# Title: Pilgrimage- Hinduism

**Key Questions:** What events in history have shaped how the world is today? What can followers of T\*learn from events in the history of their tradition? Can we always be proud of the past? Why is it good when people work together well? Why is it good when people have similar beliefs? How do followers of T\* create a sense of unity? Why is it good for me to create unity? How should I respond when T\* appear to create discord?

When do we need to show self-discipline? Is it always easy? How do followers of T\* develop self-discipline and contentment? What strategies can I learn from T\* that will help me to be more self-disciplined and content? Should I always be content in my situation-are there times when I have to fight for change? Where are we temperate (avoiding excess) in our own lives? How do followers of T\* show temperance? When do I need to shoe temperance in my own life? Should I always be temperate – are there times when I should not show self –restraint?

**Key Concepts:** The role of pilgrimage; associated purposes, practices and sacred sites.

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| **Learning objectives** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
| To examine one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Hindus- Varanasi.  To understand why pilgrims visit Varanasi.  To reflect on how visiting this pilgrimage site will affect the life of a believer. | Starter  Pair up students, and give each pair a letter A and B.  Students to sit back to back  Student A- describes the image  Student B- draws the image  Look at the image, drawing and actual one. Students to discuss the image.  Students to give **FACTS** about the image.  Location, name, reason for visiting etc…  Talk to students about the following, there are several Hindu pilgrimage sites, mainly focused around-  \*Rivers,  \*Mountains,  \*Holy towns and  \*Ghats (steps)  Explain to students how each one is significant in terms of pilgrimage in its own right.  Varanasi (It is mentioned in the Epics and Puranas as "the foremost city of Shiva.")  Varanasi is believed to be the first created spot on earth according to the legend that sanctifies the spirit of Hinduism.  Students need to read some information on Varanasi and do the following-  1. Why is water so significant for Hindus?  2, Why do you think some Hindus might feel the need to go to Varanasi to purify themselves?  3. Which Hindu God is closely linked to Varanasi and why?  4. List three ways visiting this holy city might affect the life of a believer.  Extreme Pilgrimage  1) Why is India important?  What do pilgrims hope to gain by going to places in India?  2) What is the importance of pilgrimage?  3) Describe what the atmosphere is like during bathing in the Ganges.  Think about pilgrims visiting Varanasi today, what issues might there be?  Plenary- GCSE questions  ‘Pilgrimage is a waste of time’ Do you agree/disagree? Show that you have thought about both sides of the argument and include religious examples or evidence to support your work.  GCSE style question  Explain how visiting a place of pilgrimage might influence a religious believer. | Image of Varanasi can be obtained from google images or most text books on Hinduism.  Information can be obtained from:  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zs6vrdm>  Images on these can all be obtained from google image search.  Information can be obtained from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvrsv9q/revision/8>  Information on Hindu pilgrimage can be obtained from  <http://iskconeducationalservices.org/HoH/practice/502.htm>  Extreme Pilgrimage  Peter Owen Jones  Hindu Mela  **Find correct section, please view before showing students as some parts may be inappropriate.**  **Birmingham SACRE takes no responsibility for this external resource. Teachers should be aware that You Tube carries advertising the content of which may be unsuitable for your class.** |