part of worship as well as **kirtan** (repetition of mantras to the accompaniment of musical instruments) and **bhajan** (devotional song). **Kirtan** means glorification. Worshipers show devotion and love of God by singing **bhajan** (devotional singing or hymns). Common instruments include drums, hand cymbals and harmoniums.

Hindu worship takes place in temples or as an individual act in the home. It involves making offerings and a bell is rung to let the god know that they have come to worship and to invite them into the home.

Judaism

Music is a key part of Jewish worship. In a **synagogue**, parts of the service are done standing (to praise) and parts are in a bowed position (showing respect). Most of the service is chanted or sung. The reading of the **Torah** is chanted and prayers are said to different tunes depending on the time of year. Some Jewish music uses instruments but in traditional communities, songs for **Shabbat** (the Sabbath) and other festivals are for voices alone as it is forbidden to play instruments at those times.

Sikhism

Music is an important part of Sikh worship. The **Guru Granth Sahib** (the holy book) contains hymns which praise God, reveal his nature and give guidance. These hymns are written without spaces so that they cannot be altered. Many Sikhs memorise them as they are tricky to read. Instruments such as the harmonium, percussion instruments, cymbals, sitar and violin accompany **kirtan** (singing). The aim of Sikh worship is to give praise to God. Clapping and whistling are not allowed - any sounds which can be made by the voice.

Congregational worship at the **Gurdwara** is called **divaan** and its purpose is to develop the spirituality of the individual, the community and to praise God. It includes congregational prayers, hymn singing and meditation on God's name.

Buddhism

Buddhist worship shows respect and admiration but it is not focused on a god, making offerings or asking for favours. In other religions, these things are done as the worshiper feels their god will hear their praise, receive their offering and answer their prayers. In Mahayana tradition, worshippers sit barefoot on the floor, facing **Buddha**, chanting. They will listen to monks chanting from religious texts and this is sometimes accompanied by instruments.

Music in Worship

To reflect upon how music makes us feel and why it is used for religious worship.

Read the cards and complete this activity sheet as you find out about music in different religions. Answer yes or no for each question and add comments if needed.

	Singing?	Chanting?	Instruments?	Notes
Islam				
Judaism				
Christianity				
Sikhism				
Hinduism				
Buddhism				

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What are the similarities and differences?

Worship



Islam

Muslims recite surahs (chapters) from the Qur'an.



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A call to prayer is a single voice using rhythm and tone.

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Worship



Judaism

Songs are based on the scriptures.

Reading from the **Torah** is chanted.

Prayers are said to tunes.

Some Jewish music uses instruments
(but not on the Sabbath).

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Worship



Christian

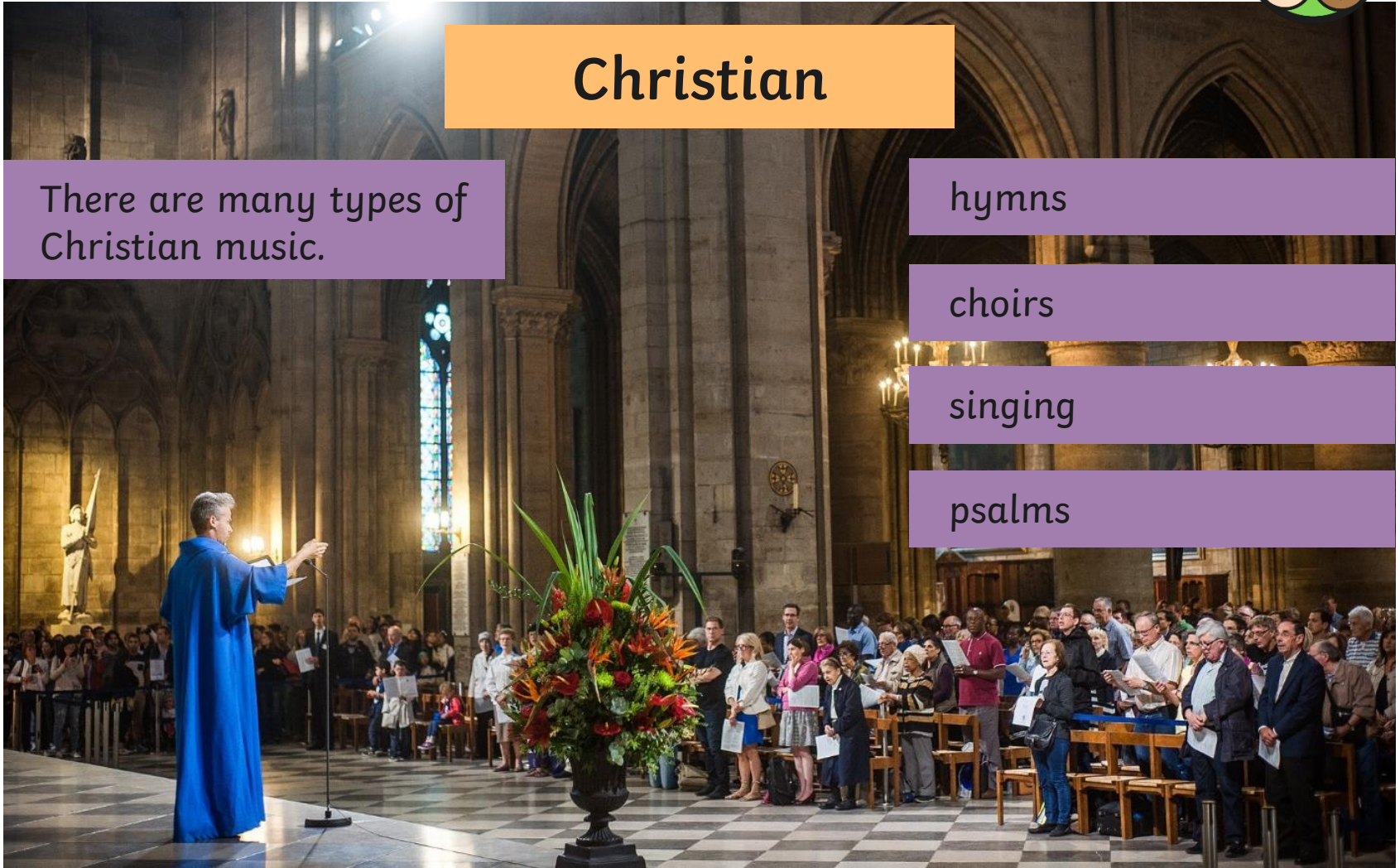
There are many types of Christian music.

hymns

choirs

singing

psalms



Worship



Christian



instruments

praise

shouting out

reflective

dancing

raising hands

clapping

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Worship



Sikhism

Hymns from the **Guru Granth Sahib** are chanted.

instruments

percussion

kirtan (singing)

praise

congregational prayers



Worship



Hinduism



classical music

instruments

mantras

bell

bhajan (devotional song)

kirtan (call and response, chanting and dance)

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Worship



Buddhism

Buddhists chant religious texts.

It is sometimes accompanied by instruments.

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