

MARRIAGE IN ISLAM AND JUDAISM

A marriage ceremony marks the moment when someone makes a commitment to another person, to share his or her life with that person, to set up home together and look forward to the idea of parenthood. In some religions the making of vows in the presence of God is the most important part of a marriage ceremony. Whatever the religion, the marriage is considered to be for life. In most cases a wedding ceremony is a religious and a social occasion, each religion having its own explanation of the meanings and beliefs surrounding marriage.

‘A man without a wife is not complete.’

Proverbs 18:22

‘And among His signs
Is this that He created
For you mates from among
Yourselves that ye may
Dwell in tranquility with them
And He has put love
And mercy between your hearts.’
Qur’an

1. MARRIAGES

There are three types of marriage:

- **LOVE** – This is where two people meet, fall in love and the get married
- **ASSISTED** – This is when parents introduce you to partners who they think are suitable for you to marry. However you have the choice to say yes or no.
- **ARRANGED** – This is when parents choose the person you will marry. **YOU DO NOT** have a choice.

To find out more about religious views of marriage

READ Judaism - Skills 3 pages 32 - 33 and Judaism pages 79 - 83

Islam - Skills 3 pages 70 - 71 and Islam pages 102 - 104

And then...

WRITE a short clear impression of how each religion views marriage.

And then...

WRITE a few sentences to explain how a marriage partner is chosen in **Islam** and **Judaism**, noting any differences between the two religions

2. MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

The preparations for a wedding, when and where it takes place and what occurs during the ceremony vary with each religion.

WRITE a few sentences to explain any betrothal or engagement ceremonies that occur before marriage in the three religions you are studying

And then.....

WRITE a step-by-step account of the marriage ceremony for **ISLAM** and **JUDAISM**.

3.SYMBOLISM IN MARRIAGE

All marriage ceremonies are full of ritual and symbolism, which not only add to the colour and enjoyment of the celebrations but also help to illustrate the importance placed upon the beliefs surrounding marriage within the religions.

DESIGN a poster for each religion you are studying to illustrate any symbolic or traditional words, actions and objects that can be found in the marriage ceremonies, giving an explanation of the symbolism involved and showing both similarities and differences between the twomarrriage ceremonies.

EVALUATION/DISCUSSION

What are the pros and cons of choosing your own marriage partner and having a partner chosen for you by your parents? Do you think marriage should bring together two families as well as two people?