



Can you feel emotions through music or art?

Faith and the Arts

What are your strongest beliefs?



If people have strong beliefs, then they may use art, music or dance to express them or to share them with others. Some aspects of faith and religion can be difficult to put into words and the creative arts can be a way to communicate religious beliefs. Music and dance can be used as part of worship and many sacred buildings use art to make them beautiful or to help worshippers feel near to God. Sometimes symbols are used to stand for something else e.g. the heart is a symbol of love.

Expressing Emotions

People like to express their feelings in lots of different ways. Some people express how they feel by writing things down, either as stories, poetry or in a diary. Others like to draw or paint pictures, create sculptures, choreograph dances or write songs.

Musical Moods

In lots of religions, parts of the scriptures or religious writings are turning into songs. Some parts of the Bible, such as the Psalms, were originally songs to begin with when they were first written down. Now, lots of modern songs are created out of the original words of the Bible or other religious books to use as part of worship.



Colour Code

Members of the clergy in Christian churches (such as priests, ministers or vicars) wear clothes called vestments. Throughout the year, the colours they wear will often change depending on what festival is being celebrated or the time of the year. This can change depending on the type of church but there are lots of colours that symbolise different Christian ideas and beliefs.



Religious Drama

Many religious people use drama as a way to reinforce morals or beliefs. It is sometimes easier to understand a story and how the characters were feeling if it is acted out in front of you as a play. It also provides the opportunity to bring very old stories back to life. Sometimes, people change old religious stories to have the same story line and moral teachings but a different setting to make it more relevant to today.

Islamic Art

Muslims believe it is wrong to represent Allah's work. For this reason, they consider it wrong to make pictures of humans or animals. Much of Islamic art uses calligraphy (beautiful handwriting) and geometric patterns.



Painted Symbols

For thousands of years, artists have used images to portray religious stories, beliefs and ideas.

KEY VOCABULARY

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|----------------------|-------------------|
| faith | symbolic |
| beliefs | expression |
| communication | creative |